

Chatham News + Record

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'A lot out of a little': Grads walk stage in person after pandemic year

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Nahum Flores celebrates his graduation at Jordan-Matthews High School's ceremony last Saturday. After modified graduations last year due to COVID-19 restrictions, graduates and their families were particularly grateful for this year's in-person celebrations.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickness

PITTSBORO — Just hours before Northwood High School's graduation ceremony last Friday, rain threatened to move the county's first outdoor commencement since before the pandemic indoors.

Yet as the sun set on 312 of Northwood's newest graduates, a different rain concluded the evening: Prince's "Purple Rain," performed by students and alumni.

The joy across the school's football field was palpable, as families and the recent graduates shout-sang Prince's iconic chorus, played air

See **GRADUATE**, page A6

PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH

How can Chatham attract new commerce? Incentives.

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

As real estate development barrels on across the county, commercial growth has seemed to lag behind.

But county leaders and Chatham's Economic Development Corporation are confident that's about to change — and they're enacting policies to make sure of it.

Chatham has long functioned as a "bedroom community;" many of its residents commute to other sections of the greater Triangle area for work. Without a strong commercial backbone, the county and municipalities rely heavily on residential taxes and utilities to fund government activity and infrastructure. Right now, about 85% to 90% of the county's tax revenue comes from residential property owners, according to the EDC, Chatham's leading business recruitment agency. In a healthier local

See **ATTRACT**, page A11

'WE DON'T WANT TO REPLACE IT'

Neighbors to celebrate Chatham Rocky River bridge's 100th anniversary

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

Along Chatham Church Road about 12 miles south of Pittsboro, a one-lane steel truss bridge looms over the Rocky River.

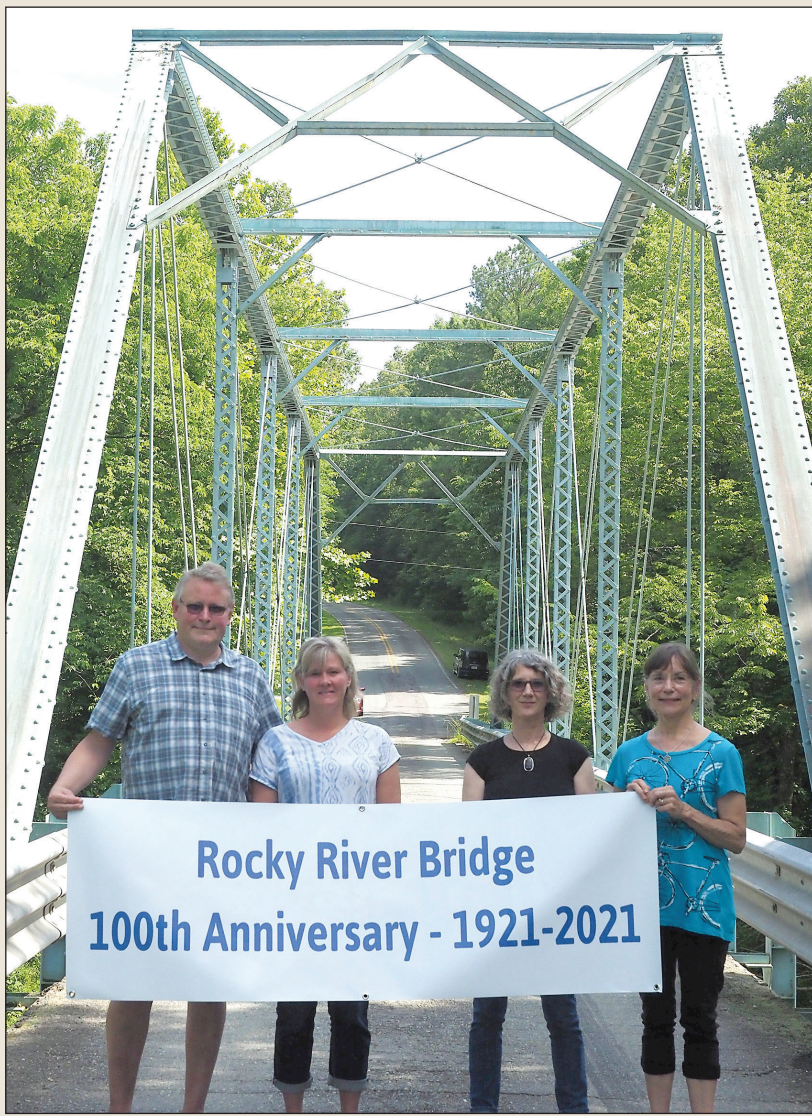
On one side, there's pavement; on the other, gravel, while the bridge itself wears a light coat of asphalt. As cars inch across, you can feel the bridge rumble beneath you. And if you're lucky, you might just see a river otter splashing around in the river or a bald eagle soaring overhead.

Installed in 1921, the Rocky River bridge is one of Chatham County's oldest — and this summer, it's turning 100 years old, an occasion a few nearby residents have plans to celebrate with a big white banner and small neighborhood barbecue.

"There's a little clearing edge on-site here," said Asbury resident Stephen Lee, who's lived right next to the bridge for the past four years. "I'll probably make some hot dogs and have some music, and just do something down here."

But he and other residents don't just want to celebrate the bridge's birthday; they also want to ensure the bridge sees many more. Lee, his wife Maggie, plus a few other nearby residents, have spent years working to preserve the bridge — some more than 20.

See **BRIDGE**, page A10



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

From left, Stephen and Maggie Lee, Kim Stout and Beth Goldston hold up a banner on the one-lane Rocky River Bridge along Chatham Church Road. The bridge will soon turn 100 years old.

Siler City man plans to honor town's historical Black businesses

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — On the fringes of downtown Siler City, a group of unassuming brick buildings stand along South Birch Avenue, where they host a real estate company's offices.

But once, recalls Siler City native Donald Matthews, those buildings housed a thriving Black business district with a cafe, a barber shop and a billiards room — stores he can still remember frequenting as a young boy growing up in the 1960s.

"That was your Saturday," said Matthews, 63. "Dad dropped me off every Saturday. You get a haircut. Then you go next door and get something to eat. There were always people mingling and people from all over, so it was actually a real good time."

Now, decades later, he has been working to raise enough money to commemorate these Black businesses and others nearby with a plaque, a mural and a celebration. By remembering the past, Matthews said, he and other interested Siler City residents hope to inspire others to look to the future.

"It's so vitally important for our young people to know that these things existed because there's not any African American business

See **MURAL**, page A7

DECADE-LONG EMBEZZLEMENT

Goldston woman's alleged theft of nearly \$1 million one of largest in county's history

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A Chatham businesswoman has been charged with embezzling nearly \$1 million from her Siler City employer in what might be one of Chatham County's costliest embezzlement operations in recent history.

Cheryl Rouse Fields, 65, of Goldston allegedly stole more than \$900,000 over the course of at least 10 years from the Basic Machinery Company where she worked as an administrative manager and oversaw the business's payroll, according to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

Police were first alerted to the potential crime in March. An internal company audit uncovered inconsistencies in documentation, a CCSO press release said. Further investigation revealed Fields had been overpaying herself for at least a decade.

Fields was arrested earlier this month on charges of felony embezzlement and felony corporate malfeasance. If pros-

See **THEFT**, page A6



Fields

A closer look at CCS's \$17M COVID-19 relief spending plan

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Chatham County Schools' \$17.4 million of COVID-19 relief funds will be spent on summer programming over the next few years, for technology and connectivity support and to hire at least 68 school and district staff positions, according to the district's Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) spending plan.

The plan, submitted to the state May 7, was approved by the board of education at its June 7 meeting, granting administration the ability to move forward accordingly.

"Previously, we shared with you an overview of our funds, our allocation process that we plan to meet," CCS's Amanda Hartness told the board at

that meeting. "We're happy to tell you that all of our plans have been approved at the state and federal level."

Over the course of the pandemic, CCS received a total allotment of about \$18.8 million as part of North Carolina's ESSER funds, to be received and spent over the next few years. The school system received nearly \$1.4 million last year as a part of the CARES Act, and most of that funding went toward buying things to implement its COVID-19 safety protocol.

As part of December's federal relief act (CRRSA), CCS was allotted \$5.4 million, with \$12 million most recently allotted through the American Rescue Plan Act.

School districts are expected to use some of their ESSER II funding for

See **RELIEF**, page A11

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 at www.friendscl.org.

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

• **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2:30 and 6 p.m. on June 21 at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse.

• **The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on June 21 in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library at 500 North Second Avenue due to the City Hall renovation project.

• **The Albright Precinct Democrats** will gather from 2 - 4 p.m. June 19 at 294 Full Circle Lane, Siler City. We will be discussing upcoming changes to the precinct and our 2021 Action Plan.

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** has reinstated its pre-COVID hours of operation, at all three branch locations.

• **Siler City Parks and Recreation** announces its Summer Open Gym Program.

• Children are invited to visit the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium — located at 512 East Sixth Street in Siler City — each Weekday (Monday-Friday) for open gym, from now to Friday, August 13 (excluding holidays). Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the gym is available for children ages 12 and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. Weekdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., participants ages 13 and older can access the gym.

• The program is designed to encourage recreational activity, social engagement and healthy lifestyles for the community during the Summer break. Basketballs will be provided by the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department. There is no cost to participate; however, all participants must have a signed waiver by an adult. Waivers will be available at Ernest Ramsey Gym when signing in or available online at www.silercity.org.

To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons and when not able to socially distance of at least 6-feet from others. Please be advised, operations are subject to change in accordance to Executive Orders and guidelines.

• **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 through Friday, from 7 to 9 a.m., at the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium Indoor Walking Track, 512 East 6th St. The program is free and no pre-registration is required. Operations are subject to COVID-19 guidelines and mask requirement indoors. For more information, visit www.silercity.org or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email recreation@silercity.org.

THURSDAY

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

• **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

OTHER UPCOMING:

• **Creek Week is coming** to Chatham County! Creek Week is a celebration of Chatham County's four rivers and numerous creeks taking place June 19 - 26. There are programs where you can paddle the rivers, DIY rain barrel workshops, water quality with aquatic insects, learn about plants that are good for streams, participate in river clean-ups, and learn about history and art via participatory programs. Most programs take place in person and some are available via Zoom. To learn about the programs being offered or to register for those programs, go to chathamcreekweek.org and find out how you can get involved in the celebration!

• **Pittsboro's Carolina Brewery** is helping the Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) organization by offering Dine & Donate, every third Monday of the month, this month being Monday, June 21. Five percent of the day's sales, including dining in or take out, will go to CARE to help dogs and cats in Chatham County get the veterinarian care, food and supplies they need while looking for their forever homes.

• **Chatham Community Library** is offering free online classes on Microsoft Excel and Job Interview Skills in June. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found at www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses. - Microsoft Excel Basics, Part 2: June 23, Wednesday, 3 p.m. and Job Interview

Skills: June 30, Wednesday, 3 p.m.

• **The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department** announces the Bray Park Aquatic Facility has opened for the 2021 season with modified operations. The pool will operate through Labor Day weekend during the summer months, and Saturdays and Sundays 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 age 50 or older 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, 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 experiencing the joy of reading this summer with Outdoor Story Time. These programs will be offered 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 N.C. Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro; Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. - Washington Avenue Park picnic shelter, 1305 Washington Ave., 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.

• The community is invited to join **Chatham County Public Libraries** for a special, virtual Chatham 250 event to celebrate George Moses Horton Day on Monday, June 28 at 2 p.m. Don Tate, acclaimed author and illustrator of Poet: The Remarkable Life of George Moses Horton, will discuss the life of Chatham County's Historic Poet Laureate and his picture book biography of Horton. The free event is a Creative Arts activity with the Chatham 250 Passport Experience. Tate is a founding host of The Brown Bookshelf, a blog dedicated to books for African American young readers, and he is a member of the #WeNeedDiverseBooks campaign, created to address the lack of diverse, non-majority narratives in children's literature. Tate lives in Austin, Texas, with his family. Interested participants must register for this event at <https://tinyurl.com/CCPLDonTate>. Youth Services staff will send an email reminder prior to the event. Residents may visit the libraries' website, www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact Youth Services at (919) 545-8085 or youth.services@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** invite children and teens to participate in its 2021 Virtual Summer Reading Challenge "Tails and Tales" 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.

• **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 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@ccc.edu.

• **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 Camp** 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@ccc.edu.

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• **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@ccc.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 no longer required but hand sanitizer is till available. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• **Pittsboro Youth Theater.** Campers will learn a variety of theater skills, rehearse and perform a live play at Sweet Bee Theater. Camps will be led by 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 camp 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 Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

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

• **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings.

• **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

• **Scout News**

• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.

• **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.

• **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: In what year was Siler City incorporated?

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

GRADUATES

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

Giles Corzine of Pittsboro recently graduated from William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, with a Bachelor of Science degree.

NEWS BRIEFS

CCCC offers N.C. Longleaf Commitment Grant opportunity

SANFORD — Eligible 2021 North Carolina high school graduates can have their tuition and fees covered at Central Carolina Community College for up to two years, thanks to the North Carolina Longleaf Commitment Grant.

High school graduates may be eligible to receive this grant — not a loan — to cover tuition and fees toward a degree or to attain transfer credit. Full-time eligible

students are guaranteed to receive \$700 to \$2,800 per academic year, for a total of two years. Less than full-time students may receive a partial award. The Longleaf Commitment Grant ends at the conclusion of the 2023 spring semester.

Learn more about the Longleaf Commitment Grant, including eligibility requirements and how to apply, at www.cccc.edu/longleaf, or call CCCC Financial Aid at 919-718-7229 or email to finaid@ccc.edu.

— CN+R staff reports

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Chatham's 2021 graduates: A weird, but not wasted year

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Last week's graduation festivities concluded 2021's Chatham graduations.

After more than a year of school during a pandemic, the News + Record spoke with graduates from around the county about their school experiences — what they've learned, how they're reflecting on graduating amid COVID-19 and what's next.

These interviews have been edited and condensed for clarity.

What was your school experience like? What were your main communities or points of involvement?

Tessa Yell, Northwood: I had a very positive experience at Northwood — I enjoyed my teachers, classmates, and all the extracurricular things I was involved in.

Main involvement: Track and cross country, swim, marching band, Science Olympiad, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Spanish Club and Student Athletic Advisory Council.

Michael Jabari Anthony, Northwood: Well, my experience, first off, very great, very welcoming of the freshmen. There's a lot of positive energy and not a lot of negative — it was really fun. I was in FFA (Future Farmers of America) and SkillsUSA. They were also very welcoming. My teachers were like, you should come join, give it a try, and I wasn't really sure about it, but then I just took a chance and it really paid off for me in the long run, and it helped me get into colleges. So I really advise joining those clubs.

Shane Conroy, Jordan-Matthews: I came into Jordan-Matthews as a part of the dual language program, so I've been with that group of kids since elementary school, so I came in with that community sort of pre-attached so to speak. I've continued to be a part of the dual language program through my four years of Jordan-Matthews. I've enjoyed that.

At Jordan Matthews, I joined robotics as a freshman and eventually, I became captain of that ... I know a lot of kids through robotics, and I really enjoyed my time in robotics and had a strong community there. This is definitely sort of in the nerdy realm but I founded a Dungeons and Dragons club, and we probably had maybe 20ish members there at one point, so I enjoyed that community. And then I've done just kind of random different things — I ran track, cross country.

Evelyn Long, J-M: Well, it's been interesting, considering what's happened the last two years. It's been a lot different than how I first imagined when I stepped in, when I stepped foot into the doors at J-M. It's not the senior year that I hoped for, but I'm still making the most of it. I tried to stay involved a lot throughout my high school career.

Involvement: HOSA (Future Health Professionals), DECA, volleyball and softball.

Jacqueline Marroquin Tobar, J-M: My experience at Jordan-Matthews was definitely one of the best things that could have ever happened to me. I started high school as a newcomer, as an ESL student, with pretty much no English, basic. And just the way Jordan-Matthews welcomed me and supported me in everything that I did — all of my ambitions and goals — it was amazing.

And I was involved perhaps not as much as other students because of language barriers that I had, but I was able to create my water bottle recycling program at school after six months of living in North Carolina, and they supported me like no one else.

Macy Henson, Chatham Central: Of course, the last two years have been a lot different than the first two years. But it's mainly just a really cool place because of how small it is, and you get to know everyone and all the teachers know you.

Involvement: FBLA, Beta Club.

Ember Penney, Woods Charter:

Woods is a K-12 school, I've been going there since kindergarten. So it's the only school I've ever gone to. And it's kind of very small, and a common theme I heard was that we all feel like family together. It's going to be very hard leaving, just because when you're in a small environment like that everyone gets so close.

Involvement: Girls Learn international, sustainability club and running.

Jay Charbonneau, Woods Charter: It's been a real treat, I will say, getting to know so many people on such a deep and connected level. It's something that I definitely would not have gotten at any other school.

Involvement: Cross country, track (captains for both this year)

Carter Phillips, Chatham Charter: The atmosphere when I came here was very different. It was just a new environment where I could tell that people were really focused on learning and just, they wanted to better themselves through the programs, which Chatham Charter offered us.

Involvement: College credit program, baseball

Christina Agnew, Chatham Charter: I also started my freshman year like Carter. I was coming from another charter school, but I still felt that change and shift, and how even my classmates were really there to learn, which I appreciated a lot.

Involvement: DECA chapter president, college credit program, Beta Club, photography

Morgan Rush, CCCC: I studied criminal justice for probably two semesters in person, before we got sent online for COVID. It was a good experience, but then COVID happened and put us all online.

There might be some overlap here, but what are your main interests, hobbies and passions?

Yell: This is kind of an overlap, but my passion probably is running. I love the community it's given me and I love working toward my goals in running. And besides running, I enjoy traveling, boating, reading, hiking and tons of outdoor activities.

Anthony: I'm very passionate about football. I do a little bit of pickup basketball, I like playing the Wii. I'm a very social person, like having fun.

Conroy: I definitely like technology and electronics and programming, which is what I originally joined the robotics club to do. I like music as well, I've been playing the violin for a long time, I did a year of band in school, which I enjoyed, I just, it didn't really work out with my schedule as time went on. Overlapping with track and cross country, I like running around a lot.

Long: I'm very passionate about my sports — volleyball and softball. It created a lot of new friendships for me, created a lot of new opportunities. So I'm very passionate about them. And I owe a lot to them, because I don't really think I would be the kind of person I was if I hadn't played those sports in high school.

Marroquin Tobar: Recycling, I have to say, but also just being able to teach other kids. ... Just reading awareness is one of the other things that I really love to do. And learning, I should say, learning from other cultures, from other students.

Henson: I'm currently a part of three different clogging competition teams that are from some of them around here. I also play the fiddle in a bluegrass band that has people all from all over North Carolina, and that's also helped me needing a lot of different people and gave me a lot of opportunities. And then I'm also really passionate about politics and like to get involved in county politics and stuff.

What are some of the biggest lessons you learned during your high school experience?

Yell: One lesson I've learned, has been persevering through challenges, like having grit and staying positive when things don't go as planned. I was injured for more or less like two years, so I couldn't run and I had to miss practice and races that all my teammates were in. So I did physical therapy and a lot of appointments, but during that time, I tried out swim team



Submitted photos

Chatham 2021 graduates. Pictured left to right from top to bottom: Morgan Rush, Jacqueline Marroquin Tobar, Christina Agnew, Carter Phillips, Evelyn Long, Michael Anthony, Macy Henson, Shane Conroy, Jay Charbonneau, Ember Penney and Tessa Yell.

for the first time and staying positive really, really helped during that time.

Anthony: Some of my biggest lessons were to be organized, because organization is a key factor in my life now.

Conroy: I'll start out by saying, one thing I kind of wish I recognized earlier on was challenging (ing) some of my own ideas about myself or what I was good at, or what I enjoyed. For my first several years, I maybe told myself I didn't want to do sports, or I wasn't athletic or something like that. And then, I joined track and cross country and kind of because of the pandemic, and I was bored, and whatever else, I really enjoyed those, and I was actually pretty good at them — not like the star of the team, but definitely able to enjoy that and compete.

Long: I would say the biggest lesson is to make sure to just have confidence in yourself and trust yourself, and don't be scared to do different things. Because I was one of the ones that was very shy, and it's taught me a lot to not be shy just to get out there.

Marroquin Tobar: While I was in high school, I definitely learned the true meaning of diversity. It's hard to believe that in other countries, countries that are not considered a "melting pot," such as the United States, we don't see a lot of diversity. When I came to Jordan-Matthews, that was one of the big things that I learned, aside from academics. I just couldn't believe there were so many people from so many other countries in the same place — cultural shock for me, because I wasn't used to it.

Henson: Chatham Central's really helped me realize that contributing to that community, but also, if you put into it, you get a lot out of it as well because they're always willing to help you and that's been one of my favorite things of being there.

Penney: Woods is such a quirky school, it kind of taught me that the best way to go about your life is to be yourself, and then the people who stick around are the people who are meant to be there anyways.

Charbonneau: Never underestimate the power of the community. Because we've had so many new kids come in from over the years who have like, the stigma of woods being like a weird hippie dippie school and with all of them, it's turned around and they love the school. I think that's in part due to the community being so welcoming and willing to just form bonds.

Agnew: The biggest lesson I learned was to advocate for myself, which is helpful because going into that college setting can be very intimidating.

Which people or events stick out as having the biggest impact on you during your four years there?

Anthony: Dr. (Derrick) Barbee for sure. Sr. (Henry) Foust. Ms. (Phyllis) Bazzari. They kind of opened my eyes coming in high school, especially Sr. Foust and Ms. Bazzari my freshman year, to what high school is like. And it's not like they're gonna hold your hand all the way through — it makes you more independent and prepares you for life. So those are people, key teachers, who helped me out a lot.

Conroy: I really enjoyed taking AP government and AP U.S. history with one of our history teachers, Jay Palmer,

I think he really changed the way I thought about a lot of institutions in history in an interesting way, and got me to challenge some of my beliefs, but that sort of stuff. In general, Jordan-Matthews actually had a really good environment to expose you to those different sorts of things or challenge your ways of thinking because it was such a diverse school.

Long: Definitely the teachers that I created relationships with that were there for me through everything. It was really nice to have a teacher there that I know I could count on.

Marroquin Tobar: I have to say that all the teachers were just a huge part of this journey in high school. I was able to receive some support from them, and especially those teachers that were with me since the beginning, they noticed that I was a newcomer — a lot of support from every single teacher.

Thinking specifically about this past year, what's been one of the best and worst parts of your senior year?

Yell: The best part was probably getting to actually go to school, because I guess this is the worst because I didn't like being doing school at home by myself. I missed getting to be with my classmates every day and getting to ask my teachers questions in person — it was just boring at home. So it's been fun the past few months actually being in school.

Anthony: The best was playing football this year and being able to play in the playoffs — the worst was when we lost in the second round.

The most challenging part for me was probably staying on top of my work ... but like when I came back, like going back to school was probably the waking up part. I'd gotten used to sleeping in a little bit, so that was kind of a challenge waking up earlier.

Conroy: The worst part is definitely that I kind of missed out on a lot of the typical senior stuff and didn't really get to see a lot of those people that are, you know, acquaintances that you enjoy, but you're maybe not as close with, and just hanging out and taking more and more classes. Online school was definitely not a lot of fun. Obviously, everybody had to experience that, but I wish it had not fallen on my senior year. As far as positives went, again, it definitely got me to try some new things and step out of my comfort level a little bit.

Henson: Well, I think the best part was definitely graduating. Going in, there was a lot of uncertainty surrounding whether or not we would get to have an in-person graduation, so being able to have that milestone together as a class was something that we weren't really expecting. So it was very nice to have that and that has probably been my favorite moment. But the worst part, I guess, would be just starting our senior year completely online.

Phillips: I guess the one thing I could say is the best and worst part of my senior year was probably dealing with the pandemic. It was both a blessing and a curse for me in a way, because on one hand, it forced me to go outside of my comfort zone. But at the same time, it took away half of junior year and most of my senior year away from me, which is something you don't really get back.

