

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JUNE 24-30, 2021 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

VOTE 2021

## What can you expect of the next election cycle?

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

With state-authorized election delays for district-organized municipalities all but certain, Chatham voters can expect another unusual election season for 2021.

Senate Bill 722 — which the General Assembly ratified last week and Gov. Roy Cooper is expected to approve — will delay some 2021 municipal elections until March 2022 to accommodate tardy census data.

Every 10 years, municipalities, cities and states must assess their

respective voting districts and amend them to uphold the “one person, one vote” principle: that every resident is entitled to fair and equal representation by districts of roughly equal population. Districts need not change if the population has been largely inert over the previous decade, but that scenario is unlikely for Chatham municipalities, which have evolved considerably in recent years.

Redistricting is due this year, but to draw new maps municipalities need up-to-date census data, which will not

arrive in time for the November election following pandemic disruptions.

See the list of expiring terms on A3

There are 62 municipalities statewide with 2021 elections scheduled that organize by districts or wards. Of those, 35 elect town representatives by voting districts. The other 27 “use districts or wards but don’t elect people by them,”

N.C. State Board of Elections Communication Specialist Noah Grant previously told the News + Record. “They use them for filing purposes.”

See **ELECTION**, page A3

## Nearly 2,000 CCS students in summer programs

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

Nearly 2,000 K-12 students are signed up for this year’s Chatham County Schools summer programming, a staggering increase from the typical years’ registration of about 300 K-3 students, according to the district’s estimates.

While the district previously offered high school recovery programs, its past summer curriculum focused primarily on K-3 students. This year, most summer classes began this week and include 10 programs for students across all grade levels — another significant increase, and the result of increased federal and state funding to help schools address potential COVID-19 learning loss.

Throughout the pandemic, CCS received a total allotment of about \$18.8 million as part of North Carolina’s Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ES-SER) funds, to be spent over the next few years. About \$17.4 million of that money, allocated through December’s federal

See **STUDENTS**, page A7

‘BITE MY COOKIE’

## New brewery to open at The Plant

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After more than a year fighting through pandemic “slog,” John and Carmen Rice are set to open Pittsboro’s newest microbrewery: BMC Brewing.

“There’s a few things that need to be finished up, a little bit of painting and a door needs to be finished,” John Rice said. “But we’re pretty much to the point that as soon as we get our permits, we’re ready to brew. And as soon as we have beer, we’re going to be serving it.”

BMC — the latest beverage-making operation at The Plant on Lorax Lane, an area commonly known as the Chatham Beverage District — was issued its certificate of occupancy a couple of weeks ago, Rice said. He’s just waiting for ABC Board approval, which could arrive any day, to begin alcohol production.

“And then we’ll start

brewing right away, start getting beer in the tanks,” Rice said. “The quickest we’ll be able to get something out is probably two weeks. Realistically, we’re looking at three weeks. And then as soon as we get a finished menu, we’ll put them in the kegs and we’ll start serving and we’ll have the doors open and people can come in.”

Between two brewing systems, BMC can churn out 11 different beers at a time. Rice hasn’t yet settled on his opening lineup, but patrons can expect a diverse selection from day one. Besides fan-favorite IPAs (west coast and New England varieties) and regular pale ales, BMC will feature a selection of less typical brews, many of which pay homage to acclaimed scientists and leaders of history.

Mendel’s Dominant Recessive Kolsch honors the father of modern genetics, Joseph Mendel, the Rices write on their website. The



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

BMC can brew up to 11 beers at a time. Rice has 13 slated for his opening menu, including IPAs, stouts and a Kolsch.

German-inspired ale features a traditional yeast tempered by North Carolina-sourced hops and grain. McClintock’s Tiara Red Ale pays tribute to pioneering female corn geneticist Barbara McClintock and includes

flaked corn for a drier finish. Uisce Móna Beilgeach, derived from a Gaelic phrase meaning “bog water,” will be an Irish Stout “made stronger by the addition

See **BREWERY**, page A7

## Chatham police working violent crimes

Arrest made in sexual assault case dating to 1999; murder in Siler City being investigated

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

Chatham law enforcement agencies are investigating a pair of violent crimes — serial rape and murder — making an arrest in the former and working with the State Bureau of Investigation in the latter.

Pittsboro police officers arrested Alejandro Jacobo-Marcos last Thursday in connection with a string of unsolved sexual assaults from more than 20 years ago, according to Chief Shorty Johnson.

An investigation into Jacobo-Marcos’ suspected crimes began in March when two victims contacted the department and accused him of abusing them in 1999.

“Jacobo-Marcos was known to the victims,” Johnson said, “and lived in Pittsboro at the time of the assault.”