How are you reflecting on the last year-plus of learning and finishing high school during a pandemic?

Yell: Well, it has been different for sure. The time with virtual learning has been kind of nice, because it's been less stressful and I've gotten to focus on some other things and spend time that I usually don't have, because being at school takes more time. So I've been able to relax, but it has been a weird, weird senior year.

Anthony: It was kind of hard at first but then my teachers eased me in, and kept a positive attitude about it and helped us with our work when we needed help — we'd send an email and they got back to us in a matter of minutes, they were very open and lenient with us, helping us turning in work. It was better than I thought it was gonna be for sure.

(The return to) in-person learning was very smooth. It was like a first day back at school type deal. Smooth, introducing and getting class interaction. It was very fun, and it was still safe at the same time because teachers were very strict about having masks on.

Conroy: Again, I really wish that things had not gone down this way because everybody missed out on a fun period. It certainly wasn't all bad — like I said, I tried some new things and met some new people through those things that I enjoyed. And on top of that, you know, I usually run a pretty busy schedule. So I'm probably glad for the extra time I had to work on stuff like college applications and whatnot. I do think I have maybe a greater appreciation for — you sometimes get in the mood, "I don't like school. I don't want to go back here anymore." But because that got stripped away from school for a year and a half, it definitely changed my perception of that.

Long: I've just learned to make the most of it and to not take things for granted. And to just look at things differently and still see that I am still getting your senior year. It just might not be the one that I really wanted, but just to try and make the most of what I am getting.

Marroquin Tobar: It wasn't a bad experience, because I learned to be more responsible. One of the big lessons from remote learning is you have to figure it out, go and find the answers. This is a totally different experience than what we've been doing in the last couple of years. It was good — it had its silver linings, but it was difficult at the same time.

Henson: It's been a lot. But I really do think that in a way, it is like better preparation for college because we will have to be on our own making sure we get our assignments done without being told to everyday. As hard and as troublesome as it may have been that there are some positives to it when you look at it, especially for those of us going to college.

Penney: That's a little hard for me to accept, that we're graduated now, because it feels like we were robbed of a senior year. Even the spring part of our junior year, and it feels like there's a lot that has been left unfinished or unexperienced. But I guess I'm beginning to come to terms with it ... just because it feels like we didn't really get a full experience of our senior year, it doesn't mean that there weren't meaningful moments throughout it.

Charbonneau: It's certainly a bittersweet feeling. On one hand, I wish I could have another year to stay with my friends. But on the other hand, I know that this is how things are, but my time at Woods was certainly something I will not forget. It's just been so impactful.

Rush: I'm really not sure honestly, probably being in the pandemic and having to go online and not having like in-person graduation. Because I did all that work to get out in two years just to have a drive-thru graduation. Which is better than no graduation, but still.

Any advice to rising seniors on making the most of the end of high school?

See Q&A, page A6

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | REP. ROBERT REIVES II

On leading society toward equity

Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 that enslaved African-Americans in Texas were finally told three words: "You are free."
Now, 156 years later, we continue to observe Juneteenth, June 19th every year, as a reminder of where this nation has been and how we continue to seek a more perfect union.
The United States has continued to make progress, albeit more slowly than many would like or deserve. Brown v. Board

of Education was decided in 1954, ending racial segregation, though many schools continued the practice. North Carolina played an outsized role in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. On February 1, 1960, four African-American students in Greensboro refused to leave the whites only lunch counter. Their bravery ignited similar episodes of civil disobedience across the country.
Shaw University, one of the oldest HBCU's in the nation,

was the founding place of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which Ella Baker helped create. The student group expanded across the South, helping to organize marches and Freedom Rides. They advocated for grassroots leadership; every individual has the power to effect change at the local level.
Juneteenth has a renewed focus this year. In the aftermath of the Derek Chauvin trial and

similar reckonings around race and policing in our state and nation, we should all commit to reflecting on what this day means in 2021.
As a legislator, part of my job is writing and helping to pass legislation that can have a positive impact on our community. But in the spirit of SNCC, I challenge you as an individual to take steps that lead our society toward equity and understanding. A mustard seed of faith can move mountains.

Though there is much work left, we should not lose sight of the progress made already. Let it be an inspiration for us to continue building toward the future we know is possible.
Rep. Reives serves Dist. 54 — which includes Chatham and a portion of Durham County — in the N.C. House of Representatives. He was recently elected Minority Leader for Democrats serving in the N.C. House. Reives lives in Goldston.

A sacrifice drive

Growing up, my younger brother and I both played baseball. Since my brother moved to New York City more than a decade ago, my father and I have tried to meet him every summer at a different ballpark to watch a major league game. Over the years, the three of us have seen some great ones: A one-hitter pitched in Philadelphia. A ninth-inning rally in Cleveland. We have watched future Hall of Famers like Derek Jeter and Chipper Jones.
But the most memorable moments have been the adventures we shared when our best-laid plans went awry: The rain delay in Chicago. The time the Metro was shut down in Washington. The midnight fire alarm in the hotel.
We have not traveled in the past couple of years due to the births of our children and COVID-19. This summer, my brother visited our parents in Raleigh. We were excited to watch a baseball team much closer to home — the Durham Bulls. While minor league, the Bulls currently boast the No. 1 prospect in baseball, a 20-year-old power-hitting, slick-fielding shortstop named Wander Franco.

My brother carpooled with our father to the game while I drove from my home in Chatham County. They texted me while I was still heading north on U.S. Hwy. 15-501. They were already in their seats! I zipped into a parking space and hustled around the car to pay the parking meter. Stuffing the receipt in my pocket, I had a moment of confusion: Where were my keys?

Then, my heart sank.
I sprinted back to my car and saw my keys lying in the driver's seat. All the doors were locked. I could hear the national anthem playing in the stadium behind me. What was I going to do?
I did have my cell phone. I texted my brother first. Next, I called a roadside assistance company and was directed to an online request form. I texted my brother again. I hoped I wouldn't miss too much of the game.
He immediately called with a different idea. Come inside the ballpark. After a few innings, he and Dad would drive me to my house, then back to my car with the spare key.

Though we faced a long drive to my house and back, we wanted to stay long enough to watch Franco for a couple of at-bats. The young superstar did not disappoint. On his second trip to the plate, he smashed a home run over the centerfield fence!
The next time Franco came up to the plate, there were runners on second and third and no outs. Baseball fans know that a simple fly ball to the outfield will score the run. Though the hitter makes an out, it helps the team. For this reason, it's called a sacrifice fly.

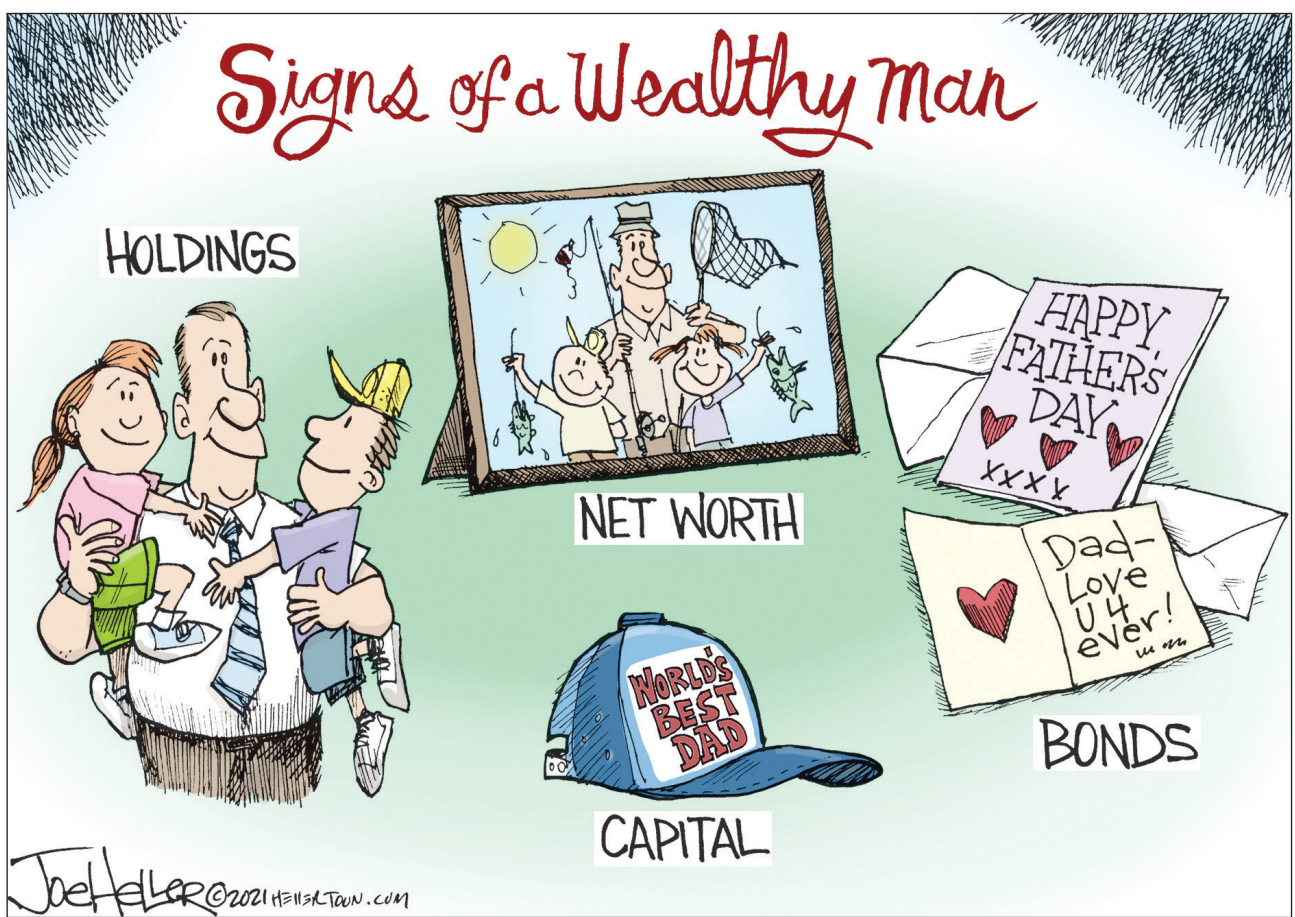
But Franco swung for the fences again and tapped the ball weakly to third base. No runs scored.
While certainly a major league talent, Franco is still young. As part of his maturation, he must learn that sacrifice is the heart of this team game.
While I will remember locking my keys in the car, the memory I hold dear is of riding in the back seat of Dad's car, my brother driving through the night, and all three of us laughing. No one complained even once. Though I rarely made sacrifices for other people when I was a young adult, I've learned over the years that love is sacrifice.

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

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Blackberries worth the effort, no matter how you get 'em

Some years ago, when my father-in-law was still with us and had not yet become a precious memory, he put together a little orchard of sorts in a corner of his backyard where the pasture fence made a turn.
He set out grape vines, planted apple and pear trees, planted fig bushes, and put in blueberry bushes and blackberry vines, including some without the thorns. He even planted some catnip, although I'm not sure why. (The one time I tried some catnip tea my stomach sent my brain a memo saying, "Don't you ever try that again if you know what's good for you.")

That little piece of ground produced some bumper crops through the years. There were different varieties of grapes. We ate scads of them off the vine and for a while my better half and her mom made grape juice by just dumping a truckload of sugar and a bunch of grapes into quart jars. By the time cold weather arrived, the Concord variety was sweet as could be.

There were apple pies and pear preserves and figs off the bush and fresh blueberries to freeze or turn into muffins or to top dress your Cheerios. And there were my favorites — the blackberries, which also became jelly but fairly often, for the reason God made them in the first place, became hot blackberry cobbler, which by royal order must be topped with fresh vanilla ice cream as soon as it's done.

Today, much to my sorrow and for a number of reasons, the local orchard isn't the same. The grape vines are still there but the arbors are in bad shape and the weeds are plentiful. The trees died and we finally pulled up the stumps. There

are still a number of blueberry bushes and the little folks who live in what was their great-grandparents home take delight in harvesting them when they get ripe.
But the blackberries? Gone. Choked out by weeds and inattention. No jelly or jam or cobbler from them since who knows when. A sad and mournful time in my young life.

So, imagine my joy a couple of years ago as I drove west of Siler City on U.S. Hwy. 64 and saw the roadside sign advertising blackberries just up the road. I couldn't stop that day but made a point to go a few days later and, lo and behold, there were blackberries to be had. They were so good, in fact, that I went again several days later to make sure Shirley had enough to make some more cobbler, freeze some and turn others into jelly.

I felt it was the least I could do. They're still there at that orchard and, although the wet nippy spring messed up the bountiful harvest, there are still some to be had. A few days ago, our daughter-in-law took her brood to the place and came back with some fat juicy blackberries which she later disguised as a cobbler. Good move.

The good thing about these was not only their flavor but the fact some are already picked. Now, you can go out on your own and do that but it just doesn't seem like a good idea given the heat.

But things weren't always that way. I remember days long gone when my dad and I, often accompanied by Roland Farrell, a people fixture in my little growing-up community, would head out in the cool of the morning with empty buckets that were to be turned into full containers of sweet berries.

Early on, I learned several rules of blackberry picking. If the bushes were on the side of the road on the right-of-way, then you could just go

get them. If there were loaded briars in someone's pasture you had to do two things: first, ask permission and, second make sure it was OK with Billy Bull for you to be on his turf. I can't give you all the details but I distinctly remember a time or two having to pick 'em up and put 'em down — and I don't mean the berries — rather quickly to get over the fence ahead of the bull and avoid an unpleasant experience.

For me, not him.
Funny thing ... I'm pretty sure we never mentioned those times to my mother. Maybe that was a secret for me and my dad or maybe it was so Mama would not call an end to such endeavors.

There were also a couple of other things that had to happen. One was we had to smear a concoction known as "6-12" around our waists, wrists and ankles, not to mention some other significant body parts, to ward off chiggers, better known as "red bugs." Often, we would soak strips of cloth in 6-12 and tie them to our ankles and wrists. I learned early on that Queen Anne's Lace was a favorite place for the little buggers to gather and that it was best if we avoided those flowers ... if we could get to the blackberries some other way.

If we were out of the aforementioned product, then kerosene-soaked rags would do in a pinch.

It's been a long time since those days. Both my dad and Roland have picked their last bucket of berries. I don't think 6-12 is produced any more and my brother, the retired medical doctor, told me that today's kerosene isn't as pure as it was in the old days and that it would likely be a good idea not to smear it on your skin. And out-running a bull? Forget it, unless he was using a walker.

All of that makes it a good idea to go by your local favorite produce place. And maybe there's a chance for us to reconstruct the family orchard. I'll look into that just as soon as the cobbler is done.

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.

What's on your mind?

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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

GUEST COLUMN | DENNIS STREETS

Here's my wish for every senior citizen in Chatham County

Should we be satisfied with nearly eight in 10 Chatham County seniors having been vaccinated against the dangers of COVID-19?

I would hope not. In March, I was excited by the pace with which seniors in Chatham were receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations, and I personally was exhilarated to reach the point of being “fully vaccinated.” I felt that I not only had acted in my own self-interest, but also had accepted my civic responsibility — had performed a patriotic act.

Over the past few months, the scientific evidence has become even more compelling that the COVID-19 vaccine not only protects a person from

the virus' serious effects but also prevents transmission to others.

On many occasions I have encouraged others to join me in becoming fully vaccinated. I was pleased to learn that most of those who formerly attended our Council on Aging's two senior centers are now protected as well. This will likely enable us to begin offering a hot lunch and activities inside our Western Center sometime in July to those who are “fully vaccinated.”

Frankly though, I am rather perplexed and discouraged that 21% of Chatham seniors are still not vaccinated, and that an even higher percentage of those younger than age 65 are unvaccinated. The most

recent figures show that adults age 65 and older account for about 41% of all Chatham residents who have received at least one dose.

I respect that receiving a vaccination is a matter of personal choice, and people may have varied reasons for their hesitancy or resistance. I realize some may just want to “roll the dice” — taking their chance that they will not get infected or if they do, that they will have few if any symptoms.

Yet, there will be others who get quite sick, face hospitalization, experience long-term consequences — or even die. I also know that those failing to get vaccinated can put others at risk — including those not eligible for the vaccine due to

their age or health conditions.

I have grown weary of the conspiracy theories, myths and misleading statements that reinforce people's anxieties and distrust of this crucial pathway to a healthier future for all of us. I hope by sharing my positive experiences, more people will follow the science and recommendations of health professionals and get their vaccine, too.

All I can say is that I am very happy to be among the living — not just in the obvious sense of the word but in terms of what I feel and what I have been able to do post-vaccine. I recently enjoyed an outdoor concert with friends whom I had not seen since before the pandemic. I now feel comfort-

able spending time with my extended family and within my favorite local businesses. I am confident I can attend church in person and greet fellow parishioners. I am even planning a trip to visit my sister out of state.

Suffice to say that I am very thankful I was able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and now I enjoy all the benefits that derive from it. I wish the same for everyone else.

When you decide it's your turn to get the vaccine, visit myspot.nc.gov or call the Chatham County Public Health Department at 919-545-8323.

Dennis Streets is the executive director of Chatham County's Council on Aging.

Barbecue: true and faux

Why would John Shelton Reed write another book about barbecue?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

After all, he is a co-author of the recently revised classic, “Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue” and in 2016, author of “Barbecue” in the UNC Press’s “Savor the South” Cookbook series.

The retired Kenan professor of sociology at UNC-Chapel Hill is the author of more than 20 books. He likes to write

books and articles and other commentary that connect readers to their culture.

His new book, “On Barbecue,” is a compilation of writings about barbecue.

Barbecue means different things to different people. Just remember how many ways the term is spelled: barbecue, barbeque, bar-b-que, and so on. Reed explains how the term probably came about.

He writes, “The word came into English only some 500 years ago. In the first decades of the 1500s Spanish explorers in the Caribbean found the locals using frameworks of sticks to support meat cooking over fires. They did this either to slow-cook it or to cure it and preserve it (as we do with country hams and jerky today.)”

This apparatus was called something that the Spaniards heard as barbacoa, which soon became a Spanish word and then an English word that referred to the cooking device or method, not the resulting cooked meat.

Only in the 1800s did the term begin to be used to mean the cooked meat. As late as 1894, when The Statesville Landmark wrote about barbecue being served at an event, “the paper put the noun in quotation marks, suggesting that the usage remained colloquial. Still, by then, everyone seems to have known that it meant something you could put on a plate or in a sandwich. Once that was understood, Southerners began the eternal argument about what barbecue is.”

Reed writes, “whole hog in eastern North Carolina, mustard sauce in parts of South Carolina, mutton in Owensboro, Kentucky, ‘dry ribs’ in Memphis, beef brisket in Texas and so forth.”

Reed celebrates these differences, writing that he would order Memphis ribs in Memphis, but would pass it by if it were offered in North Carolina or elsewhere.

He mourns the development of “mass barbecue” chains that he calls “IHOB” or International House of Barbecue with menus, “where you can pile Texas brisket, Memphis ribs and Carolina chopped pork all on one plate.”

However, Reed has no doubt. “All understand that cooking with hardwood makes the difference between barbecue and roast meat.”

He describes the world championship barbecue cooking contest in Memphis where barbecue is defined as “pork meat only... prepared on a wood or charcoal fire.”

He recognizes that many so-called barbecue restaurants “serve slow roasted meat untouched by even the bottled kind of woodsmoke and call it barbecue.”

Reed asserts this product is not barbecue and calls it instead “faux ‘que.”

“You see the problem. We start with barbecue cooked in a pit over live coals, or with heat and smoke from a stick burning firebox, and we end up with a Boston butt in a crock pot. Somewhere along the way we've crossed the line between True ‘Cue and faux ‘que. We do not intend to draw that line, just to point out that there is a hierarchy here, and the purveyors of faux ‘que are at the bottom of it.

“Why do we care? Because we believe that real barbecue is rooted in three things increasingly lacking in today's world: taste, tradition and a sense of place. Because we think the world will be a better place with more real barbecue in it.”

You do not have to agree with Reed's hardline stance about the necessity of cooking with wood coals to learn from and enjoy his great storytelling gifts about one of our favorite foods — true or faux.

D.G. Martin hosts “North Carolina Bookwatch,” at 3:30 p.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.

Making the '22 elections more trustworthy

While we're still fussin' and fightin' about the 2020 elections, the 2022



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

elections have already begun. Candidates have been announced for the U.S. Senate seat vacated when Richard Burr retires. Before going too far into next year's races can we all agree we want fair elections, refer-

endums that encourage all voters to participate and ensure trustworthy voting procedures? If so, let's talk about things to help achieve that goal.

We need to begin with the redistricting that's required following the 2020 census. The Census Bureau says it will be sometime in September before North Carolina gets a final count of the numbers, demographics and counties where people live.

There are two things we can and should do right now. To ensure all candidates have a legitimate opportunity to win, we must end the gerrymandering of districts that virtually guarantee a victory for one political party. There is no reason we cannot put in place an impartial redistricting process where voters select their leaders instead of leaders effectively selecting voters. We've talked about it forever. Let's implore our lawmakers to do it this year. Taxpayers would save millions of dollars by avoiding costly and disruptive redistricting lawsuits that result in the needless redrawing of districts.

We also need to postpone the March 8, 2022, Primary Elections. If we're not getting final census numbers until late September, there's no way we can draw new districts (including a new 14th Congressional district)

and allow candidates sufficient time to file to run prior to the December 13th deadline. That's just a little more than two months. Lawmakers should change the Primary to our traditional second Tuesday in May (the 10th) to assure thoughtful and fair redistricting, as well as adequate time to organize campaigns and file for the General Election November 8th.

Let's address other important issues. The biggest controversy in 2020 surrounded absentee ballots. In the middle of the worst health crisis in the past 100 years many were rightfully concerned about voting in person and worried their vote would be denied. Further, the U.S. Postmaster General appeared to be taking actions to slow down mail delivery, so the combination of the pandemic and slower mails resulted in a lawsuit the state would most likely lose. The State Board of Elections agreed to a compromise solution so the election could be held as scheduled. It allowed absentee ballots to be counted for up to nine days as long as they were postmarked on or before election day. Nine days is too long in normal circumstances, but 2020 was far from normal. Incidentally, most all winners were known election night, but the compromise angered lawmakers.

The law legislators proposed as a solution was that no future settlement could be reached without the approval of the House Speaker and Senate President Pro Tem. This puts them in the role of judges and is an unnecessary power grab. State agencies currently have the power to settle lawsuits and this change would threaten all agencies in state government. Our legislature cannot make all decisions in government. It is reasonable to assume the pop-

ularity of absentee ballots will grow. Let's restore our traditional system whereby an absentee ballot will be counted so long as it is postmarked on or before the election and received within three days following election day. This has worked well in the past.

Another change that could simplify elections and save money would be to begin ranked choice voting. This concept sounds complicated but is really simple and is gaining popularity across the nation. A voter selects his or her first choice for an office, then also designates a second and third choice. If no one candidate secures enough votes to win on the first count the second and/or third choice votes are added to totals until someone gets a high enough percentage to win. This one change would eliminate runoff elections, saving at least \$4 million for every statewide runoff.

To improve election integrity, we would propose that all 100 counties use the same voting machines and that each machine have a paper trail so recounts can be easily verified. We can pay for the new machines through savings achieved from ranked choice and fewer redistricting lawsuits.

The 2020 North Carolina elections set modern-day records for turnouts without significant fraud or errors. North Carolinians must be able to trust the integrity of our election process and the proposals outlined above could help in restoring trust and improving our elections.

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

Users should pay for highways

As a fiscal conservative who thinks government is generally too large and taxes too high, I am grateful for the gas tax.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

You should be, too. When Oregon instituted the first state tax on motor fuels in 1919, and North Carolina followed suit two years later, their leaders were solving a longstanding problem. Toll roads had been around for decades but struggled to cover their costs, in part because of rampant toll evasion. With automobile ownership surging — North Carolina registered some 127,000 vehicles in 1920 — state lawmakers could see the practical impossibility of accommodating the new traffic with roads funded by tolling.