Since then, Jacobo-Marcos moved to

See **CRIMES**, page A3

AFTER 21 YEARS, A RETIREMENT

## Pam Johnson, Communities In Schools’ ‘backbone,’ was steadying force behind-the-scenes

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Pam Johnson remembers an elementary student named Curtis who, back in the early days of the nonprofit Communities In Schools of Chatham County, was, for some reason, afraid to climb the stairs to the organization’s small offices, then located in Pittsboro.

“We were on the second floor and he was literally petrified to come up the stairs,” she said. “And we would all coach him — we’d stand at the top of the stairs and at the bottom of the stairs, and we’d

See **JOHNSON**, page A8



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Pam Johnson, who’s worked with Communities In Schools of Chatham County for the last 21 years, poses in her office on the eve of her retirement.

CHATHAM 250

## Chatham celebrates, honors history of its communities of color

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

As part of the extended Chatham’s 250th anniversary celebration, county leaders also wanted to celebrate the often less well known, but no less significant, parts of Chatham’s history — the history of its communities of color.

Following a Black History Month lecture by North Carolina Central University’s Dr. Charles Johnson, hosted by Chatham Community Library, county Project Manager Hilary Pollan asked library staffers

if Johnson could be a part of the then-upcoming Chatham 250 celebrations.

From there, the four-part Chatham County History of Communities of Color virtual series was born, said library assistant Evette Evans.

“Over the next month or so, that initial discussion kind of progressed to the library co-sponsoring a historical lecture series with discussions or lectures that would chronicle the histories of people of color in Chatham County,” said Evans, who develops and implements programs for diversity and heritage for the Chatham Community Library. “It kind of got distilled down to that.”

The series, sponsored by the

See **COLOR**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

CHAT: Fostering homeless pets is just the start for CARE. **PAGE A13**

‘Worth it’: Seaforth’s first meet-and-greet a big success. **PAGE B1**

Siler City: Town working to better support Hispanic community. **PAGE B7**

Council on Aging working to build stronger programs, relationships. **PAGE B11**



# 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.

**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](http://chathamcoa.org).

## ON THE AGENDA

**The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will have its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 28 via Zoom.

**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) until 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. There is no cost to participate; however, all participants must have a waiver signed by an adult. Waivers will be available at Ernest Ramsey Gym when signing in or available online at [www.silercity.org](http://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, 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](http://www.silercity.org) or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto: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:

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. Residents may visit the libraries' website, [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact Youth Services at (919) 545-8085 or [youth.services@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:youth.services@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

**Chatham County 4-H** is offering a free event, Food Around the World, July 6 through 10. This is a virtual camp designed for K-12 youth to learn about foods and cultures from around the world. Adult supervision is required. To register, individuals may sign up online at [v2.4honline.com](http://v2.4honline.com). Those with questions or needing assistance may contact Liz Mauney at 919-542-8257 or [liz\\_mauney@ncsu.edu](mailto:liz_mauney@ncsu.edu).

**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](http://chathamcreekweek.org) and find out how you can get involved in the celebration!

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](http://www.chathamnc.org/ComputerClasses). 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, to register for swim lessons, purchase season passes, or to rent the pool for a pool party, contact Carolina Pool Management at 336-854-8884.

## Chatham County Public Libraries

invite families with young children to enjoy the great outdoors while 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.

**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 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/](http://www.cccc.edu/sports-camps/) or contact Athletic Director Jonathan Hockaday at [jhockaday@ccc.edu](mailto:jhockaday@ccc.edu).

Central Carolina Community College summer volleyball camp will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. It is open to rising 3rd to 5th graders. Registration fee of \$75 includes T-shirt. Registration/check-in is at 8 a.m., with sessions from 8:30-11 a.m. Class limited to 12 participants.

The Cougar Volleyball Camp for rising 6th through 8th graders (middle school) will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. Registration/check-in time is 1 p.m., with session times from 1:30-4 p.m. Registration fee of \$75 includes a T-shirt. Class limited to 16 participants.

The Cougar Volleyball Training Workouts for rising 9th through 12th graders will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16. Registration/check-in time is 6 p.m., with session times from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Registration fee of \$75 includes a T-shirt. Class limited to 16 participants. For more information or to register for the Cougar Volleyball Camp, visit [www.cccc.edu/sports-camps/](http://www.cccc.edu/sports-camps/) or contact Athletic Director Jonathan Hockaday at [jhockaday@ccc.edu](mailto: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 still 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](mailto: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](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).