So they had two choices. They could satisfy public demand for a massive road network by raising property taxes or some other generally applied tax. Or they could charge drivers themselves, by taxing the fuels their vehicles consumed. The latter option wasn't a direct charge for using specific roads, like a toll. But unlike widespread tolling, widespread gas taxation was feasible and enforceable.

Creating a financial link, however imperfect, between using roads and paying for them allowed states to make a big investment with a very big return. During the 1920s, North Carolina's paved road mileage exploded by 92%. The commercial and social life of our state was radically

transformed. “Far from being the beneficiaries of unwarranted government intervention in free enterprise,” I wrote in my 2012 book “Our Best Foot Forward,” “private automobiles were a market-friendly development that made roads a far more valuable asset. There was no need for government to manufacture an insatiable public appetite for automobiles. It came naturally.”

It's important to remember that most transportation assets and expenditures are privately owned and financed. Although North Carolina governments spend billions of dollars a year building, maintaining and policing our roads and streets, North Carolinians spend vastly more money every year buying, maintaining and insuring the vehicles that travel those roads and streets.

Here's what the numbers look like for the United States as a whole. Governments spent about \$235 billion in 2018 on roads and streets. That year, households spent \$1.3 trillion on the cars and trucks they drive on those roads and streets — a figure that doesn't even include commercial vehicles. (You'll find similar proportions elsewhere. The cost of building and operating airplanes is several times that of building and operating airports. Ditto for seaports. The only transportation sector where government is the predominate spender is “mass” transit.)

Although taxing motor fuels worked reasonably well for decades as a rough proxy for a user fee, its practicality is fading. As vehicles become more fuel-efficient (a good

thing), the amount motorists pay per mile traveled for road upkeep declines (not a good thing). Taxing fuels per gallon also doesn't keep up with inflation, and obviously won't work as electric cars grow as a share of the vehicle fleet. Meanwhile, other revenue tools the state employs to make up the difference, as such as the highway use tax (essentially a sales tax on auto sales), have their own inefficiencies and inequities.

In a new report for the John Locke Foundation, Randal O'Toole of the Cato Institute argued that North Carolina should start preparing to phase out the gas tax in favor of a mileage-based user fee, combined with electronic tolling of some limited-access highways. “Mileage-based fees are more equitable than fuel taxes and the highway user tax,” O'Toole wrote, “because they charge people for what they actually use, not for what they potentially use.”

There are understandable objections to such a proposal. Will politicians really get rid of gas taxes, or will they try to add mileage-based user fees on top of them? Will politicians continue to raid the user fees motorists pay to finance programs other than roads?

North Carolina needs to get this right. The technology to pay for roads this way wasn't available in 1921. Now it is. With the proper safeguards, we can refresh the user-pay principle for the 21st century.

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

THEFT

Continued from page A1

ecuted for her suspected crimes, Fields may be guilty of Chatham's largest embezzlement scheme in recent times, according to the District Attorney's Office.

"I can't say that I've ever had an embezzlement that alleged that much money in Chatham County before," Kaley Taber, the managing assistant district attorney for Chatham and Orange Counties, told the News + Record. "That is probably a first in Chatham County. I think we've had some in Orange County that were at that level, but I think that's the first one in Chatham County. I've been here a long time and it's the only one I can

... I think that's the first one in Chatham County. I've been here a long time and it's the only one I can remember.

KALEY TABER, *managing assistant district attorney for Chatham and Orange Counties*

remember."

To be found guilty of embezzlement, the prosecution will have to show that Fields was uniquely responsible for the money she took, according to Taber.

"Embezzlement requires that you're entrusted with money and you divert it to your own means," she said. "It's not like a regular theft — it does require sort of a position of trust in order to be

charged with embezzlement."

Unlike larceny, embezzlement does not require illegal acquisition of money to qualify as a criminal act. Instead, it is the misappropriation of funds, usually for the embezzler's personal gain.

"If someone broke into a bank and stole \$1 million, that's just theft," Taber said, "but embezzlement is a little more complicated."

Upon her arrest, Fields was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 7, but it appears that date was pushed back, Taber said, and court proceedings are likely to continue sometime in July. As of press time, the N.C. courts website had not updated with Fields' new court date.

North Carolina law establishes two classifications of embezzlement. If less

than \$100,000 is misappropriated, the crime is a Class H felony punishable by only about half a year in prison or community service. Embezzling \$100,000 or more, though — as Fields is suspected to have done — is a Class C felony punishable by up to nearly 20 years in prison and typically requiring full restitution of stolen funds.

Of all corporate embezzlement cases globally, about 20% include figures of \$1 million or more, according to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The ACFE discovered a median loss in 2020 of about \$125,000 based on a study of more the 2,500 occupational fraud cases across 125 counties.

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

GRADUATE

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guitar during the bridge solo and waved their cell phone lights from their socially distanced seating areas.

Last year, COVID-19 gathering restrictions led to drive-thru and virtual ceremonies. After more than a year of pandemic challenges faced by everyone but felt acutely by teachers, students and their



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

J-M graduate Francisco Mendoza de la Cruz dons a stohl with embroidered Mexican flags at his ceremony last Saturday.

parents, this final Northwood performance felt like both a celebration of the class of 2021 and of the ability to have an in-person graduation at all.

"Like all years it has been a good year and a bad year — wins and losses. We all became experts in Zoom, but the price was high," Northwood graduate Hue Jacobs said during the ceremony's welcome address. "But that is all behind us now and we are all here to celebrate.

"As I look around," Jacobs said, "I realize that this is the biggest gathering of people that Chatham County has seen in over a year, and everyone is here to celebrate the class of 2021. Thank you for being a part of this great day and for all the support that you have given us."

More than 600 students graduated from Chatham County Schools last weekend, along with seniors from Chatham Charter, Woods Charter and Willow Oak Montessori. Ceremony protocol among the schools varied slightly, but each school hosted an in-person ceremony. After watching their peers graduate virtually, through a drive-thru line or not at all last year, many students worried about the future of their own graduations.

Until April, most of these seniors primarily learned virtually, and many did not get a final prom. Unlike the



Staff Photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central seniors turn their tassels after the last student walked across the stage last Friday, signifying their graduation status.

class of 2020 — who had about two-thirds of a normal senior year before the pandemic upended the typical end-of-year traditions — this year's graduates did have a normal senior year.

For them, the entirety of their final year of high school was touched by COVID-19.

Still, students worked to make the most of a hard situation.

Some finished sporting careers and set records, donning masks while doing so, while others took extra college courses online or spent time



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

J-M graduates walk across the stage at the ceremony last Saturday. Masks were not required due to the event taking place outside.

not physically in school with friends and family. Students got their driver's licenses, applied — and got accepted — into colleges and planned for the future.

The class of 2021 learned, as Northwood Senior President Courtney Fisher put it in her final reflection, how to support one another through thick and thin and do the best with what they're given.

"We learned that class with masks on is still class with your friends and football games with limited capacity are still football games, and that you don't need a homecoming dance to still have a great senior year," she said. "And most importantly, I think the class of '21 learned how to

make a lot out of a little, and make the most of whatever we were able to get after watching the class of 2020 suffer through a very anticlimactic end to their 13 years of school. So I think I can speak for all of us when I say that we are very glad to be graduating together in front of our families, friends and teachers."

A few minutes later, the graduates would turn their tassels and toss their caps, officially signifying what had felt unattainable at many points over the last year: they'd graduated.

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

Q&A

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Yell: I know everyone always says this, but I recommend everyone to get involved. It helps you make friends and learn important lessons and also learn about yourself and what you like doing, and this will help you as you look for college and careers and future.

Anthony: Stay focused, and I mean, pick the right classes for your career path.

Conroy: Be yourselves. Try not to fall too hard into the trap of senioritis. Make sure to spend lots of time on your college applications, and it's not too late to try and do something different.

Long: I would have to tell them to make the most of it because they might not get exactly what they dreamt for, but just to make the most of every moment that they do actually get.

Marroquin Tobar: For seniors, I know that next year is going to be different, it's not gonna be like this year, they're trying to go back to normal. Don't take it for granted. We don't know what's going to happen next year. If you're at school, enjoy that day. Enjoy the opportunity to be with your teachers and be with your classmates.

Penney: My biggest piece of advice is hanging out with people and talk to people you don't normally do. Because I think that was a big regret for a lot of people at the end of the year was getting to see all these wonderful people and feeling like you didn't have enough time to reach out to all of them.

Charbonneau: Don't be afraid to go out and try new things. Just don't wait to do stuff, because before you know it, if things are going to be all

over and gone, you're out your chance will be gone.

Phillips: Use the resources that you're given.

Rush: Don't procrastinate, because it just causes you more stress. And know the people at school are there to help you.

What's next?

Yell: This summer, I'm working as a waitress and at the Autism Society at Camp Royall. Next year, I'll be attending the University of South Carolina participating in the International Business Education Alliance. I was one of 10 students selected to study on four continents over four semesters. ... Besides that, I plan on running a marathon next year and

For seniors, I know that next year is going to be different, it's not gonna be like this year, they're trying to go back to normal. Don't take it for granted.

JACQUELINNE MARROQUIN TOBAR, *Jordan-Matthews graduate*

hope to become involved in some service organizations at school.

Anthony: I'm going to play college football at Guilford. I'm going to be focused on college football and I'm going to do a little internship with physical therapy.

Conroy: I am heading to NC State to study statistics as of right now, I might change that down the road. I got a cool scholarship to do that so I'm pretty excited for

that. In the meantime, I'm probably gonna hang around this summer and deliver pizzas to try to make some money.

Long: I plan to attend CCCC to pursue nursing.

Marroquin Tobar: I'll be attending Wake Forest University and I'm planning on majoring in political science and foreign affairs.

Henson: I'm attending UNC Chapel Hill and planning to double major in business and political

science and hoping to go home to law school.

Penney: Right now I'm on a month-long summer road trip — this group of four friends and I have been planning it for about two years actually, because it's something really fun and special to do after graduation. In the fall I'll be going to UNC and majoring in biology and environmental science.

Charbonneau: I will be going to NC State to study textiles and I'm very happy about that.

Phillips: I will be attending Clemson University in South Carolina on a academic scholarship, worth \$22,000 a year, which I fully believe that if I didn't go here and

maximize my time here, I would have never gotten. I'm majoring in animal and life sciences.

Agnew: I will be attending North Carolina State University in the fall and am planning to study middle grade education focusing in language arts and social studies.

Rush: I got my Associate of Applied Science and criminal justice, and I think I'm going to get a bachelor's degree sometime later down the road. So I'm going to continue my education. I just don't know what yet.

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

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MURAL

Continued from page A1

downtown, period,” said Matthews, who’s an associate minister at First Missionary Baptist Church. “Nothing. Nothing. So, if you don’t know what you had, in my mind, you don’t know what you can have. We had businesses. It’s a possibility to have them again.”

Altogether, Matthew estimated that the project — the plaque, mural and celebration — will cost around \$5,000. Originally, he asked the town for funding after presenting the project and submitting a proposal to the Siler City Board of Commissioners earlier this year. The town approved the project, but they declined to fund it.

“Currently, any funding for this type of project would need to go through the nonprofit application process, and Mr. Matthews did turn his forms in as requested by the board,” Town Manager Roy Lynch told the News + Record. “However, the nonprofits were not funded in the upcoming budget process, which is where they were focusing on as far as being able to provide any assistance. So therefore, you know, the town was not funding any of those requests at this time.”

Anyone who wishes to donate to the project may contact Matthews at donaldmatthews526@gmail.com or 336-653-4129. He’s also looking for any photos of the former businesses and their owners, Matthews added.

“This part of our history will be lost if we do

not take advantage of the situation now,” Matthews wrote in a March letter to Siler City’s Board of Commissioners. “Many of those that remember are dying, pictures are getting hard to come by.”

‘It’s like they didn’t exist’

Matthews’ efforts to commemorate Siler City’s Black business district and owners began more than two years ago. Through his years of research, plus his own memories, he’s identified at least five historical Black businesses in Siler City. Some trace all the way back to the early 20th century.

But of those businesses, only one has been well documented — Tod R. Edwards Watchmaker & Jeweler.

“The Chatham County Historical Association actually had participated in looking,” Matthews said. “We can’t even find as much as a business license for these businesses. It’s like it didn’t exist, but we all know they were here.”

According to the CCHA’s research, the Tod R. Edwards Watchmaker & Jeweler was the only Black-owned business located along Chatham Street — downtown Siler City’s white business district during the Jim Crow era.

Founded by Bynum native Tod R. Edwards in 1905, the jewelry, watch repair and photography business operated until 1961, when Edwards’ son, Tod Jr., and wife Ella, closed it 10 years after the senior Edwards’ death. Per the Association’s research, Edwards’



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

These three buildings on South Birch Avenue used to host three Black-owned businesses during the 1960s and ‘70s, including a billiards room and TV repair shop, a restaurant and a barber shop. Today, they hold office space for the Winland Group, a real estate and investment company.

business received mostly white patronage.

Several local newspapers reported on Edwards’ store throughout the decades, including a 1910 Siler City Grit article, a 1950 article in The State Magazine, as well as a 1961 Chatham News piece reflecting on the store’s closure.

“Seldom has the closing of a local concern engendered as much regret as the announcement that Edwards’ Jewelry Store would be no more,” read the Chatham News story. “... For the past 66 years the Edwards Jewelry Store in Siler City was proof that whites and Negro people can live side by side without hatred and violence and with respect for each other.”

That coverage also preserved photos of Edwards and his wife, their business and even their house, two blocks away; several newspapers in the region also carried ads and announcements Edwards placed to attract business and update his customers.

“That is the only business that they can find a record of,” Matthews said. “The rest of them,

we actually grew up with. We knew the people.

They were from this community, and there were some other businesses that were in the community, but they weren’t downtown.”

During segregation in the ‘60s and early ‘70s, Matthews said, other downtown Black-owned businesses were limited to Birch Avenue, which was about a block south of the white business district.

“It’s sitting on the back side of Main Street, facing railroad tracks,” Matthews said, “so it was pretty much out of sight, out of mind. I don’t know anybody my age that is white that would know it was there, and I know no one ever went into any of them [on Birch Avenue].”

South Birch Avenue hosted three businesses — a billiards room and TV repair shop on the left, a barber shop in the middle and a cafe on the right. Miller’s Siler City City Directory from 1959 to 1960 and from 1962 to 1963 record the businesses as Birch Avenue Billiards, Birch Avenue Barber Shop and Birch Avenue Cafe, respectively.

The 1959 directory lists Major L. Farrar as the barber shop and cafe owner, while identifying Bynum C. Jeffries as the billiards room owner. In the 1962 directory, though, all three businesses have different owners: William Haith Jr. had come to own the billiards room and cafe while the barbershop passed to Henrietta F. Patterson, whose 1999 obituary identifies as Major Farrar’s daughter.

“Birch Avenue Cafe had several owners over the years, but to the best of my knowledge, it always maintained the Birch Avenue Cafe name,” Matthews said. “The last owners, I believe, (were) the Farrar family. That would have been a husband and wife and the children. ... Henrietta Patterson’s barber shop ran up until she retired and pretty much closed to business.”

But for Birch Avenue Billiards — what Mat-

thews calls the Haith Pool Room and TV Repair Shop — he hasn’t been able to find any records at all, and he’s unearthed few, if any, photos of the Birch Avenue businesses and their owners.

And another business just around the corner left even fewer records. The store, called Spencer’s Shoe Repair, doesn’t even have an entry in either of Miller’s Siler City directories. The store closed once the owner retired, Matthews said, and no business took its place.

“The young men in a neighborhood were employed there shining shoes and working there,” he said. “That was a good time for them.”

‘It was ours’

Of these businesses, Matthews said, Birch Avenue Cafe stuck it out the longest, but eventually a Black-owned plumbing business replaced it. But once that business closed, the Birch Avenue buildings went dark.

“And so for many years, they sat,” Matthews said. “They deteriorated. Someone came through, gutted it. Roof was off, windows out. And it sat like that for a number of years. And then this young man bought them, had a vision, (and) turned them around.”

In 2015, Edwin Argueta, owner of the Winland Group, bought the buildings to house his real estate company. A year later, he renovated them and turned them into what Matthews described as “beautiful” offices.

But in its heyday, Matthews remembers, South Birch Avenue’s Black business district didn’t just provide goods and services; it also provided a forum for intellectual debate and community. Inside Birch Avenue Barber Shop, adults often kicked around different ideas and held intellectual conversations.

“It was just pretty much a nurturing environment then, listening to the elders talking about different things that were going on,” he said, “and sometimes it would be something that required immediate attention, and sometimes it would just be, ‘Oh yeah, my tomato plants are doing really good this year.’”

He described the cafe as “family-oriented,” and one of the few restaurants where Black residents could sit down and eat.

“You either went in the backdoor or you didn’t go in the door at all at other establishments,” he recalled. “You never went in and sat down anywhere. They served you

at the back door.”

And that, he said, is why Birch Avenue’s Black business district meant so much to Siler City’s African American community.

“It was ours,” he said, “when there was nothing else.”

‘We have a bit of a ways to go’

To recognize South Birch Avenue’s historical business district, Matthews and others plan to install a plaque along Birch Avenue with the businesses’ names. They’ve also started planning the mural, which they’ll place along the left side of the building that used to house Birch Avenue Billiards.

The mural, Matthews said, would depict the district’s businesses and business owners at their apex.

“Say for instance, you would have someone going into the Birch Avenue Cafe, maybe a family walking in the door with some patrons already sitting down in there,” he said. “You can look through the window of the barber shop and see someone getting a haircut with a couple other barbers, also people waiting. ... People mingling on the street, the way it used to be — people stopping, talking.”

It’s already laid out in his mind’s eye, he said, and they’ve got just the artist to bring it to life — Greensboro muralist Philip Marsh, who’s responsible for engineering many of Greensboro’s street murals.

“He’s actually a resident of Greensboro,” Matthews said, “but his home is here. His roots are here.”

Both the town and property owner Edwin Argueta have approved the project — and Argueta said he’s particularly excited for it.

“You know, wanting to honor heritage, and where this town is now and what it used to be, I think it’s important to recognize and not forget where we come from as a town, and as Americans, it’s important to celebrate the progress,” he told the News + Record. “So I’m thrilled to be part of it.”

Especially, he said, since some people used to stop by his office and tell him about the Birch Avenue buildings’ history. When the buildings first reopened in 2016, a woman walked in and asked to order some food.

“And I’m like, ‘Excuse me?’” Argueta said, laughing. “And she says, ‘Well, aren’t you reopening?’ I’m like, ‘Yes, ma’am. We just have.’” “Well, this was a restaurant. It was a soul food cafe.”

She was surprised to find out the buildings had reopened as office space, he recalled, “but it was very cute that she came in her Sunday best, you know, waiting to be served.”

“It was a neat, neat interaction,” he added.

Once Matthews and others collect sufficient funds and finish the project, they’ll hold an unveiling ceremony and a celebration. Originally, he’d hoped to have a Juneteenth celebration on June 19th, but the “town shot it down” because of COVID restrictions at the time.

He can’t yet predict exactly when they’ll hold the celebration and ceremony, but he hopes it’ll happen before this fall.

“We have a bit of a ways to go,” Matthews said, adding, “But that is what we’re attempting to do. We are contacting people. We’re looking for donations in order to get this done.”

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

OBITUARIES

SANDRA BOWERS EDWARDS



Sandra Bowers Edwards, 66, of Siler City died on Monday, June 7, 2021, at her home in Siler City.

Mrs. Edwards was born in Pinehurst on February 6, 1955, the daughter of Coy Martin Bowers and Margaret Bracey Bowers. Sandra attended Jordan-Matthews High School, graduating in 1973. She spent her working years working at the Chatham County Group Home and with the handicapped class at Jordan-Matthews. Sandra loved to

spend time outside tending to her garden; she loved flowers. You could find her in the kitchen cooking a delicious meal for her family. She did all she could to spoil her grandchildren and great-granddaughter. In her free time, she enjoyed being outside fishing. Sandra loved animals. Sandra was a big sports fan and sports team coach for several different teams. In addition to her father, Sandra is preceded in death by her daughter, Laura Edwards.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Barry Edwards; daughters, Brandy Edwards of Siler City and Megan Gilliland and husband Jason of Goldston; mother, Margaret Bracey Bowers of Siler City; sister, Donna E. Jordan of Asheboro; brothers, Mike Bowers and wife DeeAnn of Siler City, and Nelson Bowers and wife Sharon of Pittsboro; grandchildren, Hunter and Skylar Edwards, Jaggar, Jayston and Jake Gilliland; and great-granddaughter, Hope Edwards.

Sandra laid in repose on Thursday, June 10, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City. The family received friends other times at the home of her mother, Margaret Bowers. A graveside service was held Friday, June 11, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Chatham Memorial Park, 13260 Hwy. 64 West, Siler City, with Roger Edwards officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Chatham County Animal Shelter, P.O. Box 610, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or to the Chatham County Group Home, 217 E. Beaver St., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Edwards family.

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

DENNIS KEITH TALLY



Dennis Keith Tally, 55, of Creedmoor, passed away on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at Transitions Hospice Care, Raleigh.

Mr. Tally was born July 31, 1965, the son of Albert Tally and Patricia Elkins Purce.

Keith was of the Christian faith. He attended Chatham Central High School graduating in 1983. He worked at Hart's Furniture while attending High School and earning his Associates Degree in College. He

then spent his working years as an Electrical Engineer with NorTel, which then turned into FlexTronics in Creedmoor. Keith was a math whiz. He had a love of baseball, basketball and golf. Keith had an amazing collection of Air Jordans. He was an avid follower of Carolina baseball, just like his father. Keith was preceded in death by his father, Dennis Albert Tally.

Survivors include his mother, Patricia Elkins Purce (Joseph Purce) of Sanford; and brother, Kevin Tally of Morrisville.

Friends and family were able to pay their respects and view photos of Keith's life on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Ave., Siler City.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 42040, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73123.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Tally family.

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

JASON CLINT HEARN



Jason Clint Hearn passed away on June 2, 2021, at his residence in Chatham County.

He was born on April 5, 1981 in Durham County, N.C., to the late Timmy Gene Hearn (Dec. 2012) and Sarah Poe Hearn. Jason grew up in Chapel Hill and attended Chapel Hill/Carrboro Schools. He also attended Central Carolina Community College and worked in HVAC construction with his father.

Jason is survived by his daughter, Hailey Hearn (age 5) who he loved with all his heart. In addition, he is survived by his mother, Sarah Hearn; sister, Cathy Wood (Steve); niece, Charlotte Fasano (Patrick); nephew, Jackson Wood (Holly); former wife, Bonnie Butler and step-daughter Michaya Butler; and girlfriend, Nicole Harford and her daughter Madison.

Jason has numerous other relatives to mourn his loss: aunt, Phyllis Plummer (Paul Jr.); uncle, Russell Hearn (Linda); uncle, Buddy Poe (Mary); uncle Bill Poe (Deborah); and aunt, Bonnie Poe (Ronnie, Dec. 2013).

As Jason passed from his earthly life, we know he was cheerfully greeted by his father; his special cousin, Bryan Chrisco; his maternal grandmother, Hazel Poe; and his fraternal grandmother and step-grandfather, Rebecca (Polly) Wood and Woody. In addition, he was surrounded by love from our heavenly father, his son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Jason Hearn was a child of God.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 19, at 12 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 151 Old Rock Spring Cemetery Rd., Pittsboro, N.C. A private burial will take place at a later time.

CAMILLA RAE BINKLEY GILLILAND

Camilla Rae Binkley Gilliland, 81, of Goldston, passed away Monday, June 8, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

She was born in Chatham County on September 25, 1939, to Robert Spencer Binkley Sr. and Loney McDaniel Binkley. She was a member of Antioch Baptist Church, where she assisted with Bible School and sang in the church choir. She was a former secretary with the Chatham News. She enjoyed Carolina basketball and cherished the time she spent with her family.