JMArts hosted a **JMA-CoronaConcert** 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](http://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](http://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 Goldston incorporated?**

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

# MISSING DOGS



**MARLEY**  
Breed/Raza: American Bully  
Color: Light brown / Cafecito claro  
Collar: Blue/Azul



**MARY**  
Breed/Raza: American Bully  
Color: Gray / Gris  
Collar: Pink / Rosado

**REWARD FOR THOSE WHO FIND THEM**  
**RECOMPENSA PARA QUIEN NOS AQYUDE**

Last seen May 26th around Devils Tramping Ground Rd in Bear Creek

Visto por última vez el 26 de mayo alrededor de Devils Tramping Ground Rd en Bear Creek

**Tania**  
**919-930-5834**

**CALL OR TEXT**

**Adrian**  
**919-548-4880**

**LLAME O ENVÍE UN MENSAJE**

# Chatham News + Record

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The Chatham News + Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by Chatham Media Group LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Subscription rates: 1 year print + digital — \$52; monthly — \$5.99. Digital only — \$3.99 monthly. Periodicals postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Siler City.

**N.C. POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Chatham News + Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344

# ELECTION

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In Chatham, only Siler City and portions of Cary inside Chatham elect town officials by voting districts, and will likely host their town elections in March 2022. Town officials whose seats would normally have expired in November — including six commissioners and Siler City’s vacant mayor’s seat — will have their terms extended accordingly. (See below for a complete list of expiring municipal offices.)

“Now we’ll still have a November election,” said Pandora Paschal, director of Chatham County’s board of elections. “But it’ll be for the Town of Pittsboro and the Town of Goldston, and the Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District.”

Despite separating Siler City’s and Cary’s elections from the regular schedule, the delay is unlikely to complicate organization for the county’s

election board. Instead of running a second round of standalone elections for municipal offices, the board will pair them with 2022’s primary elections, also to be held in March.

“People will turn out anyway in the primaries,” Paschal said. “The Sheriff’s Office will be up. There’s (N.C.) House 54, maybe Senate, I’m not sure. So people will already be coming out for those ... It’s not like they’re coming out for an extra town election, they’re just coming out the same time as the primary.”

In past board meetings, Siler City’s commissioners expressed apprehension over the potential for delayed elections citing fear that confusion might prevent voters from casting their ballots. But Paschal suspects the opposite could be true.

“If anything — and I’m not sure if this will have an effect — but it could actually drive up their turnout,” she said. “Usually they’re just voting on town councils and mayors. In the primary, if there are primaries for the Democrats,

Republicans, Libertarians or whoever, people are going to be coming out to vote for them who probably wouldn’t normally come out and vote in the town elections even though they’re eligible.”

Paschal is glad the General Assembly interceded to standardize necessary election delays, she said, but fears the disruption in regular protocol may still frustrate voters. She hopes they’ll approach the board of elections directly to find accurate information about impending adjustments.

“Our legislators make the rules,” she said, “but sometimes when there’s delays and it drags on, and it slows down the administration, it’s kind of hard for people when the information doesn’t seem concrete. So, we try to cut out as much misinformation as possible — there sure is enough of that already.”

*Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at [dldolder@chathamnr.com](mailto:dldolder@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter @ [dldolder](https://twitter.com/dldolder).*

## Here are all the officials whose positions will be contested in 2021, or, if delayed, in 2022:

### Pittsboro

- Mayor Jim Nass, 2-year term
- Commissioner (and Mayor Pro Tem) Cindy Bray, 4-year term
- Commissioner Michael Fiocco, 4-year term

### Goldston

- Mayor Tim Cunnup, 2-year term
- Commissioner Wayne Moody, 4-year term
- Commissioner Lynn Gaines, 4-year term
- Commissioner Jonathan Hensley, 4-year term

### Siler City (delayed until March 2022)

- Vacant Mayor’s seat, 2-year term
- Commissioner (and Mayor Pro Tem) Cindy Burke Bray, 4-year term
- Commissioner Tony Siler, 4-year term
- Commissioner Lewis Fadely, 4-year term

### Cary (delayed until March 2022)

- Council Member Jennifer Robinson, 4-year term
- Council Member Jack Smith, 4-year term
- Council Member Ed Yerha, 4-year term

### Goldston-Gulf Sanitary District Board

- Member Adam Pickett, 4-year term
- Member Jane Owens, 4-year term

# CRIMES

Continued from page A1

California. Detective Delaine Womach of the Pittsboro Police Department contacted authorities in Riverside County, California, who cooperated in the inter-departmental search and eventually located Jacobo-Marcos.

“After Detective Womack secured warrants in the case,” Johnson said, “the Riverside County Sheriff’s Office detained and held Jacobo-Marcos until he was extradited back to North Carolina.”

Jacobo-Marcos has been charged with 31 counts of indecent liberties with a minor, 16 counts of first-degree sex offense, six counts of sexual battery and one count of first-degree kidnapping. He is being held under a \$1 million dollar bond and is scheduled to appear in court on August 6.