In addition to her parents, Camilla was preceded in death by sisters, Thelma Estes, Elsie Brigham, Agnes Gilliland and brothers, Robert Binkley Jr., Odell Binkley, Arvey Binkley and Earl Binkley.

She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Lionel Gilliland of the home; daughters, Lisa G. Denkins (Bruce) of Goldston and Susan G. Denise (Forrest) of Fuquay-Varina; grandchildren, Jake and Elizabeth Denise; sister, Betty Jean Lindley of Knightdale; brothers, Ashley (Possum) Binkley of Siler City, Wesley Binkley of Bear Creek, Steve Binkley of Graham, Joe Binkley of Asheboro and Larry Binkley of Siler City; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and a host of family and friends.

The funeral was held on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church with Rev. Mike Garner presiding. The family received friends at the church prior to the service from 1 to 1:45 p.m. and at the home at other times. Joyce-Brady Chapel was open on Friday, June 11, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. for those who wanted to sign the register.

Flowers were accepted or donations could be made to Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter, 4600 Park Road, Suite 250, Charlotte, N.C. 28209 (<http://www.alz.org/northcarolina>).

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel of Bennett was honored to serve the Gilliland family.

BRANDON LAVON NORRIS I

Brandon Lavon Norris I, 43, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, at his residence.

Graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Saturday, June 12, 2021, at the Family Stone Cemetery in Cameron.

DR. ROLLIN HERBERT (HERB) WALLICK

Dr. Rollin Herbert (Herb) Wallick, 92, in Pittsboro, formerly of Beaufort, passed away on Monday, June 7, 2021, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care.

There will be no services at this time. The family will have a private celebration of life at a future date.

Herb was born on February 12, 1929, to Rollin Rupert and Carrie Lena (Martin) Wallick in Martinsville, Virginia. He attended King College in Bristol, Tennessee, for a degree in Chemistry and received his PhD in Chemistry from UNC-Chapel Hill. Herb served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956. During that time, his Doctorate in Chemistry was utilized in research on biological warfare and its effects. He later secured employment with Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company in Durham. Herb was preceded in death by his wife of 41 years, Bobbie Lou Shoun Wallick.

Survivors include four daughters, Carrie Lynn Everhart of Raeford, Nancy Lucinda Baraks of Pittsboro, Patricia Leigh Pellock of Columbia, Missouri, Golda Carol Wilkerson of Cheltenham, England; and his son, David Lee Wilkerson of Chapel Hill; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Herb's name to one of the following organizations: UNC Hospice, SECU, Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House of UNC Health Care, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or 984-215-2675 PAWS - Pet Adoption Center, 5042 Mattie Street, Morehead City, NC 28557; 252-241-9408.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

MARY ALICE LETT CRISSMAN

Mary Alice Lett Crissman, 87 of Sanford, passed away on Thursday June 10, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday at Moore Union Christian Church with Rev. David Yarborough and Rev. Gary Moore officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Lee County, daughter of the late John Wesley Lett and Bettie Ruth Lanier Lett. She was preceded in death by her parents. Mary Alice was a graduate of Broadway High School. She worked at the Lee County Veterans Service Office for 44 years, retiring as the first female Veteran Services Officer in North Carolina. She was also awarded the state's highest honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., for 44 years dedicated service to the Veterans of Lee County and the State of North Carolina. Mary Alice was a member of Moore Union Christian Church where she had served as a teacher and choir member.

Surviving is her brother, Herbert Lee Lett of Carolina Beach.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials made to the Moore Union Christian Church Cemetery Maintenance Fund.

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

CASEY LUKE TAYLOR FIELDS



Casey Luke Taylor Fields, 29, of Bear Creek passed away on Sunday, June 6, 2021.

Mr. Fields was born March 2, 1992, the son of Blaine and Donna Scott Fields. Luke enjoyed spending time playing sports, especially baseball and bull riding. He spent his free time doing anything outdoors as well as fishing. Luke is preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, JoAnn Fields Scott and Billy Gene Scott and his paternal grandparents,

A.D. Fields and Billie T. Fields.

He is survived by his parents; a daughter, Amelia Fields; sons, Casey Lane and Landon Fields; sisters, Brittany Vick and husband Michael of Sanford, Brandi Scott of Bear Creek, Jaime Fields Craig and husband Andy of Georgia; brother-in-law John Hayes Jr.; brothers, Brad Scott of Sanford and Josh Fields; nieces, Kelsey Scott, Brooke Hayes, Cali and Jacelyn Scott; and special friend, Lori Bayles of Bennett.

The family received friends Friday, June 11, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Ave., Siler City, N.C., and other times at the home of Brittany Vick, 681 Berke Thomas Rd., Sanford N.C. The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2021, at Bear Creek Baptist Church, 480 Bonlee-Carbonton Rd., Bear Creek with Rev. Bob Wachs and Rev. William Fields officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Fields family.

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

KAREN KAY ATKINS

Karen Kay Atkins, 67, of Pittsboro passed away on Friday, June 11, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Ms. Atkins was born in Chatham County on April 24, 1954, the daughter of Harold "Boots" and Bobbie Jean Phillips Atkins.

Karen graduated from Chatham Central High School in 1972 and afterward, attended Asheboro Business College. She worked for Arauco Panels in Moncure for 30 years. Karen was a member of Bethany Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending time with her niece and nephew and loved her animals. Karen was a big sports fan and loved the UNC Tar Heels. She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her sister, Kathy Johnson and husband Randall of Siler City; brother, Mike Atkins and wife Helen of Moncure; niece, Kaylee Atkins; and nephew, Michael Atkins.

No services are planned at this time.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Chatham County Animal Resource Center, 725 County Landfill Rd., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Atkins family.

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

ROLLAND ANTHONY HOOKS

Rolland Anthony Hooks, 37, of Durham, passed away Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

PERFECTO ALAMO CARDONA

Mr. Perfecto Alamo Cardona, 72, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, June 10, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

OMA GAIL (RAZEY) YOUNG

Ms. Oma Gail Young, 85, of Forestdale, Massachusetts, passed away on Saturday, June 12, 2021, in Harnett County at her daughter's residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

BERNESTINE (IRVIN) PICOU

Ms. Bernestine Picou, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, June 13, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

GLENN DAVID MCLEAN

Glenn David McLean, 74, of Laurinburg passed away on Friday, June 4, 2021, at his residence.

Graveside service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 12, 2021 at Lee Memory Garden.

JASON LAMONT HARRINGTON JR.

Jason Lamont Harrington Jr., 18, passed away on June 5, 2021.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, June 14, 2021, at New Generation Church in Sanford with burial following at Seymour Cemetery in

Moncure.

Jason was the son of Kilstrin Green and Jason Harrington, Sr.

See **OBITUARIES**, page 9A

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Finally: Pittsboro's traffic circle re-opens

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The traffic circle in downtown Pittsboro has reopened after months of renovation, but work on the larger road construction project is ongoing.

In January, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, in partnership with the Town of Pittsboro, closed a portion of the circle as part of a safety initiative to improve pedestrian and driver conditions. The \$2.48 million contract, awarded to Carolina Sunrock LLC of Raleigh, also included functional and aesthetic upgrades.

On Monday, crews removed and replaced pavement markings and tentatively opened the southeastern half of the circle. Work is continuing on the northwestern half, and drivers can expect daily lane closures. Full road closures, however, will be relegated to overnight construction, according to a NCDOT press release.

Until the circle project is completed in October, U.S. 15-501 truck and through traffic will continue to be detoured along N.C. 87 and U.S.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Pittsboro's traffic circle is open for through traffic, but residents shouldn't expect a perfectly smooth road for another four months, town representatives say.

64 Bypass, NCDOT says, which will also serve as the detour for U.S. 64 Business. Drivers should be mindful of crews working in this area over coming months and allow extra time for the detours.

"The traffic circle is now open," Town Manager Chris Kennedy said in a board of commissioners meeting Monday. "I went out there myself to basically force it open ... Thank goodness, very excited to have it done."

The circle project has been a "hotly discussed" topic, Kennedy said, since construction began six months ago. Besides the pandemic's blow to Pittsboro's economy, road closures downtown stifled customer access

to faltering businesses and frustrated many residents. The infrastructure enhancement was necessary, though, according to town leaders, to facilitate Pittsboro's accelerating expansion.

"There's no doubt that downtown will be improved with this project," Kennedy previously told the News + Record. "I don't think there's any doubt that the project's going to be tremendous at the end. I don't think anybody can disagree that the timing — it just isn't ideal ... And so we are greatly empathetic to that and we're trying to do what we can to work through that."

While the circle has opened to through traffic, residents will notice the

road is still incomplete, and will remain as such for several months.

"The final lift of asphalt will happen at the very end," Kennedy said Monday. "So right now what we have is basically a good clean surface, but there are some bumps, especially as you transition on the northern side of the circle ... Once the project is done, they're going to come in with a final lift of asphalt so that it looks really nice. So all the markings there now are temporary."

Traffic circle renovations constitute the first phase of a bigger project to improve about two miles of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 in Pittsboro — widening the road and adding streetscape improve-

ments between south of U.S. Hwy. 64 Business and Powell Place Lane near the bypass.

Proceeds from the sale of Build NC bonds are earmarked to pay for \$1.5 million of the construction of the first phase.

Other NCDOT projects are expected to cause similar traffic detours in coming weeks, the department said in a press release. Workers have cordoned off a section of N.C. Hwy. 42 between Dickens Road and Christian Chapel Church Road to facilitate replacement of a damaged pipe culvert. Work is expected to complete before the July 4 holiday, weather

permitting.

DOT officials have attributed the pipe failure to damage from Hurricane Florence floodwaters. The department awarded a \$107,845 contract to Jymco Construction Company of Smithfield to make the emergency repair.

During the closure, N.C. Hwy. 42 traffic will be detoured along Christian Chapel Church Road, Old U.S. Hwy. 1 and Corinth Road to access points on either side of the work zone.

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Pittsboro's traffic circle re-opened for traffic Monday, but work on the \$2.48 million project continues.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page 8A

GERALD LEWIS NORRIS

Gerald Lewis Norris, 59, of Sanford, died Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

A funeral service was held Sunday, June 13, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church with Pastor Doug Houston presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Gerald was born in Lee County on August 6, 1961, to the late Lewis Glenn Norris and Doris Jean Sloan Norris.

Gerald is survived by his daughter, Samantha Norris of Sanford; a step-son, Mikey Remaley of Sanford; a step-daughter, Lindsey Remaley of Sanford; a sister, Lora Norris Wilson of Broadway.

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

ROBERT WILLIAM WEST JR.

Robert William West Jr., 61, of Sanford, died Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at his home.

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

He was born January 27, 1960, son of Robert William West and Mary Ellen Bryant West. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Judy West, and son Matthew West. He retired from Honeywell.

Surviving is his daughter, Jessica West of Cameron; and three half-brothers.

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

PHYLLIS ROBERTS WILLIAMS

Phyllis Roberts Williams, 70 of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, June 10, 2021, at The Laurels of Forest Glenn in Garner.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

DWIGHT MCNEILL

Dwight McNeill, 68, passed away on Friday, June 11, 2021.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021, at Olivia Presbyterian Church. The family will receive family and friends in the church fellowship hall preceding the service.

Dwight was born in Lee County, on April 3, 1953 to the late Alfonso McNeill and Louise Core McNeill of Broadway. He worked with Moen Inc. for 35 years. He attended Olivia Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his son Timothy McNeill; a daughter, Debbora Pittman; a sister, Janice Martindale; and one grandson.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the following horse rescue organizations: <http://hopereins.org> and/or <https://www.leilanimaehorserescue.com>.

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

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

ETHEL GERALDINE (MAULDIN) PEAKES

Ethel Geraldine Peakes, 79, passed away on Thursday, June 3, 2021, at Liberty Commons in Sanford.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 11, 2021, at First Calvary Baptist Church.

LUCILLE METHA (HANNER) JOHNSON

Mrs. Lucille Metha Johnson, 88, of Bear Creek, passed away Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

Services entrusted to Knotts and Son, Siler City.



Submitted photo

In lieu of a ribbon cutting, Mayor Jim Nass and Preston Development Company owners Bubba Rawl and Tim Smith turned a 6-foot switch to activate the park's colorful water fountains.

PITTSBORO PARKS

Knight Farm Community Park is ready for play

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town representatives and Chatham Park Investors have dedicated Pittsboro's newest park, concluding more than a year of development and launching the first major outdoor feature of several to come as construction progresses on the 7,000-acre Chatham Park housing community.

About 50 attended the grand opening of Knight Farm Community Park on May 27, including Pittsboro Mayor James Nass and Commissioners Kyle Shipp, Michael Fiocco and Jay Farrell. The 10-acre park, located at 362 Vine Parkway near the Chatham Park Info Center, features traditional playhouse equipment, a dragon-shaped climbing gym and a natural playground where kids can play on "live-edge tree trunk balance beams and slide through a rock garden," according to a Chatham Park press release.

"The creation of the first park in Chatham Park is an investment in the town that will benefit future generations for years to come," Chuck Smith, vice president of planning for Preston Development, told the News + Record. "Recreation and open space amenities that can be used by all to gather, play and exercise provides a much-needed community focal point."

Other park amenities include a measured walking trail around its perimeter, a large multi-use field, a splash pad and a dog park. A covered pavilion houses public restrooms and several picnic tables. Unused space remains available within the park for upgrades and future developments as Pittsboro grows and expands.

Preston Development Company, which is developing Chatham Park, funded the \$3 million project and donated the park to the Town of Pittsboro. Instead of a traditional ribbon-cutting, Chatham Park representatives and Mayor Nass flicked a 6-foot switch activating the colorful water fountain splash pad.

"We thank very much Chatham Park and Preston Development for the work that went into this park," Nass said at the event. "We are glad to take it over as a town park now and add that to our parks and recreation inventory."

Pittsboro does not have a parks and recreation department as some municipalities do. Last month, the board of commissioners authorized the town's budding Boys & Girls Club to oversee recreational programs while Pittsboro works on developing a dedicated staff. To that end, Town Manager Chris Kennedy recently hired a parks planner, Katy Keller, who will help facilitate the town's aspirational parks program, according to the commissioners.

Knight Farm Community Park is named after the original family on whose land the park is built. Tony and Eliza Knight, Black farmers born before the Civil War, acquired and developed more than 100 acres in what is now the Vineyard Park community.

After their deaths, the Knights' house and land was sold at auction to cover debts. In 1924, their son, Fred, repurchased the property for \$762.50. The home he built is included in the book, "The Architectural History of Chatham County NC," published in 1991. Fred Knight was described in the book as "a farmer and sawmiller of apparent substance." His grandson, George Michael Knight, still lives in Pittsboro on Firetower Road, adjacent to Vineyard Park.

Knight Farm Community Park is open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. during summer. It is part of 2,000 acres within Chatham Park, which the community's developers have dedicated for outdoor spaces, and the first of five parks to be constructed in Vineyard Park. Future amenities will include more than 30 miles of walking, biking and multimodal trails; access to the Haw River and Jordan Lake; an amphitheater for live music and entertainment; shops, dining, art galleries and more.

"We are enjoying every celebration, every milestone of Chatham Park as we watch this community grow into our vision," Vanessa Jenkins, executive vice president of Preston Development Company, told the News + Record. "We are very excited to be a part of Knight Farm Community Park and the town of Pittsboro."

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

Wednesday Spotlight

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WATTERSON - TYSOR EXCHANGE VOWS

Kallie Lynn Watterson and Daniel Lewis Tysor were married Friday, June 11, 2021 at Sunrise-P-River Ranch, Rupert, Idaho.

The bride is the daughter of Rex Watterson of Burley, Idaho. She served in the U.S. Navy.

The groom is the son of Joanna and Michael Tysor of Bear Creek. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corp.

The couple met while serving in the U.S. Military. They will reside in Rupert, Idaho, with their two sons.



Submitted photo

Local artist Kim Stout has been taking photographs of the Rocky River roughly once a week for the last eight years — all from the same spot on the Rocky River bridge. This collage represents one year in the life of the Rocky River.

BRIDGE

Continued from page A1

“It’s constantly being threatened over the past 50 years to be torn down and replaced with a modern bridge that is two-lane and not an antique,” Lee said.

“It just seems to kind of cycle through the Department of Transportation’s priority list every few years — every 10 years, every 15 years, I really don’t know,” added local artist Beth Goldston, who’s lived in the area since 1996.

To break that cycle, Lee, Goldston and others hope to have the bridge placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the federal government’s list of historic sites and structures deemed worthy of preservation. Achieving that, residents say, would afford the bridge “additional protection” from demolition. As of now, it’s only on the N.C. Dept. of Transportation’s North Carolina Historic Bridge Inventory.

“The Department of Transportation — I mean, at some point, they look at a bridge from its physical attributes and try to decide if it’d be better probably to build a newer bridge that will require less monitoring, less maintenance,” Lee said. “But if we have it on that Historic Register list, then there’s a lot more it takes to come in and take the bridge down.”

Every year, Lee said, officials come and take measurements; he’s even heard talk that there may be plans to tear it down soon yet again.

“Honestly, if we had a two-lane bridge, we’d have gravel trucks running up and down here,” he said. “We’d have all kinds of traffic, so you know, we like the quiet country lifestyle. It’s a historic bridge, and we want to try to keep the neighborhood that way.”

‘We don’t want to replace it’

The Rocky River bridge — officially known as Chatham Bridge 147 — was born in 1921, and the Atlantic Bridge Company of Charlotte, plus growing industry, were its parents.

According to newspaper archives, the bridge served the Oakland Township, which in the early 1900s had been an industrial area full of iron furnaces, grist mills and coal mines.

“This bridge was used to support that,” Lee said. “The community between the rivers has always been isolated.

... For water and electricity back in the day, they didn’t cross rivers and stuff like that very well, so being between the Deep and the Rocky,



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Rocky River Bridge will turn 100 years old this summer. One of Chatham’s oldest bridges, it’s a one-lane bridge located along Chatham Church Road near Pittsboro.

that bridge was super important to get access to Pittsboro.”

In March of 1921, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners collected bids to construct a steel truss bridge in a time when the county still managed local roads. Ultimately, the board granted the contract to the Atlantic Bridge Company, and the bridge first opened in late July.

According to a Chatham Record story, the Oakland community held a day-long barbecue to inaugurate the bridge on July 21, 1921 — a barbecue Lee hopes to emulate.

Since then, the county and later NCDOT have regularly maintained and inspected the bridge. In 1959, they even rehabilitated it, replacing everything but its metal frame. About 23 years ago, though, DOT said the county began to consider taking the bridge down and replacing it with a new one.

“With time the bridge does age, but it has a unique benefit that its foundations are not in the river,” Lee said. “So, there’s not been any required damage to it to replace it. They’re replacing the bridge over the Deep River right now on 15-501, south of Pittsboro, and that’s because the foundations are actually in the river and the logs jam up behind it and have damaged it.”

The DOT first proposed replacing the bridge in 1998 — and met with a wall of local resistance led by Beth Goldston, who’d just moved to the area about two years earlier.

“When we bought this land out here, I just loved this place so much,” she said. “It was such a draw to me, this beautiful place, and I just couldn’t stand the thought of it being destroyed, being a two-lane highway with gravel trucks coming by (at) 65 miles an hour.”

To prevent that, she and other residents rallied together and presented a petition against NCDOT’s proposal to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners. Goldston and others also wrote their congressional representatives.

“We just did everything we could,” she said.

Ultimately, the board granted them a public

hearing.

“We actually sat out here and counted cars a few times to show that there wasn’t that much traffic,” Goldston said. “And I think because we just rallied together to show that we wanted to keep it, they scheduled the public hearing. I don’t think they would have had the public hearing had we not done that.”

Her own son, Jon Spoon, then 11 years old, spoke at the hearing, too, and played a video of a few river otters he’d captured on tape. He’s now the chairman of the Chatham County Planning Board.

And finally, one day not long after, Goldston remembers, they received a letter notifying them that DOT had decided not to tear down the bridge; instead, they were going to improve and repair it.

“And they actually asked us what color we wanted to paint it,” she said. “They gave us a couple of choices, and we went around and polled the neighbors, and we all chose this kind of turquoise color.”

Yet, just 18 years later, the same threat reemerged. In 2016, DOT proposed a \$2 million project to replace the bridge, but Goldston and other residents ultimately defeated that, too.

“We had to go before the county commissioners again,” she said. “We did another petition, and the county commissioners just decided to put it back on the back burner, (as in) ‘We don’t want to replace it. There’s enough other things that we need (to do).’”

She’s heard some residents complain about the old bridge, she said; some would like the bridge paved, while others would like a two-lane highway. To that, however, she pointed to an alternate route that people can take just half a mile away.

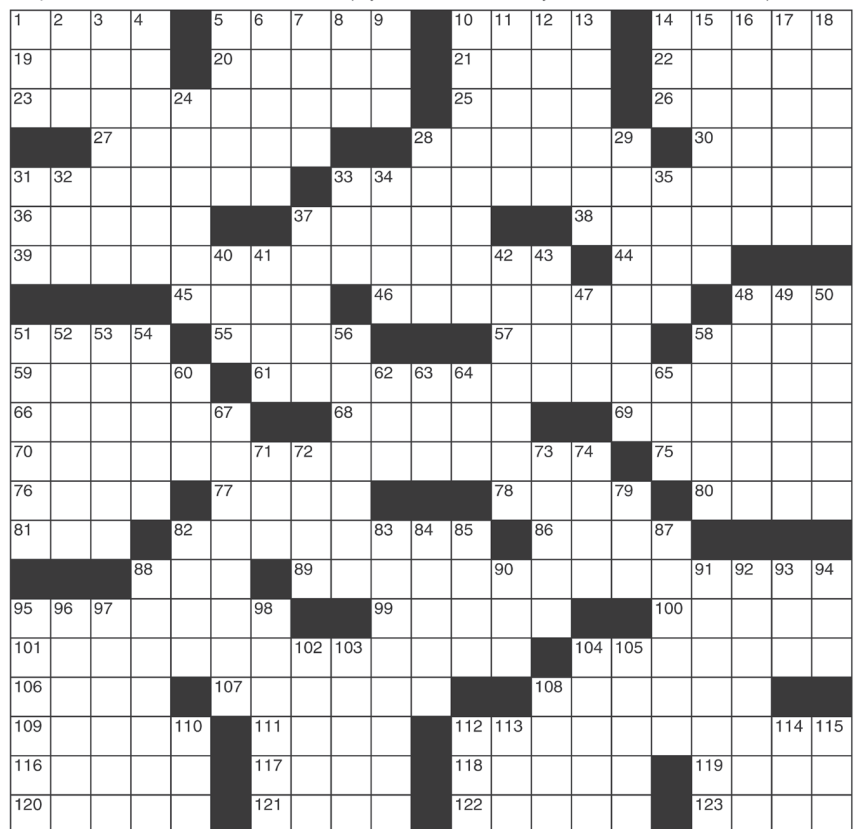
“It takes less than a one-minute difference to go either this way or go over and get on the highway, so you know, I just don’t feel like we’re holding up progress,” she said, adding, “There are endangered species in the river here. It would mess with the water quality.

... I mean, in my humble opinion, there’s no need

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

FRONT PAWS

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| ACROSS | 48 Take on moguls | 101 Certain letter-shaped pattern, to Brits | 5 Compass variations | 42 “Open this door!” | 82 Fact falsifier |
| 1 Publisher Adolph | 51 Week’s seven | 104 Set free | 7 Did superbly on | 43 March Madness gp. | 83 Aura |
| 5 Pile up | 55 Grouchy type | 106 Touch down | 8 Corn core | 47 Little — (tykes) | 84 Manorial lord |
| 10 Hit with an open hand | 57 Zingy flavor | 107 “Yes —!” (“You bet!”) | 9 Ell preceder | 48 Diet drastically | 85 Meyers of late night |
| 14 Mafia heads | 58 Hockey great Mikita | 108 Shortcoming | 10 Attaches, as a seat belt | 49 Oklahoma neighbor | 87 Funnel-shaped flower |
| 19 Defrost | 59 Japanese city | 109 Compadre | 11 Dog tether | 50 Use the tab key, perhaps | 88 One leaving a smear |
| 20 Fireside drink | 61 Australian territory in the Indian Ocean | 111 Arctic bird | 12 Chichi | 51 Not too hard to carry out | 90 — “King” Cole |
| 21 Lead-in to byte | 66 Greek deity of wisdom | 112 Ancestor ... or what the first word of seven | 13 Sporty 1990s Toyotas | 52 Houston baseballers | 91 Built |
| 22 O. Henry literary device | 68 “Kate & —” (old sitcom) | 116 Cab ticker | 14 U.S. snoop gp. | 53 Loutish types | 92 Suede, e.g. |
| 23 Yore | 69 Uncultured | 117 — “Z” (’80s Camaro) | 15 Nabs | 54 Distorts | 93 — Vegas |
| 25 Finks | 70 Ivy League school in Providence | 118 Fountain of Rome | 16 Hoi — (the masses) | 55 Display of great daring | 94 Ending for Siam |
| 26 City in France | 75 Backless sofa | 119 Architect drama | 17 Like single-person bands | 56 Display of great daring | 95 On fire |
| 27 Trickled out | 76 Lavs, to Brits | 120 People staring | 18 B-board overseers | 57 Killed, as a dragon | 96 Capital of Niger |
| 28 Graduation cap dangler | 77 Prefix with drama | 121 Parched, old-style | 24 Kimono-clad hostess | 58 Killed, as a dragon | 97 Set on fire |
| 30 Ticked Muppet | 80 Bird-built home | 122 Pfeiffer of “Cybill” | 28 “Baywatch” actress | 59 Shaker Lee | 98 “You are right about that” |
| 31 Entrees with pastry crusts | 81 Kin of -ette | 123 Drearly dull | 29 Of formal public worship | 60 Ending for project | 102 — “Jacques” (kids’ song) |
| 33 Wood-cleaning product | 82 Left-leaning | DOWN | 31 School org. | 62 Ending for project | 103 Misstep |
| 36 Forest array | 86 “Tomb raider” Croft | 1 Baseball great Mel | 32 Space sphere | 63 35mm camera type | 104 Christopher who played Superman |
| 37 Rich wall tapestry | 88 Sister, say | 2 — Town (the Windy City) | 33 Med. scan | 64 Seventh scale notes | 105 Chaperone in “The Hunger Games” |
| 38 Cholesterol-lowering drugs | 89 2016 Best Director winner for “La La Land” | 3 Pet in an exercise wheel | 34 Big tea holders | 65 Lawn turf | 108 Historical plaintiff — Scott |
| 39 Predecessor of Andrew Johnson | 95 Zoo collection | 4 “Popeye” tot | 35 Use a surgical beam on | 67 Quarterbacks’ called changes | 110 Surgery ctrs. |
| 44 Naval vessel inits. | 99 Letters after alphas | | 37 God of Islam | 71 — Hill, San Francisco | 112 Bouquet-bringing gp. |
| 45 — Sea (Asian lake) | 100 Localities | | 40 Circle section | 72 Like cold tea | 114 Period |
| 46 Gravy-train job | | | 41 “I Need to Know” singer — Anthony | 73 Powder room powders | 113 Tram cargo |
| | | | | 74 “Awright!” | 115 Rip off |
| | | | | 79 Mexican Mrs. | |



Solution for the puzzle in last week’s edition.

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

Chatham resident Beth Goldston painted a view of the Rocky River from the bridge in 2015. She’s lived near the bridge since 1996 and has fought to preserve it for over 20 years.

to do that. It wouldn’t serve progress in any way.”

‘It adds to my quality of life’

Artist Kim Stout has lived in the Asbury community since 1999, and for nearly eight years, she’s been taking photographs of the Rocky River roughly once a week from the very same spot on the bridge.

“I just love to watch the changes on the river, the seasons, the quietness when you walk down here, the animal life that even you don’t experience at the top of the hill,” she said. “There’s animals that move along the river corridor that you’re not

going to see at the top of the hill, and I think that’s part of why it’s a draw for people. It’s just very serene down here.”

She’s also part of the group working to preserve the bridge, which she calls “a friend to the community.”

“That’s what it feels like to me,” she said. “I think everybody feels an emotional attachment to the bridge, most everybody that lives in the area.”

Her daughter got engaged on the bridge. And one time, she met a Sanford resident filling in little potholes at the end of the bridge, the place his mother loved to visit and where she asked her ashes to be spread.

There’s a lot to love about the bridge, she and others said, and a lot of reasons to fight for it.

“It’s the usual community stuff,” Lee said. “A lot of people love the bridge. People can take pictures.”

“People on the road walk out here in the evenings, you know, to take their exercise strolling,” Goldston added, “and you know if this was paved, nobody would do that anymore.”

It’s not just about saving a historic structure, she said; it’s about preserving a “natural place,” full of heron, otters, beavers and even owls. While crossing the river years ago, Goldston and Stout remember locking eyes with an owl perched on top of a sycamore tree.

Those kinds of interactions, they say, are what make the bridge special and worthy of preservation. Removing the bridge won’t take the river away, Goldston said, but it would take away their ability to truly enjoy it — and that’s why they’ll keep fighting for it.

“It adds to my quality of life,” Stout said.

With a smile, Goldston added: “It definitely adds to mine.”

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

ATTRACT

Continued from page A1

economy, about 70% of the tax burden would fall to homeowners with the rest covered by a robust business community, EDC President Michael Smith told the News + Record.

In the immediate future, with developments such as Chatham Park attracting tens of thousands of new residents and substantial infrastructure expansion underway across the county, the revenue imbalance could temporarily worsen. But Chatham

is poised to rival its bigger Triangle neighbors as the go-to destination for major corporations.

Its first advantage: two megasites.

The Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) site, a 1,802-acre industrial megasite in western Chatham

County, is nearing completion and courting prospective tenants. Triangle Innovation Point (TIP), previously the Moncure Megasite, could support dozens of new life science and manufacturing companies in coming years on its 2,150-acre complex in Moncure.

Both have been under development for several years, and their infrastructures are almost finished. The biggest thing left to do is find companies to move in, and Chatham policymakers are doing everything they can to entice the country's most desirable companies. They hope to distinguish Chatham from similar destinations with a second advantage — a unique incentives package.

"One thing that I feel sets Chatham apart is that we have two incentive policies," County Manager Dan LaMontagne told the News + Record.

The first covers a large swath of businesses that might establish operations in Chatham. Based on company size, Chatham offers five "differing levels of grants-based ad valorem taxes paid," LaMontagne said, each of which span five years. In other words, businesses can be refunded part of the ad valorem taxes they pay over a five-year span according to the value they offer Chatham.

The second incentives policy is for "transformational projects" which bring 1,000 or more new jobs.

"Grants in this policy can be awarded at three different levels and span 10, 15 and 20 years, respectively," LaMontagne said. "Both policies score a project on the number of jobs, the wage level of

the new jobs, the quality of the new jobs (benefits), level of capital investment, potential attraction of other businesses, number of county residents hired and environmental impact."

Last week, Siler City's board of commissioners adopted an incentives policy to match what Chatham County has offered for several years, hoping to further establish the CAM site as one of the nation's most attractive locations for heavy industrial companies.

"Right now the CAM site is not annexed as part of (Siler City's) jurisdiction," said Sam Rauf, EDC project manager. "But it can be and probably will be as it gets developed, so we consider CAM just to be tied in with Siler City."

The TIP site, which re-branded itself in the last year as a life sciences campus, falls under direct county supervision.

Based on a series of factors, companies might qualify for rebates of as much as 90% of their county or municipal taxes over the course of many years. To be clear, Rauf said, the county and Siler City is not paying companies to settle in Chatham.

"The incentives are really misunderstood," he said. "A lot of times people think it's just a pot of money that the county is paying out to these companies ... You see the headlines where it's, 'Company receives \$60 million in incentives,' and the initial thought if you don't work in this industry is, 'Oh the county's paying them \$60 million? Why not use \$60 million for education, or for something else?' But the truth is that company

is generating maybe \$100 million or probably more for the county, and just getting \$60 million of that back."

While monetary incentives can enhance Chatham's chances of landing major employers, they're not the first thing EDC representatives hold out when they're courting prospective companies.

"Incentives are not everything in projects," Rauf said. "But if you've got two identical sites companies are looking at, they sometimes can be the difference maker. But there are a lot of things you have to do to get to that point, so really, we're just trying to make us as prepared as possible for when large projects do come."

And they will come, LaMontagne says. It's early yet to make reliable projections for Chatham's commercial development in coming years, but he's confident Chatham is setting itself apart from the competition.

"We feel that our incentive policies are very competitive currently," LaMontagne said. "We continue to look at our incentive policies and have not seen a need to change them as a result of growth in the region. We continue to get a great deal of interest in both our sites ... It is difficult to project the impact that an industry may have on commercial growth in Chatham, (but) one thing is for certain — Chatham County is becoming much more well known in the region and nationally."

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

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RELIEF

Continued from page A1

this year's expanded summer programming, as well as for the two summers after. In Chatham, this year's summer programming starts June 21.

The district previously surveyed principals and other administrators and reviewed academic data to identify the following academic areas of need funds

could go toward: achievement and opportunity gaps, English-Language Learner student progress, Math I and middle school and 9th grade ELA. The potential funding areas included extended learning opportunities, investing in human capital, health and safety (such as HVAC systems and PPE) and professional development.

At the board's June Meeting, Hartness also presented findings from a community survey.

"What we've done since the last time we met, we did have a community overview presentation with a video that we sent out to the community in both English and Spanish," said Hartness, who is the district's assistant superintendent of academic services and instructional support. "And we provided the community with an input survey. We then took that particular survey information, reviewed it and looked for trends."

The top priorities indicated in community feedback were:

- Learning Loss and summer programs
- HVAC, safety and personal protective equipment (PPE) needs
- Mental health supports
- More counselors/social workers and nurses

Twenty percent of the most recent funding must go toward mitigating learning loss, or \$2.4 million. The remaining funding — from rounds two and three of funding — can be used to respond to COVID-19, prevent COVID-19 and reduce the spread of the virus.

Under the extended learning area, money will fund summer learning programming, technology devices for student and staff, connectivity supports, software subscriptions, additional ESL services and more.

The district will also fund a virtual academy K-12 standalone program, paying for district-wide virtual academy positions: six teachers, two instructional assistants, one counselor, one principal,

and one enhancement staffer. Currently, N.C. school districts aren't required to offer a virtual-only learning option next year; they were required to for the 2020-21 school year. Teachers and staff teaching in-person and students adopting to learning virtually was a big source of burnout this year, the district has previously said. The standalone virtual option will require a semester-long commitment, Hartness said.

The district will use funds to add additional staff positions, including:

- One certified instructional position for each elementary, middle and K-8 school
- A high school dropout prevention position for each high school
- District translator
- Digital learning instruction program facilitator
- K-12 literacy program facilitator
- Equity executive director
- Contracted mental health services for in-school therapy

• Two counselors, three social workers, two nurses, three ESL teachers and 23 instruction assistants to support K-3 learning loss and class sizes

"You've heard Dr. (Randy) Bridges in the past talk a little bit about how focusing on K-3 would be critical for learning loss," Hartness told the board. "So one of the thoughts that we had is providing additional instructional assistants to help class sizes be smaller during instructional blocks."

The district organized its plan to fully fund every proposed position for the three years of the spending window, Hartness said, whereas one-time purchases are in the funding with a two-year window.

"So our positions would be funded fully for at least three years," she said.

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

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PROVIDENCE GROVE 6, JORDAN-MATTHEWS 5

Jets' turbulent season ends with two-game skid to Patriots

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — If there were a roller coaster based on the Jets' 2020-21 season, it'd be one bumpy ride.

It went like this: a 3-1 start with 50 runs scored, followed by a four-game losing streak (outscored 40-8), then another 3-1 stretch before capping it off with a two-game skid.

The final game of the season was played last Wednesday, June 9, against Providence Grove, where the Jets lost, 6-5, in yet another one-run defeat to the Patriots.

And despite the up-and-down year, in the end, the Jets still had a shot at the playoffs.

Sitting at third in the PAC 7

2A Conference, Jordan-Matthews had a path to the postseason with second-place Providence Grove standing in its way for the final two games of the regular season.

Under the pandemic-amended postseason rules this year, each of the top two teams in the PAC 7 is given an automatic playoff bid.

With the Jets at 6-4 in the conference (6-6 overall) and the Patriots at 7-3 (8-4 overall), J-M needed to sweep Providence Grove to propel itself into second place — behind the unstoppable Randleman Tigers (12-0 in PAC 7) — and the playoffs.

In the first game of the series last Tuesday, the Jets had a shot to win after scoring two runs in the top of the seventh

to tie the game at 3-3, sending it into extra innings.

But after a couple of scoreless frames for J-M, Providence Grove freshman Logan Fox stepped up to the plate in the bottom of the ninth and connected on a single for the Patriots' biggest hit of the season, scoring sophomore Karson Bowman from third to walk it off and clinch the PAC 7's no. 2 playoff spot.

It was a heart-wrenching moment for a Jets team which overcame mid-season struggles to position themselves for a playoff run.

"He gave me slider, I threw a slider and he hit a little blooper up the middle and scored a

See **JETS**, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews freshman Ian McMillan (11) and senior Huston Causey (2) walk into the dugout during their team's 6-5 loss to Providence Grove in their season finale last Tuesday.

BASEBALL, TENNIS, TRACK & FIELD

PREVIEW: Chatham schools gear up for final postseason push of 2020-21 season

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For the five high schools across Chatham County, postseason play for a variety of sports is taking off this week with playoffs in baseball and regionals in track & field, women's tennis and wrestling.

To gear up for all of the action, the News + Record is providing you with a guide to the postseason, breaking down each team's regional info, key athletes and upcoming contests from the field to the court.

Baseball Playoffs

Chatham Charter

Region: 1A West

Seed: 14

Record: 10-2 overall (6-2 in Central Tar Heel 1A, runner-up)

First-round opponent: at (3) Uwharrie Charter Academy (10-1 overall, 7-0 in Yadkin Valley 1A, conference champion) on Tuesday, June 15, at 6 p.m.

Potential second-round opponent: (6) Starmount (12-2) or (11) Murphy (12-2) on Thursday, June 17

Chatham Charter is on a roll this season.

The Knights have lost just two games all year — both to Central Tar Heel conference champion Cornerstone Charter Academy — and scored 110 runs compared to the 38 they've allowed in 12 games. Their offense is impressive, as illustrated by their four wins by double-digit runs, but what holds them together is their defense. Most notably, their pitching.

Senior Trevor Golden has undeniably been one of the conference's best hitters and pitchers this season. He's



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter senior pitcher Trevor Golden prepares a pitch during his team's game against Cornerstone Charter Academy in Siler City on Monday, June 7. Golden lowered his season earned run average to 1.25 with his one-run, seven-inning outing.

been so good on both sides of the ball, in fact, that his head coach, Bill Slaughter, deemed him "the best player in the league" earlier this spring. Golden leads the Knights in all major batting statistics out of players who have played more than six games (batting average, .561; hits, 23; extra-base hits, 13; RBI, 20) and is also the team's most dominant pitcher and a strikeout machine.

In 39.1 innings pitched, he's allowed just seven earned runs (1.25 ERA) on 18 hits and has struck out 87 batters, highlighted by a 19-strikeout performance against Southern Wake on May 14.

The Knights have also been helped tremendously by speedy freshman lead-off hitter Aidan Allred, who has been the second-most productive hitter behind Golden, along with

senior catcher Jacob Brannon, one of the team's most efficient players at the plate.

Chatham Charter's offense will likely be put to the test against third-seeded Uwharrie Charter with North Carolina Wesleyan commit Hunter Hill on the mound, but if the Knights' season up to this point is any indication, they're up for the challenge.

Track & Field Regionals

Chatham Central

Region: 1A Midwest

Regional Host/Date: Davie County High School on Friday, June 18

No. of individual/team qualifiers: 10

Participants:

• Grace Jones, Senior: girls shot put (28-11.00), girls discus (70-06)

• Sophie Phillips, Senior: girls high jump (5-00.00), girls triple jump (27-07.00)

• Kailey Green, Sophomore: girls high jump (4-08.00)

• Madison Gaines, Senior: girls high jump (4-06.00), girls 100 meter hurdles (19.02)

• Malachi Moore, Junior: boys long jump (19-05.00)

• Carleigh Gentry, Junior: girls triple jump (30-05.00)

• Samantha Scott, Sophomore: girls 1,600-meter run (7:13.00)

• Girls 4x100 Meter Relay:

Kailey Green, Jayley Martin, Samantha Scott, Mary Grace Murchison (56.22)

• Girls 4x200 Meter Relay:

Kailey Green, Jayley Martin, Samantha Scott, Mary Grace Murchison (1:59.24)

• Girls 4x400 Meter Relay:

Chloe Fuquay, Madison Gaines, Sadie Gaines, Caroline Alston (5:02.76)

You'd be hard-pressed to find a single team more competitive in open field events than

Chatham Central — at least in Chatham County. Bears' head coach Sherman Howze said it best when speaking with the News + Record on Tuesday: "We usually clean up in field events."

At the 1A Midwest regionals this weekend, the Bears are set to be well-represented in the field, with six athletes partaking in six different field events, headlined by senior Sophie Phillips, who is the top seed in the region — and ranked top 10 in the state amongst all classifications — in the girls high jump (5-00). Chatham Central also has Carleigh Gentry in the girls triple jump, who, along with Phillips, is a heavy contender for the Bears to make it to states next weekend.

Chatham Central's biggest hole has been in running events this season, specifically distance runs, but Samantha Scott still managed to qualify for the girls 1,600-meter run this weekend. The Bears also have three girls relay teams running in the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400, and, according to Howze, the 4x100 is the relay event most likely to result in a qualification for states. But even if things don't go as planned on the track this weekend, the Bears' performances in the women's field events are sure to make up for it.

Chatham Charter

Region: 1A Mideast

Regional Host/Date: Franklin High School on Saturday, June 19

No. of individual/team participants: 5

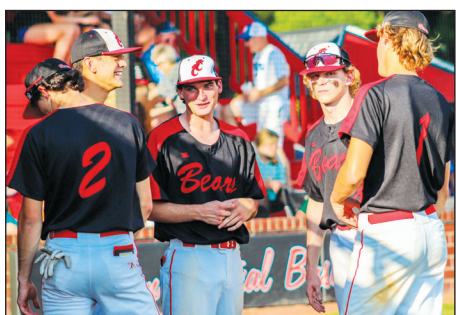
Participants:

• Brandon McKoy, Junior: boys 1,600-meter run (4:51.00), boys 3,200-meter run (10:32.40)

See **PREVIEW**, page B2

NORTH MOORE 10, CHATHAM CENTRAL 0

Bears no-hit by Mustangs in emotional end to season



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central's five seniors (from left to right: Tyler Oldham (2), Parker Crowley, Brady Cunnup, Nic Hicks, Michael Moore (1)) have a conversation ahead of their season finale against the North Moore Mustangs on Friday, which they lost, 10-0. During the pregame senior night celebrations, all five seniors were honored alongside their families at home plate.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — Once the final out was recorded, friends and families of the Chatham Central baseball team made their way onto the field where they snapped photos, socialized with players and celebrated the ending to a special — and emotional — day in Bear Creek.

It was the Bears' final game of the regular season last Friday and, with them sitting in fourth place at 4-3 in the Yadkin Valley 1A Conference after the 10-0 loss to the North Moore Mustangs, it was a safe bet that the playoffs were out of reach.

For the Bears' five seniors, it'd likely be the last time they stepped foot on a baseball field for an organized game at Chatham Central. They had to soak in the moment.

"We've got five seniors and we put them all on the field tonight," Brett Walden, the Bears' head baseball coach, said. "With what they've lost in the past couple of years, I really wanted to get them on the field ... and none of them are playing college baseball — Michael (Moore)'s playing college football — so this was their last baseball game, most likely."

With a playoff spot out of reach, Friday was less about baseball and more about honoring the academic and athletic careers of Chatham Central's seniors.

The first pitch of the Bears' game against the Mustangs came less than eight hours after the seniors — Parker Crowley, Brady Cunnup, Nic Hicks, Michael Moore and Tyler Oldham — shifted their tassels and officially became Chatham Central alumni at their graduation ceremony in the gymnasium.

And if graduation wasn't enough, all five baseball seniors were recognized ahead of their matchup with the Mustangs as part of the team's senior night, featuring a pregame ceremony at home plate with their family members by their side.

"(It's) crazy, (high school) flew by," Moore said after the game. "Everybody says that, but you don't ever really listen."

If it feels like the last two baseball seasons flew by, it's because they did.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of all remaining high school sports last spring, the Bears had played just four games as part of their 2019-20 campaign, earning a 1-3 record. This year, in an abbreviated season, they played 13 games compared to a normal 22-game regular season.

See **BEARS**, page B4

PREVIEW

Continued from page B1

- **Tamaya Walden, Sophomore:** girls 100-meter dash (13.24), girls 200-meter dash (24.94), girls 400-meter dash (1:02.93)
- **MacKenzie Brooks, Junior:** girls shot put (23-3)
- **Brooke Garner, Junior:** girls 100-meter hurdles (21.10), girls 300-meter hurdles (57.12), girls high jump (5-0), girls triple jump (33-1.5)
- **Meredith Reese, Freshman:** girls long jump (10-11)

For a small team that has only been around for three seasons and has a makeshift coaching staff made up of almost entirely volunteer parents, Chatham Charter is packing a punch at this year's track & field regionals.

The Knights have five individuals participating in 11 total events, including two of its most dominant runners — Tamaya Walden and Brandon McKoy — that have actively left their competition in the dust for most of the season.

Brooke Garner qualified for four events alone and has claimed the top seed in two field events: high jump and triple jump. Since the equipment needed to set up a high jump pit is fairly costly — and with the program being so new — Chatham Charter hasn't been able to set up a pit at its facility, meaning that Garner has had to resort to only practicing before track meets at other schools. And despite the limited amount of practice, she's unequivocally the best high jumper in the region and has a good shot of making it to the state championship meet on Friday, June 25, as do many of the Knights' other qualifiers.

Woods Charter

- **Region:** 1A Mideast
- **Regional Host/Date:** Franklinton High School on Saturday, June 19
- **No. of individual/team participants:** 8
- **Participants:**
 - **Kyle Howarth, Senior:** boys 100-meter dash (11.65), boys 200-meter dash (23.60), boys long jump (19-11.5)
 - **Frank Wagener, Senior:** boys 3,200-meter run (11:28.80)
 - **Tobin Berrier, Senior:** boys 400-meter dash (1:03.27), boys triple jump (31-3.5)
 - **Jay Charbonneau, Senior:** boys 400-meter dash (52.77), boys long jump (20-0)
 - **Peter Ising, Junior:** boys discus (92-8)
 - **Ellie Poitras, Freshman:** girls 1,600-meter run (5:45.05), girls 3,200-meter run (12:42.63), girls 800-meter run (2:41.16), girls long jump (11-11)
 - **Ember Penney, Senior:** girls 3,200-meter run (13:44.00), girls 300-meter hurdles (1:10.35)
 - **Sophia Miller, Junior:** girls discus (64-11)

Woods Charter's men's and women's teams are led by the opposite ends of the age spectrum.

For the men, seniors Jay Charbonneau and Kyle Howarth are the primary runners to look out for in the 1A Mideast regionals this weekend as Howarth is qualified in three different events — two running, one jump-

ing — and is poised to be one of the most athletic runners in Franklinton, while Charbonneau is looking to get back to the state championship meet after making it there in 2018-19 for the 400-meter dash.

“(Charbonneau's) one of those that has been working every single year because he does cross country, then track season starts and he's just been a leader since day one.” Rahul Dudhat, Woods Charter's co-track & field coach, said. “He's been our captain, he's just an all-around amazing athlete and his sportsmanship is unmatched.”

As for the women, the Wolves are spearheaded by freshman Ellie Poitras, who's participating in four events and has a great shot of making it to states as a freshman — a feat she already accomplished in cross country earlier this year, when she placed fourth at the NCHSAA 1A Cross Country State Championships. Her success in cross country has translated well to her longer-distance runs in track, setting her up for a possible return to states if she has a strong performance this weekend.

Jordan-Matthews

- **Region:** 2A Mideast
- **Regional Host/Date:** Franklinton High School on Saturday, June 19
- **No. of individual/team participants:** 16
- **Participants:**
 - **Xavier Woods, Senior:** boys 100-meter dash (11.37)
 - **Jacquez Thompson, Senior:** boys 200-meter dash (22.84), boys long jump (20-4.75)
 - **Shane Conroy, Senior:** boys 3,200-meter run (12:19.40)
 - **Calvin Schwartz, Junior:** boys 300-meter hurdles (44.24)
 - **Aiden Harrison, Sophomore:** boys 800-meter run (2:20.31)
 - **Eral Jones, Senior:** boys high jump (6-4)
 - **Jayden Davis, Senior:** boys long jump (19-10.75), boys triple jump (37-8.25)
 - **Geneva Woolford, Junior:** girls 100-meter hurdles (20.74)
 - **Anna Vicente, Freshman:** girls 400-meter dash (1:15.87)
 - **Logan Gunter, Freshman:** girls long jump (13-9.5)
 - **Boys 4x100 Meter Relay:** Jacquez Thompson, Eral Jones, Xavier Woods, Jayden Davis (44.48)
 - **Boys 4x200 Meter Relay:** Jacquez Thompson, Eral Jones, Xavier Woods, Jayden Davis (1:33.31)
 - **Boys 4x400 Meter Relay:** Eral Jones, Calvin Schwartz, Carlos Rojas, Jair Ruiz (3:43.81)
 - **Boys 4x800 Meter Relay:** Aiden Harrison, Carlos Rojas, Jair Ruiz, Joaquin Escquivel (9:37.69)
 - **Girls 4x100 Meter Relay:** Lia Carter, Jamiyah Williams, Anna Vicente and Samantha Ritch (56.30)
 - **Girls 4x200 Meter Relay:** Lia Carter, DeMaya Williams, Anna Vicente and Samantha Ritch (2:00.34)

As far as Chatham teams go, it's hard to argue against the idea that Jordan-Matthews has been the best track & field program this



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Jordan-Matthews senior Shane Conroy strides down the track during one of his races in his team's quad meet with Chatham Charter, Eastern Randolph and Wheatmore on Tuesday, May 25.

year, as illustrated by the Jets' 16 individual/relay team qualifiers for the 2A Mideast regionals on Saturday.

The Jets, according to head coach Lamont Piggie, not only have plenty of opportunities to have their athletes make it to the state championship meet next week, but have a legitimate shot at their men's team qualifying for states by finishing in the top four at regionals. Then, J-M would be competing for a team state title in addition to however many individual state titles.

Part of Piggie's confidence comes from the number of men's events the Jets will be participating in on Saturday — 14 in total — along with just how great his men's relay teams have been, namely the 4x100 and 4x200. The Jets have a strong group of seniors that includes Jacquez Thompson, Eral Jones, Jayden Davis and Xavier Woods, all of which have acted as some of the most impressive athletes in the PAC-7 conference this season and give J-M a great chance of being well-represented at states.

“I'm feeling great about everything,” Piggie told the News + Record on Monday. “This week, we're just brushing up on the little things, techniques and tightening up loose ends. There's no need to try and reinvent the wheel.”

Northwood

- **Region:** 3A Mideast
 - **Regional Host/Date:** Southern Lee High School on Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19
 - **No. of individual/team participants:** 7
 - **Participants:**
 - **Bentley Brooks, Junior:** girls discus (96-03)
 - **Reese Cantrell, Senior:** girls 200-meter dash (26.84)
 - **Caroline Murrell, Junior:** girls 3,200-meter run (11:06.00)
 - **Davis Neff, Senior:** boys discus (108-00)
 - **Jacob McCall, Senior:** boys pole vault (11-00.00)
 - **Elijah Miller, Senior:** boys 100-meter dash (11.34)
 - **Boys 4x400 Meter Relay:** Christian Glick, Elijah Miller, Matthew Broome and Malachi Levy (3:39.90)
- In a non-pandemic-altered season, track & field regionals would typically take place in May, but this year, with the NCHSAA fitting nearly all high school sports into the second semester of the school year, regionals and states are being held

in mid-to-late June, with many students having graduated and others officially on summer break. Northwood has felt the effects of the change.

“It's really affected it in a negative manner because those athletes could move on to the state meet, but they'll be going on to their colleges or working or going on senior trips,” Cameron Isehour, Northwood's track & field coach, told the News + Record. “And I have a lot of good seniors that could have been used at regionals, but instead they'll have to do other things.”

Regardless of who isn't able to make it to regionals for Northwood this weekend, the Chargers still have a strong lineup making the trip to Sanford.

Northwood is led by top-seeded distance runner Caroline Murrell, who is the no. 1 seed in the girls 3,200-meter run and is primed for a trip to states based on the way she's run this season. The Chargers also have two field athletes, Bentley Brooks and Jacob McCall, who are seeded in the top three in the girls discus and boys pole vault, respectively, all of which will lead the charge for a Northwood team bound to make noise this weekend.

Women's Tennis

Chatham Central

- **Region:** 1A West
- **Regional Host/Date:** Elkin Municipal Park, Elkin, Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19
- **No. of qualifying individuals/duos:** 2
- **Participants:**
 - **Sophie Phillips & Mary Grace Murchison, Senior Duo**
 - **Ellie Phillips & Livvy Brooks, Sophomore Duo**

Chatham Central's had a few great doubles duos in both men's and women's tennis in recent years and this season is no different. The Bears enter regionals with two strong duos that are bound to be tough outs in the 1A West.

The senior duo of Sophie Phillips and Mary Grace Murchison — the Yadkin Valley Conference runner-up — has been playing together for three seasons, building chemistry and learning how to complement each other to the best of their ability. They never argue and they rarely have miscommunications, meaning whoever faces them at regionals will likely have to play at a much higher level to knock them out.

Then there's the up-and-coming sophomore tandem of Ellie Phillips (Sophie's sister) and Livvy Brooks, who finished third in the Yadkin Valley Conference tournament this season and have slowly gotten into a groove with one another, culminating in an undefeated regular-season record (5-0) from the no. 2 doubles spot (1-2 from the no. 1 spot). While Phillips/Brooks has a chance to turn some heads at regionals this weekend, with them being sophomores, it's only the appetizer for what is shaping up to be a powerful duo

throughout their high school careers.

Chatham Charter

- **Region:** 1A East
- **Regional Host/Date:** Riverbend Tennis Center, Greenville, Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 19
- **No. of qualifying individuals/duos:** 2
- **Participants:**
 - **Emery Eldridge, Junior**
 - **Elphie Spillman, Freshman**

While Chatham Charter's top two players work well together in doubles — their 3-6 record is not indicative of how good they actually are — they thrive even more in singles play, where they're able to show off a little bit of their versatility as athletes.

Emery Eldridge is entering her third regionals as a singles player with hopes that she can build off of her previous performances and string together a nice couple of matches on Friday to qualify for states for the first time in her career. Her biggest strength is her aggressiveness at the net and, while she has some inconsistencies, when she's on her game, head coach Kelly Eldridge said she's “a killer.”

Elphie Spillman is a freshman that's posted a 4-6 record at the no. 1 spot this season and was the runner-up in the Central Tar Heel Conference tournament, an impressive feat for someone who's played just 10 regular-season singles matches as a varsity athlete. While her ability to get to the ball from seemingly any part of the court and her consistency will help her tremendously at regionals, Kelly Eldridge mentioned that she's just excited for Spillman to get to see high-level competition this early in her career.

Jordan-Matthews

- **Region:** 2A Mideast
- **Regional Host/Date:** East Chapel Hill/Cedar Falls Park, Chapel Hill, Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19
- **No. of qualifying individuals/duos:** 1
- **Participants:**
 - **Maggie Thornton, Sophomore**

The Jets' lone regional qualifier comes in the form of sophomore Maggie Thornton, a young multi-sport athlete who is in the middle of her first-ever season of competitive tennis. And she's shattering expectations.

“She was actually playing soccer, so she's late coming out,” Nia Marsh-Pope, J-M's head tennis coach, said. “But she's been playing tennis for several years with her parents and friends. She's just a natural on the court. ... I love to watch her play.”

Thornton's speed and agility in soccer have clearly translated well from the pitch to the court, with her endurance — and desire to never quit — allowing her to participate in long rallies and attempt major comebacks. In a match against Providence Grove on May

10, Thornton was down either 7-4 or 6-4 in the set, according to Marsh-Pope, and she ended up going on a run and winning the match, 11-9.

Marsh-Pope said she's confident Thornton will make it out of the first round this weekend and if she were to somehow to make it past the second, third or fourth rounds, she would be “tremendously proud” of what she's accomplished as a sophomore. The future is bright in Siler City.

Northwood

- **Region:** 3A Mideast
- **Regional Host/Date:** Burlington Tennis Center, Burlington, Friday, June 18, and Saturday, June 19
- **No. of qualifying individuals/duos:** 3
- **Participants:**
 - **Evelyn Lippers, Junior**
 - **Julia Earnshaw, Junior**
 - **Courtney Fisher & Suzanne Earnshaw, Senior Duo**

Northwood is the school with the most tennis regional qualifiers in Chatham, boasting two competitive singles players in Evelyn Lippers and Julia Earnshaw, along with the hard-to-beat doubles duo of seniors Courtney Fisher and Suzanne Earnshaw.

Lippers, the team's no. 1 singles player, enters regionals with a 3-3 record on the season, two losses of which came against undefeated East Chapel Hill freshman Clara Mast. According to Northwood's head coach, Abbie McGee, Lippers is “a fighter” and has a great shot of making it to states if she plays to her potential.

Julia Earnshaw, who's earned a 5-2 record at the no. 4 singles spot this season, is also projected to do some damage at regionals, receiving high praise from her coach.

“If Julia plays like I've seen her play, with the confidence of a lion about to take down her prey,” McGee wrote in a text message to the News + Record, “then she'll make some noise at regionals.”

Fisher & Suzanne Earnshaw struggled this season in their three matches at the no. 1 doubles slot, going 0-3, but were unbeaten (2-0) in the no. 2 spot. According to McGee, if they're on their “A” game, like they were in the couple of matches they won — and in the Big Eight Conference tournament — they have a shot to make a deep run at regionals this weekend.

Editor's note: With wrestling regionals taking place on Tuesday morning, they aren't included in the Chatham postseason preview. Also, at the time of this edition's publication deadline, results for Chatham Charter's first-round baseball game and all wrestling regionals were not yet official. For a recap of those post-season events, head on over to our website at www.chathamnewsrecord.com/sports.

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This is the first week in a long time without any regular-season high school sports, though athletics aren't quite over for the summer despite all five high schools being out for the year. There is plenty of postseason magic scheduled this week in baseball, women's tennis, track & field and wrestling.

Chatham Charter was the only Chatham school to earn a playoff spot in baseball, while nearly every other school has participants in regionals this week for the other three sports. Despite there not being a ton of action this week, the fact that it's postseason play makes up for it. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, June 16

No sporting events scheduled.

Thursday, June 17

Baseball: NCHSAA 1A playoffs, second round (if Chatham Charter wins on Tuesday, they'll play either (6) Starmount or (11) Murphy here)

Friday, June 18

Tennis: Chatham Central women (Sophie Phillips/Mary Grace Murchison, Ellie Phillips/Livvy Brooks) at 1A West Regionals at Elkin Municipal Park in Elkin, 1 p.m.

Tennis: Chatham Charter women (Emery Eldridge, Elphie Spillman) at 1A East Regionals at Riverburch Tennis Center in Greenville, 1 p.m.

Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women (Maggie Thornton) at 2A Mideast Regionals at East Chapel Hill/Cedar Falls Park in Chapel Hill, 1 p.m.

Tennis: Northwood women (Evelyn Lippers, Julia Earnshaw, Courtney Fisher/Suzanne Earnshaw) at 3A Mideast Regionals at Burlington Tennis Center in Burlington, 1 p.m.

Track & Field: Chatham Central at 1A Midwest Regionals at Davie County

High School in Mocksville, 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 19

Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews at 2A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School in Franklinton, 10 a.m.

Track & Field: Northwood at 3A Mideast Regionals at Southern Lee High School in Sanford, 10:30 a.m.

Track & Field: Chatham Charter and Woods Charter at 1A Mideast Regionals at Franklinton High School in Franklinton, 2:30 p.m.

Tennis: Day 2 of 1A West (Chatham Central), 1A East (Chatham Charter), 2A Mideast (Jordan-Matthews) and 3A Mideast (Northwood) regionals, if applicable, 1 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, June 7

Track & Field: Chatham Central competed in the Yadkin Valley Conference Championship Meet, where sophomore Kailey Green (first place, girls high jump, 4-8) was the only Bear to win their respective event. They also took home wins in both the girls 4x100 meter relay (56.22) and girls 4x400 meter relay (5:02.76).

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women lost to the Research Triangle Raptors, 8-1, in the Central Tar Heel Dual Team Conference Tournament. The only Knight to win her singles match was sophomore Rebecca Brookshire (8-6).

Track & Field: Chatham Charter and Woods Charter competed in the Central Tar Heel Conference Championship Meet, where the Knights placed third in the women's events (55 points) and fourth in the men's events (14 points), while the Wolves finished fifth in the women's events (24 points) and third in the men's events (91 points).

Baseball: The Chatham Central men defeated the Carrboro Jaguars at home, 12-4. Leading the Bears on the night were senior Michael Moore (1-for-2, 3 RBI), junior Collin Lagenor (3-for-3) and junior Chase Baker (1-for-2, RBI;

3.0 IP, 1 H, 0 ER, 2 BB, 3 K).

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men lost a close conference game to the Cornerstone Charter Academy Cardinals, 2-1, in a 10-inning game. The contest was tied, 1-1, entering extra innings on Monday, but rain forced it to be suspended and resumed on Tuesday, where the Cardinals took and maintained a one-run advantage to earn the crucial conference-clinching victory. Leading the Knights on the night were senior Jacob Brannon (2-for-3, 2B, BB) and senior Trevor Golden (7.0 IP, 3 H, ER, 12 K).

Tuesday, June 8

Tennis: The Chatham Central women fared well at the Yadkin Valley Conference tournament, with the duos of seniors Sophie Phillips/Mary Grace Murchison (runner-up) and sophomores Ellie Phillips/Livvy Brooks (third place) qualifying for 1A West Regionals.

Baseball: The Northwood men lost a road game to the East Chapel Hill Wildcats, 7-4. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Luke Smith (1-for-4, 2B) and sophomore Salvador Delgado (2.0 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, K).

Track & Field: Northwood competed in the Big Eight Conference Championship Meet against Cedar Ridge, Chapel Hill, East Chapel Hill, Northern Durham and Orange, where the Chargers placed sixth in the men's events (4.5 points) and fourth in the women's events (52 points). Winning their respective events for the Chargers were: junior Caroline Murrell (first place, girls 1600-meter run, 5:10.60) and junior Bentley Brooks (first place, girls shot put, 27-00.00).

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men were eliminated from postseason contention with an extra-inning loss, 4-3, to the Providence Grove Patriots. After tying it up in the seventh inning to send it to extras, the Jets allowed a walk-off single in the bottom of the ninth, sealing their postseason fate. Leading the Jets on the night were freshman Ian

McMillan (2-for-4, 2B, 2 RBI) and senior Huston Causey (2-for-5, RBI; 8.2 IP, 9 H, 2 ER, 2 K).

Wednesday, June 9

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men won their final regular-season game against the River Mill Academy Jaguars, 5-2, to enter the postseason with a 10-2 overall record. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Aidan Allred (2-for-3, HR, 3 RBI; 4.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, BB, 6 K) and senior Jacob Brannon (1-for-4; 3.0 IP, H, 0 ER, BB, 3 K).

Baseball: The Chatham Central men lost a close game to the Asheboro Blue Comets, 6-5. Leading the Bears on the night were sophomore Hasten T. Paige (2-for-4, 2 RBI) and freshman Anthony Lopossay (4.2 IP, 7 H, 5 ER, 3 BB, 3 K).

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men closed out their season with a 6-5 loss to the Providence Grove Patriots, finishing the season with a 6-8 overall record (6-6 in the PAC-7). Leading the Jets on the night were senior Huston Causey (2-for-3, R, BB) and freshman Kelton Fuquay (2.2 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 2 BB). See game report in this week's edition.

Baseball: The Northwood men lost to the Northern Durham Knights, 7-2, to end their season with a 6-8 overall record (4-5 in Big Eight). Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Seth Davis (2-for-3, 2B) and sophomore Salvador Delgado (1-for-1, RBI).

Thursday, June 10

No sporting events held; inclement weather.

Friday, June 11

Baseball: The Chatham Central men lost in a no-hit shutout to the North Moore Mustangs, 10-0, to close out their season with a 7-6 overall record (4-3 in Yadkin Valley). See game report in this week's edition.

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

8th CCCC Foundation Chatham Golf Classic a winner

From Central Carolina Community College
PITTSBORO — Opportunity was the big winner as golfers wrapped up the 8th Central Carolina Community College Foundation Chatham Golf Classic on May 5th at the Chapel Ridge Golf Club. The Classic combines fun with the serious goal of raising funds to assist CCCC students who need financial help to stay in college. The proceeds will be used to fund scholarships and to support other needs of the college. The Chatham County Golf Classic was a four-person Captain's Choice with three flights. The winners, team scores and sponsors were:
See **GOLF**, page B4

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BEARS

Continued from page B1

In total, the Bears have lost 27 games to the pandemic over the last two years, a good chunk of the seniors' varsity careers.

In his final outing as a Bear, Moore, the team's no. 1 starting pitcher, had a rough night on the mound.

North Moore — which has scored double-digit runs in all but five games this season — figured out Moore from the opening pitch when Mustangs sophomore Ty Allred mashed the ball to deep center field for a first-pitch double.

The Bears were able to grab two quick outs on a fly ball and an RBI grounder that made it 1-0, but the Mustangs weren't finished.

North Moore rattled off four hits in five plate appearances — and reached on an error — that broke the game wide open. When Moore finally managed to strike out the final batter of the inning, Chatham Central was in a 5-0 hole.

"We had two outs in the first inning with one run and they hit a ground ball and we didn't get them out at first and then it just exploded," Moore said. "I wish we could have gotten

out of that one. Maybe it would have been different."

The following inning saw the Mustangs continue to frustrate Moore, hitting three consecutive singles to open up the inning — including a two-RBI single by junior Gabriel Swarms, who had four RBI on the night — and scoring four more runs by the time it was over.

After the game, Walden mentioned that Moore had a sore shoulder, but he decided to play through it. By the time he was pulled from the game before the third inning, the Mustangs had a 9-0 lead, one away from the 10-run mercy rule.

"Michael was throwing strikes, they were just hitting the ball," Walden said. "They've got some big kids that are strong and they're extremely well-coached."

On the offensive side of things, the Bears seemed out of sync throughout the night.

North Moore junior starting pitcher Robert Garner threw four no-hit innings, while Swarms pitched a 1-2-3 inning in the fifth to finish off the Bears, 10-0, after the Mustangs scored their 10th run on a Swarms RBI single in the third.

Garner had their number as the Bears reached base only three times, all via walk,

and eight of their batters had just two plate appearances. It wasn't their best showing all around, save for a diving catch by Crowley in center field in the third inning.

"I thought we'd muster some offense, but we didn't," Walden said. "Garner's really good and he's got another year of high school. I don't know how we'll deal with him next year."

With five seniors leaving, Walden will have major shoes to fill as he shifts his focus to "rebuild mode" over the next couple of seasons, but said that once the rebuild is complete, the Bears are going to be "a really good team."

It doesn't hurt that Chatham Central is moving into the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference next season, where it'll stand with North Moore as the only other 1A team in the conference. Per NCHSAA rules, the top 1A team in the conference will earn an automatic playoff bid, meaning the Bears only have to finish ahead of the Mustangs to grab a playoff spot.

As Walden spoke with his team after its final game of the season, he understandably became emotional. Tears filled his eyes, partially because he'll miss his seniors — a group he's been attached to for four years



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central junior Luke Oldham tosses a ball to first base to collect an out in the Bears' season finale against the North Moore Mustangs on Friday, which they lost, 10-0.

— but also because he wonders if he's done everything he could to help them win.

"It's one of those things where you always question yourself, 'Did I do enough in practice to get us over the hump in this game? Did I do enough to keep us playing at the end?'" Walden said, fighting back tears. "Every year, whether (we lose) in the playoffs or not, I kind of beat myself up for a couple of weeks."

Walden, who played for the Bears when he was in high school and spent most of his life in Bear Creek, referred to Chatham Central's success in making it to the state championship six times, winning three titles, but partially faults him-

self for having not gotten back to the title game since taking the job in 2018.

While the Bears haven't made it to a state championship in his three years as head coach, they've been conference champions twice — an impressive feat — and would have likely made the postseason again this year had there not been a condensed playoff field.

"Having played here and knowing how the program's been, I feel like the bar is set because we've won titles," Walden said. "I'll beat myself up for a while, but then we'll get back to work."

When asked what Moore — a three-sport All-Conference athlete throughout his time at Chatham Central — will miss most about playing for the Bears on both the field and the court, he gave what appeared to be a bittersweet smile alongside his reply.

"You think you're a superstar when you come out here and play," Moore said. "It's just awesome to prepare to come out and play night in and night out. It's awesome to play in front of our fans."

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

JETS

Continued from page B1

run," senior Huston Causey, the Jets' lead-off hitter and pitcher in Tuesday's ninth inning, said. "It was rough."

With both of the PAC 7's automatic bids filled and only two wild card spots up for grabs in the 2A East region, Fox's walk-off single eliminated the Jets from postseason contention, setting up a game the following day with very little — if anything — on the line.

"It's been a frustrating week ... and it's hard to get your guys up after (last night's game) to play a full game that doesn't mean anything," John Headen, J-M's head baseball coach, said after Wednesday's game. "This is a hard week of a pill to swallow ... but man, that's baseball, that's what you want the season to be about. You want your last game to be playing for the playoffs and we were there."

Despite the heartbreaker the night before, the Jets didn't let the weight of losing a shot at the postseason cloud their ability to play hard in their season finale.

It didn't take long for J-M to get on the board.

All four of the Jets' opening batters in the bottom of the first inning reached base — a single by Causey, a walk by freshman Ian McMillan, an error that allowed senior Carson Rickman to get on and another single by junior Carson Whitehead.

During Rickman's at-bat, a passed ball allowed Causey to score — after having already stolen third base earlier in the at-bat — to make it 1-0.

Then, Rickman — the Jets' 2020-21 Offensive

Player of the Year — got to first after Patriots senior third baseman Nathan Humble whizzed a ground ball over the head of sophomore first baseman Lemuel Coltrane, allowing McMillan to score and giving J-M an early 2-0 advantage.

A sacrifice fly later in the inning by sophomore Conner Martin put the Jets up 3-0.

The lead wouldn't last long, though.

J-M had its worst defensive inning in the top of the second, primarily thanks to three errors, two of which led to a couple of Patriots runs.

Much like the Jets in the previous inning, the first six Patriots reached base on positive plays in the second, including four singles, two errors and a walk. The final error of the inning came on what should have been a routine fly ball to center field, but Causey misjudged it and dropped the ball, scoring another Providence Grove run with two runners on base.

J-M senior Cody Spohn made a beautiful diving catch in left field during the following at-bat, saving an even larger explosion, but the damage was already done: the Patriots had scored five runs in the second, making it 5-3 and vaporizing the Jets' three-run lead.

"For all of the boots we've made, we've also made ESPN-type (defensive) plays too," Headen said. "Last night we almost turned a triple play ... but their emotions, their energy was up. These young kids have got to learn how to have that energy when they walk on the field, not after (a big) play."

By the time the fifth inning rolled around, the Jets trailed 6-4 and had

cleaned up most of their defensive sloppiness.

After Whitehead walked to lead-off the inning, J-M sophomore Jackson Headen reached base on what would have been a fielder's choice, but the ball — intended to tag out Whitehead — sailed past second base, allowing Whitehead to get all the way home.

Headen, however, tried to get from first to third after the defensive miscue, but was tagged out fairly easily, wiping out a potential runner in scoring position for the Jets, who were now within one run, 6-5, with just one out.

Aside from a walk later in the inning and an error in the sixth, the Jets wouldn't reach base for the rest of the night. They were held hitless after the fourth inning and for the second straight game, they fell to the Patriots by a single run.

J-M finishes the season with a 6-8 overall record (6-6 in the PAC 7), with most of its losses to formidable opponents, including four defeats to Randleman and Providence Grove alone.

Though they'll lose a couple of important seniors — Causey, Rickman and Spohn, to name a few — the Jets have a nice, young nucleus to build around in the future.

One of those young pieces is freshman pitcher Kelton Fuquay, who started the game for the Jets and had a fairly successful outing, allowing four hits and two earned runs in 2.2 innings pitched. If he can become more consistent, Headen said, he's likely to play a major role in the Jets' success down the line.

"He's done great, he goes to Trinity and can't get out of the first inning, then he comes out here

and we can't get him out of the innings because our defense ran his pitch count up," Headen said. "It's nice to see him come out and pound the zone, get some outs and have a quick (first) inning, but I wish we could have kept that going for him and him have a really long, nice outing."

Others include McMillan, Martin, Whitehead and Headen, each of which will benefit from a longer, more in-depth offseason after playing in their first varsity season this year.

Through camps, workouts and summer competition, Headen plans to have his team ready for next spring with their sights set toward the

postseason.

"Our pitching will continue to develop and we're going to have to fill a hole or two on the infield and outfield, but they're going to mature," Headen said. "And our

bats are going to mature drastically ... these guys are going to grow a lot."

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

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Chatham COA Events & Announcements

June 17th through June 23rd

Thursday, June 17th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM *(on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)*
- [June Birthday Celebration](#) at 11:15 AM 📶
- [Tai Chi for Arthritis](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

Friday, June 18th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM *(on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)*
- [Weekly Call with Dennis Streets & Guests](#) at 10:15 AM 📞

Monday, June 21st

- [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 22nd -

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM *(on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)*
- [Spill the Beans with Liz](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

Wednesday, June 23rd

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

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

GOLF

Continued from page B3

First Flight
First Place: 54 — Brad McDougald, John Hodges, Kevin McDougald, Stephen Hamby — Sponsored by Carolina Commercial Contractors

Second Place: 57 — Trey Williams, Adam Dull, Daniel Martin, Chance Cigcona — Sponsored by Chatham Park Investors

Third Place: 57 — Jeff Thomas, Alan Dirk, Mickey Price, Tom Baldasare — Sponsored by 501 Pharmacy

Second Flight
First Place: 64 — Tim Dalton, Dan McCall, James Montague, Josh Burns — Sponsored by BB&T-Pittsboro

Second Place: 65 — Rich Trogdon, David Foushee, Jenna Davis, Mike Koonce — Sponsored by First Bank

Third Place: 65 — Steve Agner, Kevin Gaskins, Joe Gavalier, Larry Touchstone — Sponsored by Dr. James Holt

Third Flight
First Place: 67 — Brandon Chapman,

Rick Spivey, Jeff Spivey, Frank Layton — Sponsored by Dr. Lisa Chapman
Second Place: 68 — Sandra Thompson, Jon Spoon, Erin Blakeley, Steve Heesacker — Sponsored by Dr. Lisa Chapman

Third Place: 68 — John Denton, Jim Moore, Dennis Canter, Wesley Thompson — Sponsored by Barber Holmes
 Hole-in-one sponsor was Welford Harris. Lunch was provided by Allen & Son BBQ.

The CCCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization affiliated with, but independent of, the college. It receives donations of money and equipment on behalf of CCCC and uses them to promote the educational mission of the college and assist students through scholarships and grants.

For information about the Foundation, donating to it, establishing a scholarship or other fund-raising events, contact Dr. Emily Hare, Executive Director of the CCCC Foundation, 919-718-7230, or ehare@cccc.edu. Information is also available at the CCCC Foundation website, www.cccc.edu/foundation.

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.

Congratulations to April's winner, Jean B., and May's winner, Frances G.

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PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS

Board discusses UDO amendments, new planning director and new businesses

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Just a few weeks after the board of commissioners adopted Pittsboro’s Unified Development Ordinance, town staff are drafting amendments and additions to address the officials’ “parking lot list” of potential improvements.

Last month, the board voted to approve the UDO — which consolidates, rewrites and replaces multiple ordinances into a single document to manage land development — after more than six years in the making. Despite a unanimous decision to adopt, the commissioners acknowledged the UDO would need refinement.

“There will always be a lot of work to do on our development ordinances,” Commissioner Kyle Shipp said at the time. “But I think this is a big step forward.”

Commissioner Michael Fiocco offered more pointed criticism.

“While I think it’s an improvement to our current zoning ordinance, I do find it lacking,” he said. “As far as our aspirations when we started on this project, I’d hoped for a far more progressive product.”

On Monday, Theresa Thompson (who

was announced as Pittsboro’s new planning director in the same meeting; see below) outlined town staff’s projected implementation plan for UDO adjustments in coming months.

“Most importantly in our opinion,” she said, “we think that we need to address any sort of housekeeping items with the UDO. Some of the processes have changed through the UDO and we want to be able to take the existing processes and checklists and applications and update them as needed.”

Creation of an administrative manual would guide residents and staff to facilitate better public understanding and easier enforcement of ordinances, Thompson said. The manual would include updated and new town specifications with respect to its engineering, planning and public works departments; approval steps to get site plans, certificates of occupancy, final plats and more; and the most current available applications.

If all goes according to plan, the town’s planning department will have a proposed administrative manual for board discussion and decision in September. By December, they hope to complete text amendments for watershed standards, review green devel-

opment incentives, examine planning board recommendations on special use permits, create a planning board rules of procedures and compare the table of uses to recent text amendments.

“There’s just a lot of overlap and some contradictory language,” Thompson said of some UDO entries. As they’re able, town staff will present opportunities for simplification and point out where the UDO deviates from current state standards.

Other news

• Theresa Thompson, who has served as Pittsboro’s interim planning director since Jeff Jones left about six months ago, has been promoted to planning director, Town Manager Chris Kennedy announced Monday.

“We’re excited to remove her interim tag,” he said. “She’s worked really hard for us over the last few months and so we’re excited to have her in that capacity.”

Thompson has been a regular fixture in Pittsboro’s board of commissioner meetings where she presents the planning department’s recommendations for land and infrastructure development requests. She has also been Pittsboro’s point person in recent months as

the town completed its Unified Development Ordinance.

“Thank you to Chris and everybody that’s been helpful to me and the department over the past several months,” Thompson said. “With everything being so hectic, this period of transition, and just the amount of growth and projects that we’ve been receiving, it’s been stressful but also super exciting to be here. I’ve wanted to work for Pittsboro for a long, long time and I just feel so blessed that everything has worked out the way it has, and I’ve felt so welcomed by the Pittsboro community.”

• The board approved a sewer allocation request for 300 extra gallons of water to The Plant on Lorax Lane, commonly known as Pittsboro’s Beverage District. The new infrastructure will permit the addition of three new businesses at the complex: Dangerously Good Tonic, Metal Brixx Café and Lily Den Restaurant.

The Town’s available sewer allocation is nearing capacity. Prior to The Plant’s request, Pittsboro had 8,250 GPD left.

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

De-frauding a fraudster (and a WhatsApp scam to watch out for)

Some weeks ago, a vacuous scammer temporarily commanded my mother’s WhatsApp account. He picked the



D. LARS DOLDER
Enterprising Chatham

wrong son’s mother to swindle; naturally, I found him for a phone interview (it wasn’t hard).

But I’ll come back to that. First, let me explain how the scam works so you can be wary of the signs.

As with so many a ruse in our hyper-technological era, this one starts with apparent correspondence from a trusted friend or family member. In my mother’s case, she got a text from her oldest sister.

“Hi! How are you?” it said.

Normal enough so far. “I need a small favor if you can.”

“Sure, what’s up?” my mom wrote back.

Next comes the peripeteia.

“I just sent a wrong message to your direct number by accident. If it’s not too much trouble,

can you return it to me here?”

In this context — this column that started with scams as its premise — it might be obvious there’s something suspicious at play. When my mom got a text from her sister in the middle of a Zoom conference, though, she wasn’t inclined to mull over the details and quickly forwarded the message in question.

But, of course, it wasn’t my aunt. And the “wrong message” contained a recovery code to activate my mother’s WhatsApp on a new device. Within seconds of sending the message, mom was locked out, and the scammer was at liberty to impersonate her much as he had my aunt.

WhatsApp is designed with sophisticated encryption protocol to protect users from attacks on their data (except by its parent company, Facebook, but I can’t get into that here). But the app also features facile functionality than can easily get you in trouble.

To access a WhatsApp account, one needs only the corresponding phone number, which is easy to come by. When users want to launch

their accounts on a new device, they type in their phone number and wait for a text supplying an activation code. The idea is that only appropriate users have access to their phones, and so typing in the code verifies their identities.

To steal the account, however, fraudsters need only to know your phone number and then ask for the code you get. These louts don’t have any impressive hacking ability, nor even must they research targets. They’re undeserving of the honorific “white collar criminals.”

They just roll the dice with hundreds of potential victims and wait for some to act hastily.

Once they’ve got your account they’ve also got your contact list and can begin the process anew texting all your friends and family and asking for verification codes. As you can imagine, the network of appropriated WhatsApp accounts grows exponentially. And eventually, when they suspect someone is especially gullible, they’ll ask for money transfers.

To save myself some time, I texted my “mom” on WhatsApp after my

real mom, despondent and exasperated, called to apprise me of the situation.

“You might get a message from me on WhatsApp, but it’s not me,” she said. “Don’t engage.”

Come on ma, don’t you know me better?

“Hey, how’s it going?” I wrote to my unsuspecting scammer.

“Good thanks. I need a small favor if you can.” I guess these people operate from a script.

“Sure, no problem, I’m happy to help!” I shot back.

I can only imagine my scammer’s glee at having found such a credulous victim.

At this point, I’ll skip ahead through about two hours of conversation. Every time the scammer had WhatsApp send me a code, I eagerly sent it along — always one digit off. He tried as many times as WhatApp allowed him, growing more frustrated with each failed attempt. “Is this guy so witless he really can’t send the right numbers?” I like to think the witless scammer wondered.

When the verification code texts didn’t work, he cut to the chase and

asked for \$1,400. I was oh so happy to oblige.

“OK, I sent it with Zelle,” I told him. “I just rounded up to \$1,500. Do something special for yourself with the extra \$100.”

When the money didn’t arrive he feigned panic.

“I’m really worried cuz I really need to resolve this problem.”

If I’d actually thought I was texting my mother, that message would have undone the ploy. My mom, the consummate logophile, would die before writing “cuz.”

After drawing out my victim’s conviction a bit longer, I got bored with him and dropped the hammer.

“Hey you retromingent vermin, I know you’re not my mom you moron. Thanks for giving me enough time to trace your IP address; the feds are on their way.”

Not my best work. Having traced his IP address was an unimaginative threat, but I’d expended my creativity over hours stringing him along. And if you’ve followed my writing carefully, you’ll know “retromingent” is my default insult — purloined from the great, and often abrasive, Ben Bradlee.

I expected a quick conclusion to the evening’s escapade. Probably some snide remarks, maybe a flurry of reciprocated insults. I got nothing, and that was more insulting than any insult could have been. Hadn’t I hurt his feelings?

“No response?” I wrote him. “No clever repartee? No shrewd retort?”

His demure response: “Nope. Nothing.”

He was actually afraid — I couldn’t believe it. I egged him on some more without response until my phone started ringing with a WhatsApp call.

“I know you couldn’t get my IP address, right?” he said. “You can’t find me, you don’t know where I am.”

I was flabbergasted — that he’d called me in fright, sure — but mostly at his very obvious southern accent. Where was this guy actually? I’d expected (based on poor English in his texts and the prevailing trend among scammers) that he was in another country. He could have been down

the street for all I know.

“Is this what you do?” I asked him. “I mean, does this really work? Is it your job?”

“I’m just doing what I have to to take care of my family, man,” he said.

“OK, well how much do you normally make in a day?”

“I mean, it depends, but maybe \$30,000 to \$40,000.”

He said something else after that, something about how he’s just given the phone numbers by his boss and he doesn’t mean anything personal against the people he texts. I was still fixated on \$40,000 in a day.

Maybe he was lying, although I’m not sure why he would except perhaps to cushion his pride. But I think the figure could check out. He thought I’d sent him \$1,500. If that’s his average ask, it would only take about 27 people to reach a \$40,000 quota. My mom has hundreds of WhatsApp contacts, and who knows how many other people this guy impersonates in a day.

After helping my mom recover her account, I tried calling WhatsApp to learn more about scams on their platform. Facebook has long been known as a fraudster’s paradise. The company has done too little, too late to prevent frequent cons, and it seems they don’t want to talk about it. It’s prohibitively difficult to reach a real person, and all of my correspondence went unanswered.

At least on WhatsApp there’s an easy preventive measure to avoid my mother’s plight, though it’s not engaged by default, nor sufficiently advertised. In account settings, enable two-step verification. After choosing a pin, WhatsApp will require more than just a texted verification code to permit account activation on a new device.

And if still you suspect suspicious activity — with respect to your WhatsApp account, Facebook profile or anything else — you know where to find me. I’ll happily take your scammer to task.

Have an idea for what Chatham business topics I should write about? Send me a note at dldolder@chathamnr.com or on Twitter @dldolder.



This Community ROCKS!

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



To DONATE:



For help or to help:



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

Thank YOU!

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



Photo courtesy of CCCC

The Chatham Cottage, handcrafted by Central Carolina Community College students enrolled in the college's Building Construction Technologies and Sustainable Technologies programs, will be up for auction beginning Saturday via an online auction platform, www.charityauctionstoday.com. The auction will open at 8 a.m. on June 19 and closes at 5 p.m. on June 26.

CCCC's Chatham Cottage auction set to begin Saturday

From Central Carolina Community College

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Cottage, handcrafted by Central Carolina Community College students enrolled in the college's Building Construction Technologies and Sustainable Technologies programs, will be up for auction beginning Saturday via an online auction platform, www.charityauctionstoday.com.

The auction will open at 8 a.m. June 19 and close at 5 p.m. June 26.

This year's one-bedroom, one-bathroom, high performance home features a 560 gross square foot high-performance house with 448 square feet of enclosed space and a 112-square-foot front porch. The custom design was created in collaboration with architect Mike Spinello, AIA, to be attractive and offer a sense of openness for a small space.

The cottage incorporates an energy efficient design and construction techniques and highlights the beauty of local building materials with interior accents. The cottage's compact size will comfortably fit the needs of a single individual or couple, and is an ideal option as a small home, in-law suite, guest house, vacation rental or office space.

The cottage is framed with 2x4 exterior walls sheathed with the ZIP R System for wall sheathing for air tightness, and with ZIP R System Roof Sheathing, which provides a complete envelope thermal barrier against heating or cooling losses. High performance casement windows allow for ease of natural ventilation and ample natural light. The long lasting and heat reflective galvanized metal roof is designed to be passively cooled with large roof overhangs. The exterior of the house is clad in a Nichiha cement board utilizing a rainscreen construction detail and locally sourced and milled battens.

The interior of the cottage is in a partially unfinished state to allow the purchaser to customize the space to their personal preference. The purchaser of the cottage will be responsible for the completion of all remaining interior work, which may include dry-wall, painting, flooring, interior doors, cabinetry, fixtures, electrical and plumbing trim out and interior carpentry trim work.

The cottage will require the addition of a heating and cooling sys-

tem, appliances, electric water heater, footing and foundation upon placement at the permanent site. The house is now on temporary pillars and must be removed from the premises after sale is complete.

This is the ninth in an annual series of small houses built by students studying construction and high performance building technologies. The Chatham Cottage was constructed under the direction of CCCC Building Construction Technologies Lead Instructor Jeff Gannon.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the continuation of the Chatham Cottage project and provide scholarship funds for students enrolled in the Building Construction and Sustainability programs.

The cottage is located outside the Sustainability Building on the CCCC Chatham Main Campus 764 West St., Pittsboro. The cottage will be open for viewing Monday, June 21, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment.

To receive additional information about the Chatham Cottage, or to schedule an appointment to view the house, contact Jeff Gannon at 919-545-8032, jgannon@cccc.edu, or Andrew McMahan at 919-545-8036, amcmahan@cccc.edu.

For more information about Central Carolina Community College, visit www.cccc.edu.

Chatham's Health Department continues to expand COVID-19 vaccine resources, encourage vaccinations

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — More than 36,000 Chatham County residents had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, marking 48% of the county's population; nearly 34,000 are fully vaccinated, making up 45% of the county's population.

Even more Chatham residents have the opportunity to receive their vaccine at these locations:

- 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 are also 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 PM to 6 PM. 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 PM to 7 PM 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 accepted.

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 avail-

able 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.

Additionally, COVID-19 case numbers have continued to decline sharply in Chatham County. Over the past two weeks, the county has averaged around two new confirmed cases per day, showing the effectiveness of vaccinations in fighting the pandemic.

"We are pleased to see case rates as low as they have been since the beginning of the pandemic," said CCPHD Director Mike Zelek. "The takeaway is that the vaccines are very effective, both at keeping you from getting sick and keeping the virus from spreading. If vaccination rates continue to rise, we can put this pandemic behind us."

The CCPHD continues to update its COVID-19 vaccination webpages to provide the latest information. These pages include:

- Current vaccine providers, including locations providing homebound vaccinations: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/services/health/coronavirus/coronavirus-vaccine/how-to-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>

- COVID-19 vaccine-related resources for Chatham County workplaces: <http://www.chathamcountync.gov/covidvaccinebiz>

- COVID-19 vaccine-related resources for Chatham County youth and their parents: chathamcountync.gov/covidvaccineyouth (English) and chathamcountync.gov/vacunacovidjovenes (Spanish).

Cash drawing launched

North Carolina recently launched the "Your Shot At a Million Summer Cash Drawings." North Carolinians 18 and older who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings for a chance to win a \$1 million cash prize. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who have received at least one dose of the vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings to win \$125,000 toward post-secondary education at any post-secondary institution.

The drawings will run from June 23 through August 4. All North Carolina residents aged 12 and older who have been vaccinated with at least one dose are eligible, though some restrictions may apply. Those vaccinated on or after June 10 will be entered twice for each drawing, increasing the chance of winning for the newly vaccinated. Drawings will take place every other week on Wednesdays with the first drawing on June 23. New entries will close at midnight on the Sunday prior to the Wednesday drawing. Winners will be verified and then announced.

In Chatham County, there are many options to get vaccinated and be entered into this drawing. Visit myspot.nc.gov to see these local options.

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.

NEWS BRIEFS

New director named at Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation

RALEIGH — The N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation (NCFSWC) Board of Directors announced Amanda Egdorf-Sand of Randleman as its executive director.

Egdorf-Sand has been the administrative officer and program manager for NCFSWC since April of 2020 and replaces Michelle Lovejoy who left in May to join the Environmental Defense Fund.

"Michelle Lovejoy served the Foundation well for the past ten years and helped us to become involved in many new conser-

vation as well as environmental efforts," said NCFSWC President Jimmy Gentry. "Among her latest initiatives was engaging the Foundation in agricultural resiliency which included a project to help agricultural producers better prepare for disasters and recover from those storms. During her time with us, Michelle earned a great deal of respect for her expertise and the exceptional job that she did. Our new executive director Amanda Egdorf-Sand is very impressive in her knowledge of conservation and has previous experiences that will be valuable to her in this new role."

Egdorf-Sand earned a bachelor's degree in environment and natural resources with a

concentration in water and land management from the University of Minnesota. In addition to her work with NCFSWC for more than a year, Egdorf-Sand has been working with the nonprofit Abundance NC. She spent three years with the Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District as a soil conservation specialist and also worked at Piedmont Biofuels.

The Minnesota native and her husband Joseph have two sons. They are the co-owners of Joseph Sand Pottery, a unique wood-fired ceramics business in Randolph County. Egdorf-Sand is currently transitioning into the full-time executive director role.

— CN+R staff reports

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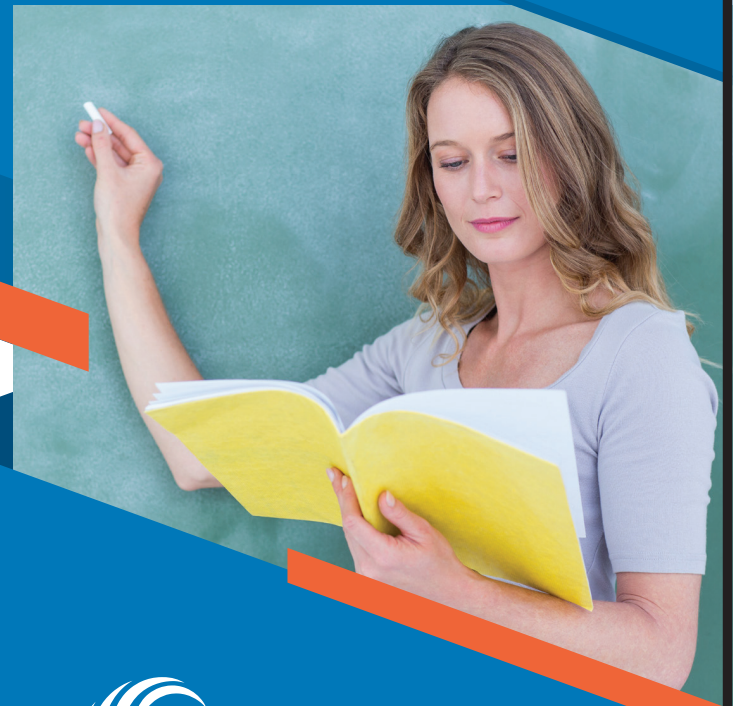
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CHATHAM CHAT | DR. LISA CHAPMAN, CCCC

At CCCC, ‘normal’ means whatever leads to a great educational experience

Drive-thru graduation ceremonies were recently held at Central Carolina Community College, bringing an end to another semester at the school and ushering in summer and preparations for the fall semester and another school year. With campuses in Chatham, Lee and Harnett counties, CCCC has for years been one of the premier community colleges in N.C. and the nation.

This week, we speak with Dr. Lisa Chapman, CCCC’s president, about a most unusual pandemic year, why she never uses the word “normal,” enrollment, free tuition programs and more.

Prior to becoming president of CCCC, Dr. Chapman was the Senior Vice President/Chief Academic Officer at the North Carolina Community College System Office in Raleigh for five years. Before going to the state level in 2014, Dr. Chapman was at CCCC for 27 years.

Dr. Chapman holds a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; Master of Science in Physiology from East Tennessee State University; and Bachelor of Science in Zoology from UNC-Chapel Hill. She and her husband Jeff have two children and two grandchildren.

The interview has been edited for clarity and length. For the full conversation, see the June 4 post on the News + Record’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ChathamNR.

Can you talk a little bit about what this past year has been like, for you in the college?

Never in my wildest imagination would I have anticipated coming back to the way we’ve had to do business the past year — really more than a year ... the way we’re going to be doing business from now on.

In fact, we try very hard not to use the term “normal” anymore; I don’t think you can even say “new normal.”

We’re just going to continue to do business — the way circumstances support us doing business. And that leads me to say that even though I certainly had not anticipated this, I could not have asked for a better professional group to engage with. When we transitioned, we did it like every other higher education institution and every other business — you had to turn on a dime and very, very quickly make changes. They were up for it, and they did it.

We talk a lot about family at the college, so it wasn’t just our employees — our students did it as well. If you look at our student population during the transitioning of the pandemic and where we are now, our students

who had started with us, for the most part stayed with us and they persisted through a lot. Our community helped by trying to make sure our students had the resources to do that, especially those that had more challenges than others. Our employees switched the way they were working. That includes not just changing the way you teach, but changing the way you engage with students in all areas: advising, coaching, supporting, financial aid — how we engage with each other on a day to day basis.

You had plenty of challenges — among them a decline in enrollment ...

Our biggest challenge was that as the pandemic rolled on, and we rolled into the fall of 2020, we did not engage as many new students — which is the pattern you see across the country and in all areas of business, and certainly in higher education.

So as we moved through the year, enrollment dipped, and dipped more through the spring. Community colleges in North Carolina are funded based on the past year’s enrollment. The challenge for us was, in 2019, we had a record enrollment, the largest ever in the history of the college. So to be fair, we dropped, but only to levels that were comparable in years past, but that’s still an impact on our budget going forward.

We’re hoping the leg-

islature will address that for all of our colleges. What concerns us more, however, is that we didn’t engage students as we usually had. Since we have important career pathways in place for lots of great jobs coming to this region, so our biggest concern at the college was that we’ve cut opportunities in this area. North Carolina as a state has fared better than some other states, but not every region in North Carolina has done as well as ours through the transitions of the pandemic.

We kept people working, even through all the transitions. We figured out how to continue our way forward by moving as much online as possible, closing buildings, and transitioning people to working in all kinds of ways. We still were open for business every single day, and we had classes that had to meet face to face; there are some things that we do that cannot be done virtually. Fortunately, as we’ve moved forward, and more and more of our college family has become vaccinated, we’ve transitioned to more and more face to face instruction, and are now fully open, providing in-person services.

What will summer look like?

With all of our buildings fully open now, we are still maintaining social distancing procedures, which does limit class enrollment. In addition, we still are asking people to wear masks when they’re in the building because you don’t know who is or is not vaccinated.

The instructional nature of some of our programs do not allow you to maintain social distance,

so they need that personal protection. We are now offering everything we offered in summer 2019, and the enrollment is steady, a little bit above 2020, so we are seeing folks more comfortable and coming back, as I think they were looking for more opportunities for in person instruction.

Since “normal” is not in our vocabulary anymore, we are going to continue to be more and more flexible in our instruction so that people can work as they need to work.

There’s been a lot of discussion lately about tuition costs, but CCCC already has programs in place to provide tuition assistance ...

We have the “Promise” program in all three counties, covering tuition for students who have met the requirements of some dual enrollment coursework during high school. And I can never say enough about the fact that the three counties have supported our high school students.

When I talk with these students, I emphasize the fact that the communities believe in them, they they’re investing in them and see them as important support for the future of the communities.

The Lingleaf Commitment Grant does not have the same requirement. It focuses on curriculum coursework, but any high school graduate of 2021 who wants to continue his or her education, and has a need, can have that need met.

Let’s wrap up with a look at Chatham County and what’s happening within the campus here ...

As the campuses have opened back up, there will be more and more

flexibility in how students can engage with their faculty and with student support there in the Pittsboro campus, Health Sciences campus and the Siler City campus as well.

I think you’ll see more information technology instruction in the career pathway at the Chatham campus as well as continued expansion of our health programs. The early college there just had its graduation, so I would expect to see more students engage in its science, math and engineering programs. Also, I’m looking forward to getting to know our new superintendent in Chatham County and working closely with him. I know he had a great working relationship in Vance-Granville with my colleagues there, so I anticipate being able to offer more specific pathways that are targeting the businesses and industries coming to that area.

Let me just say thank you to the community for the support you provide to the college. I know our Provost there in Chatham, Dr. Mark Hall, is always appreciative of the way Chatham County supports the college throughout the many things we work on in that area.

I will close by sharing the quote, or my version of the quote, from Dallas Herring, known as the founding father of the Community College System. He says that community colleges have been set up, and are here, to take people from wherever they are to as far as they can go.

We’ve got a lot of residents who need to be able to take advantage of those opportunities. So for anybody listening who can help us get that word out, we appreciate it.

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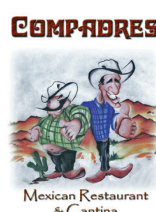
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Lamebrained ‘Bodyguard’ sequel neither exciting nor funny

“The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard” is the sort of lame-brained film in which the main



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

character yells (without an ounce of irony), “If we don’t stop the drill, they’ll upload the virus and destroy Europe!” It is also the sort of misbegotten sequel nobody asked for and likely exists as a paycheck and tax-sheltered European vacation for its cast. As the milieus hopscotch from northern Italy to Croatia, Bulgaria, and the UK, the lead actors occasionally emerge from whatever seaside bungalow or luxe hotel they’re being put up in to wander in front of a camera, yammer some dumb dialogue, then return in time for vino tarda notte.

Director Patrick Hughes — who hasn’t made a feature film since 2017’s “Hitman’s Body-



Salma Hayek, Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson in ‘The Hitman’s Wife’s Bodyguard.’

guard” (if that tells you anything) — and screenwriter Tom O’Connor recycle many of the same forgettable plot points as the last movie, whose central sin is that it managed to turn a tidy enough profit to green light a sequel. Michael Byrce (Ryan Reynolds) is still a defrocked bodyguard, stripped of his coveted triple-A license rating (whatever that is) and on a shrink-suggested sabbatical to Capri — “Like the pants,” the script says twice, the sort of

giggles we’re dealing with here. It is there that Sonia Kincaid (Salma Hayek) pops up in Michael’s face and starts screaming obscenities, recruiting him to help rescue her kidnapped husband, notorious hitman and Michael’s nemesis Darius Kincaid (Samuel L. Jackson).

Once the guns start blazing — and it doesn’t take long — the trio are conscripted into the service of a harried Boston Interpol agent (sure, why not?) to halt a cyber attack against the

EU by Greek supervillain Aristotle Papadopoulos, played by Antonio Banderas stubbornly sans any sort of Greek accent. Aristotle and Sonia share a past, which nicely alludes to Banderas and Hayek’s long-standing screen partnership and not-so-neatly cribs the Goldie Hawn-Kurt Russell film “Overboard,” which is pedantically referenced to avoid accusations of pilfering. I won’t spoil Morgan Freeman’s role, but suffice it to say that the sole comedic contribution asked of him is his race.

This is an action comedy that is neither exciting nor funny — one car chase actually includes the proverbial barreling through a fruit stand. Aristotle’s scheme involves using a giant diamond drill to hack Europe’s oceanic cyberdata junction box. And if that sounds inane enough, try filtering it through a nonstop torrent of profanity from a paunchy Jackson and Hayak haranguing about her boobs.

THE HITMAN’S WIFE’S BODYGUARD

GRADE: C -

DIRECTOR: Patrick Hughes

STARRING: Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson, Salma Hayek, Antonio Banderas, and Morgan Freeman

MPAA RATING: R

RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 39 min.

Reynolds never gets out of his trademark smart-alecky gear, which admittedly accounts for the film’s lone laughs but can’t carry this calamity.

Let’s just pray Darius and Sonia don’t have any children or otherwise we might be in for “The Hitman’s Wife’s Kid’s Bodyguard.”

The origin story? It was a bit rough.

When people find out that I write a food column, they usually have a couple of questions.

“What restaurants do you review?”



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

“What restaurants do you review?”

Al-though I always have plenty of strong, emphatic opinions, I don’t have the heart or

stomach for food critique.

The first and only time I did it, I wrote what I thought was a fair review that listed both the good and bad of the eatery. I explained my opinions, and clearly laid out the thoughts behind my judgements.

It was a new, much buzzed-about doughnut and biscuit shop.

I happen to have extremely high standards for this ring-shaped celestial treat.

Just forget Dunkin’. They always taste stale,

and the glaze is wrong. I know this will upset anyone who grew up in the north where, bless your hearts, it was the only doughnut available. It’s like growing up in Texas and thinking you know barbecue.

My platonic idea of a doughnut is a Krispy Kreme that is so fresh, the glaze has not yet set. A regular supply of these and not only would I weigh 600 pounds, I could be trained so thoroughly, I’d make Pavlov’s pooch look like a slacker.

I stated in the column that their crème brule version was one of the best confections I’d ever eaten, but taken as a whole, they could not compete with that wondrous business started in Winston Salem in 1937 to make humankind happy.

Well, you would think that that not only had I stolen the owner’s baby, but I had also kicked his grandmother and smacked his dog. By his reading, the column was just an opportunity for me to trash his business and put his staff in the unemployment line.

Not only did he sic his online followers on me (a small taste of the online hate that can ruin lives), he called me at HOME to berate me and demand I support every word I’d written.

And in case you didn’t know, calling a reporter at home for any reason is such bad form it verges on the creepy and threatening.

So, that kind of killed my foray into restaurant reviewing — if I loved your eatery I’ll talk about it; if I didn’t, you’ll never read a word about it.

Another question is, “How did you first get interested in food?”

That, Gentle Reader, is actually two questions.

My love affair with food began with the introduction of solid food.

My first food memory is sitting under a kitchen table eating dry cereal. I was about 2.

Many years later I had Apple Jacks for what I thought was the first time and they tasted so familiar I knew I’d had them before, but I didn’t know where or when. I asked my mother and she told me it was that sweet cinnamon-flavored breakfast food I’d been eating underneath that table.

A couple of decades

later, I was as enamored with food as I ever was — maybe more. But I had very minimal cooking skills and was not at all interested in the preparation of it, only the eating of it. I had a couple of dishes I could put together that were pretty good, but I was happy to eat mainly what others created.

Then I became a bartender.

I worked at a country club with a chef that was very good. He also fostered a spirit of excellence among the kitchen staff.

We all got meals at the club and I began to see that experience and skill are important to good food. I learned about mother sauces, the crucial place seasoning has in good food, and the different positions in a professional kitchen and the part each plays in creating a fine dining experience. I even learned basic food safety when a member of the staff left thirty cooked turkeys out all night the day before Thanksgiving and they all had to be thrown out.

But the most important lesson I learned was something that if every home cook used, they

would improve their cooking exponentially: even beginners would become better overnight.

The lesson is this: buy the best quality ingredients you can afford, and treat each one the very best way possible.

It’s all about respecting the food.

By treating your food with respect you can take simple “throwaway” components and make them shine as brightly as expensive delicacies.

The perfect example of this philosophy is the tomato sauce they made for a pasta bar they would occasionally have at parties. Five or so pastas were offered with the choice of a few sauces.

They’d have the usual suspects: Alfredo, pesto, thick marinara with meatballs. But they also made a take on salsa cruda, which is a raw Italian sauce.

They would cook theirs, but only for a few minutes and only to get rid of the raw garlic heat. It was amazing on their homemade mushroom ravioli. It’s also good on any pasta, or fish, or rice, or pasta salad, or a toasted baguette, or...

Thanks for your time. Contact debbie at dm@bullcity.mom.



Take a picture of the qr code to see a virtual tour of this **BOLD** home.

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‘Sorta’ salsa cruda.

Photo courtesy of Debbie Matthews

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

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

OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

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

FOR SALE

ANIMALS & PETS

USE ITCHNOMORE SHAMPOO to treat skin allergies, promote healing & eliminate doggy odor. Southern States Coop, 919-742-2128 (www.kennelvax.com) Jn3,10,17,3tp

USE DD-33 to kill fleas and ticks on dogs & cats on contact. J R MOORE & SON, 898-2998. (www.kennelvax.com) Jn3,10,17,3tp

YARD SALES

HUGE YARD SALE - Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 19, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., 150 Kimberly Lane, Siler City. Lots of household items. Jn17,1tp

AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, My6,tfnc

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, My6,tfnc

SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SILER CITY - DISTRIBUTION AND COLLECTION SYSTEM SUPERVISOR - Performs difficult technical work supervising the work of a crew engaged in repair, replacement, and installation of water and sewer lines. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High school diploma or high school equivalency. Three years' experience in water distribution or sewer collection system maintenance and construction. Two years heavy equipment operations experience. Possession of NC Grade I Water Pollution Control Collection System Operator upon hire. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. Possession of a NC Class B commercial driver's license upon hire. -- Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Must obtain NC Grade II Water Pollution Control Collection System Operator certification within one year of hire. Possession of NC Water Distribution Operator

Grade C upon hire. Possession of NC Pesticide License upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain NC Grade II Water Pollution Control Collection System Operator certification within one year of hire. Must obtain NC Water Distribution Operator Grade C within one year of hire. Must obtain NC Pesticide License within one year of hire. All required certifications and licensures must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. -- Annual Hiring Salary, \$35,262. Please refer to our website for a full job description. - To Apply, This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or as-

uring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. -- Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah at nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jn17,1tc

STARPOINT GLOBAL SERVICES is seeking Preppers and Scanners. Starpoint is a records management company looking for a few good employees to prep and scan paper for customers. You must have transportation and a good work ethic. Hours are 8-4, Monday - Friday. \$9.00 per hour. Please apply in person at 1311 North 2nd Ave., Siler City NC 27344. Jn17,1tp

APPRENTICE LINEMAN POSITIONS (Asheboro Location) - Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is currently seeking two (2) Apprentice Lineman for the Asheboro Office. Successful candidate will preferably have their CDLs and have taken courses on electricity or related areas. To apply go to <https://www.randolphemc.com/careers>. Apply by Thursday, July 1, 2021. Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability/vets. Jn17,24,2tc

ACCOUNTANT (ASHEBORO LOCATION) - Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is currently seeking an Accountant. Successful candidates will preferably have a 2-year degree in Accounting and/or Business Administration with 2 to 4 years of experience. The job description and application are available online at <http://www.randolphemc.com/ca->

reers. Taking applications until the position is filled. Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability/vets. Jn10,17,24,3tc

SERVICE ASSOCIATE, CLAPP TRACTOR - Wash tractors, general clean up, deliveries, and other misc. tasks. Must have a cleaning driving record. Apply in person at 202 N. Second Ave, Siler City, NC or email your resume to hr@clapptractor.com Jn10,17,24,-Jy1,4tc

MARKETING ASSISTANT, CLAPP TRACTOR - Post and manage used inventory on company website, keep magazine and radio advertisements up to date, and assist with other marketing tasks. Apply in person at 202 N. Second Ave, Siler City, NC or email your resume to hr@clapptractor.com Jn10,17,24,Jy1,4tc

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

HELP WANTED - EVENINGS & WEEKENDS, Please inquire in person: Country Mart, 320 W. Raleigh St, Siler City, NC or Desperados, 602 North Second Avenue, Siler City A29,tfnc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline Tuesday - Noon

Display ad deadline Monday - 5 p.m.

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

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

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

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



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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 Meadow-

mont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 My27,Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned having qualified as Administratrix of the Estate 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,Jn17,4tc

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. Lutschauig, 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,Jn17,4tc

Cary, NC 27511 Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, June 21, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham-countync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below: Legislative Request:

1. A legislative public hearing for a rezoning request by Herndon Farms One, LLC for an active-adult (55 and older) compact community with 161 residential units, congregate care facility, one-story office/daycare, community gardens, and barn for events on approximately 97.86 acres being Parcels 93852, 2752, 18750, 18897, 18896, and 18909, located on US 15-501 N split by Williams and Baldwin townships.
2. A Legislative public hearing for a general use rezoning request by Herndon Farms One, LLC, to rezone one acre of Parcel No. 2752, being approximately 33.67 acres total, from R-1 Residential, to IL Light Industrial, located off US 15-501 N., Baldwin Township.

Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions. Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tp Jn10,Jn17,2tc

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administratrix of the Estate of **RONNIE 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

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. JAMES 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. MERWARTH**, 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.

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Jun. 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:

Town of Siler City proposes the following text amendments to the UDO: §274 Special Provisions for Certain Signs (Harold Andrews Rd. truck traffic directional signs at Greensboro Ave. and Siler City Snow Camp Rd.).

Town of Siler City proposes the following text amendments to the Code of Ordinances: Chapter 8 Buildings, Article IV Minimum Housing Standards (The existence and occupation of dwellings that are unfit for human habitation are inimical to the welfare and dangerous and injurious to the health and safety of the people. A public necessity exists for the repair, closing, or demolition of such dwellings. Whenever the Town finds that there exists in the planning and development jurisdiction jurisdiction dwellings that are unfit for human habitation due to dilapidation; defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents or other calamities; lack of ventilation, light, or sanitary facilities; or other conditions rendering the dwellings unsafe or unsanitary, or dangerous or detrimental to the health, safety, morals, or otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the Town, power is conferred upon the Town to exercise its police powers to repair, close, or demolish the dwellings. This ordinance provides for the repair, closing, or demolition of any abandoned structure that the Town Board finds to be a health or safety hazard as a result of the attraction of insects or rodents, conditions creating a fire hazard, dangerous conditions constituting a threat to children, or frequent use by vagrants as living quarters in the absence of sanitary facilities.) and Article V Unsafe Buildings Condemned (Every building that shall appear to the inspector to be especially dangerous to life because of its liability to fire or because of bad condition of walls, overloaded floors, defective construction, decay, unsafe wiring or heating systems, inadequate means of egress, or other causes shall be held to be unsafe.)

The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced items. The Planning Board will meet on Jun. 14 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business

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FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following positions: Data Analyst. POOL - PC Support & Services Instructor (part-time) - actively recruiting to the pool. For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/> Human Resources Office Phone: (910) 678-7342. Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu>. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following positions: Spanish Instructor (10 month). Male Mentoring Coordinator. Senior Network Communications Technician. Department Chair in Corporate & Industry Training. For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/> Human Resources Office Phone: (910) 678-7342. Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu>. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Estate of Jeffrey David Roys: All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **JEFFREY DAVID ROYS**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., and Harris County, TX, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 10, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 10th day of June, 2021. Personal Representatives, Liza Lee Roys & Joseph R. Roys c/o Elizabeth Boyette, Attorney Jackson Law, PC 3605 Glenwood Avenue, Ste. 480 Raleigh, NC 27612 Jn10, Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-314 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Hilda Scheffler, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **SCOTT ALAN SCHEFFLER**, 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 10th 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 10th day of June, 2021. Hilda Scheffler, Executor C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jn10, Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 21-E-322 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Suellen Nelles, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of

SHERRY M. NELLES, 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 10th 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 10th day of June, 2021. Suellen Nelles, Administrator C/O Shanelle K. Edmonds Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 Jn10, Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, 4tp

TOWN OF PITTSBORO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

The proposed budget for the Town of Pittsboro Alcoholic Beverage Control Board has been presented to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the Town Board of Commissioners and is available for inspection in the General Manager's office at the Pittsboro ABC Store, 70 Sanford Hwy. from 11:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. most weekdays. Interested parties can call (919) 545-0861 to speak with General Manager, Brittany McDaniel. A public hearing will be held on the budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Pittsboro ABC Store, 70 Sanford Hwy, Pittsboro, North Carolina. Citizens are invited to submit written or oral comments. Brittany McDaniel General Manager Jn10, Jn17, 2tp

TOWN OF SILER CITY NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CDBG - NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION (CDBG-NR) ACTIVITIES

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Siler City is soliciting contractors and professional firms to perform rehabilitation/reconstruction work to be completed with CDBG-NR program funds. The Town has received notice of a grant award from the NC Department of Commerce, Rural Economic Development Division, which the Town will utilize to undertake the above-mentioned activities of eight (8) residential structures located in the Siler City, North Carolina. The Town will require the following services and supplies during implementation of this project: Registered land surveyor. Attorney. NC licensed general contractors. Residential building supplies. Asbestos assessment and abatement contractors. Lead-Based Paint inspectors. This publication is to notify interested parties that the Town of Siler City will utilize the following procedures, pertaining to equal opportunity employment and utilization of local businesses, during procurement of services and supplies necessary to complete these projects. 1. In accordance with Section 3

of the Housing and Community Development Act, the Town of Siler City will advertise locally for jobs, contracts, and supplies, and will encourage participation in these projects by businesses and workers located in Chatham County, to the greatest extent possible. 2. The Town of Siler City will actively solicit minority- and female-owned businesses during procurement of supplies and contracts for these projects. 3. In order to encourage participation by Section 3, minority, and female individuals and business owners, the Town will list all jobs available through this program with the Chatham County office of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission; will maintain a list of job training and business development resources in the Town Planning Department; and will list all contracts and supplies to be procured with the Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses, 1336 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1336, telephone number (919) 807-2330, or on the web at https://ncadmin.nc.gov/businesses/hub/events, and on the NC Interactive Purchasing System. 4. All individuals and/or historically underutilized businesses, including local, minority, and female-owned firms, who are interested in providing the services listed above, may register with the Town of Siler City Planning and Community Development, PO Box 769, 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344, telephone (919) 742-2323. Jack Meadows, Planning and Community Development Director EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY Jn17, 1tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **CHARLOTTE MCWILLIAMS JOHNSON**, late of 53524 Bickett, Chapel Hill, Chatham County, North Carolina 27517, the undersigned do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Jean Gordon Carter, McGuireWoods LLP, P.O. Box 27507, Raleigh, NC 27611, on or before the 17th day of September, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 17th day of June, 2021. Michael R. Johnson, Jr. and Gregory A. Johnson, Co-Executors of the Estate of Charlotte McWilliams Johnson Attorney: Jean Gordon Carter McGuireWoods LLP P.O. Box 27507 Raleigh, NC 27611 Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, Jy8, 4tp

EXHIBIT A - NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

At its May 17, 2021 meeting,

and the Notice of Extension and the County's financing and refinancing of the Project. All interested parties are invited to present comments at the public hearing regarding the Contract, the Deed of Trust and the Project to be financed and refinanced thereby. /s/ Lindsay Ray Clerk to the Board of Commissioners County of Chatham, North Carolina Published: June 10, 2021 Jn17, 1tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **RICHARD BENJAMIN LAWHON**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 17th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 17th day of June, 2021. Dianne Stanton Ward, Executor Estate of Richard Benjamin Lawhon c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, Jy8, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 356 All persons having claims against **HAROLD STINSON MARSH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of September, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.

and the improvements thereon, to extend that lien to the site of the Emergency Operations Center and the improvements thereon (together with the site of the Chatham County Detention Facility and the improvements thereon, the "Mortgaged Property"), all of which to secure the County's obligations under the Contract The Emergency Operations Center will be located at 112 Innovation Way, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312. The Chatham County Detention Facility is located at 627 County Landfill Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312. On payment by the County of all installment payments due under the Contract, as amended, the Deed of Trust and any lien created thereunder will terminate and the County's title to the Mortgaged Property will be unencumbered. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Sections 160A-20 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, that on **June 21, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chatham County Historic Courthouse Courtroom**, 9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, a public hearing will be conducted concerning the approval of the execution and delivery of the Amendment

This the 17th day of June, 2021. Judith P. Marsh Limited Personal Representative 100 Dorsett Road Siler City, NC 27344 Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, Jy8, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **RICHARD BENJAMIN LAWHON**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before September 17th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 17th day of June, 2021. Dianne Stanton Ward, Executor Estate of Richard Benjamin Lawhon c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, Jy8, 4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 356

All persons having claims against **HAROLD STINSON MARSH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of June, 2021. Judith P. Marsh Limited Personal Representative 100 Dorsett Road Siler City, NC 27344 Jn17, Jn24, Jy1, Jy8, 4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following **Public Hearing on Monday, June 28th, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock via Zoom** to consider the following items: 1. Proposed Rezoning: 102 Park Drive (REZ-2021-02) Rezoning request for parcel 79930, totaling 3.79 acres, located on the northern side of Park Drive, to change from R-12 (Medium Density Residential) to O-1 (Office & Institutional). The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendment may be made following the public hearing. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website under the BOC Agenda, Minutes, and Audio tab. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on June 28th, 2021. Jn17, Jn24, 2tp

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