### Siler City shooting

Last Monday, Siler City police were dispatched to the 400 block of East Sixth Street in response to reports of gunshots, according to Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner. Upon arrival, officers found one person who had been shot.

Police have not identified the victim, who eventually succumbed to the gunshot wounds at an undisclosed time. The department is conducting a homicide investigation with assistance from the State Bureau of Investigations, said Wagner, who declined to provide further details

citing the sensitivity of an ongoing investigation.

The suspected murder is at least Siler City’s second fatal gun crime in the last six months. Earlier this month, an extradition team retrieved Sergio “Yovani” Rodriguez Pereira from Gwinnett County, Georgia, where he’d fled after allegedly shooting his brother-in-law, Ramon Hernandez.

Hernandez, 28, died Dec. 20 in the UNC-Chapel Hill Medical Center after he was shot several times in the torso. He’d been found earlier the same day on Waterford Street after authorities received reports of gunshots. A witness later identified Rodriguez as the shooter.

Rodriguez, 24, faces one count of first-degree murder and three counts of assault with a deadly weapon among other less serious charges. He is next scheduled to appear in court on June 30.

Siler City’s crime rate exceeds the state and national average, according to Wagner, who has worked to shore up his staff in his two years as chief. In the last complete year of data, the town had 67 violent crimes, he previously told the board of commissioners, including murder and rape, and 325 property crimes.

In Siler City’s budget for fiscal year 2021-22, which the commissioners adopted Monday, the police department stands to grow by more than 25% with plans to nearly double in the next three years.

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# COLOR

Continued from page A1

National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution’s Deep River chapter, based on Pittsboro, wraps up this Friday with a lecture on Latino education experiences in Chatham public schools. Already, it featured an event on African American history in Chatham during last Saturday’s Juneteenth observance. The first of the lectures commemorated Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month in May, and the second focused on Chatham genealogy largely using library resources.

The feedback to the events has been “really positive” so far, Evans said, with anywhere from 40-100 people registering or attending the first two events.

“What we’re trying to do basically is to open channels of communication,” Evans said of the series. “Because with stronger communication, there is stronger understanding, there is far less hatred, there is far less misunderstanding, and there is more reaching out — and truly understanding that everybody is important to this general community of Chatham County.”

Chatham is 71.6% white, according to census data, 12.7% Black and 12.5% Hispanic. Other races and ethnicities make up less than 3% of Chatham’s total population.

In recent years, many Chatham officials have made an explicit commitment to inclusivity and diversity: the county approved an equal opportunity employment plan



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Evette Evans poses at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro. Evans, a staff assistant at the library, helped develop the four-part Chatham County History of Communities of Color virtual series.**

in April and recently performed audits on diversity and workplace culture. The county’s health board declared racism as an “ongoing health crisis” last August and the health department renewed a commitment to tracking and reducing health inequities in the county.

Still, like many communities, Chatham has also had to reckon with its own histories of racial violence, discrimination and disparities. Only one North Carolina county has more recorded lynchings than Chatham, with six victims: New Hanover, with 22, many of which are associated with the 1898 Wilmington Massacre. More recently, the county was divided over the 2019 removal of the Confederate monument which stood at the county’s historic courthouse for more than a century.

Despite progress, education and discipline inequities exist for Black and brown students in Chatham at

higher rates than their white classmates. Hispanic residents make up 35% of the county’s total COVID-19 cases — a statistic even more glaring at the start of the pandemic — despite making up less than 13% of the total population.

Events such as the communities of color lecture series help continue to push conversations looking at both the county’s history and the future forward, Evans said.

That’s a theme expressed in Chatham 250’s mission statement, too: “Chatham 250’s mission is to celebrate Chatham County through diverse community centered events and activities that highlight Chatham’s uniqueness, rich history and promising future.”

And such efforts won’t end with the conclusion of the library’s series this week. Already, Evans is planning events to celebrate women farmers, National

Hispanic Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month and HBCU Awareness Month. Along with the county, she said the library is “making a really strong effort” to increase programming to facilitate better communication about and understanding of important issues.

“Doing this kind of thing is important, particularly in today’s world, where people seem to be inclined to not think the very best of one another,” Evans said. “I think programs such as this reach out to everyone and let everyone know they are individually and as a group important — that what they think, what they do, that their history and the contributions, especially people of color, have made are very important and are recognized.”

*Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at [hannah@chathamnr.com](mailto:hannah@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @ [HannerMcClellan](https://twitter.com/HannerMcClellan).*



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# VIEWPOINTS

## Who knew I needed all these new hats?

I've never really been much of a hat guy.



**BILL HORNER III**  
Publisher + Editor

Part of the reason is sensory, part of it is vanity.

I've never carried a wallet because I don't like any-

thing in my pockets. Aside from wearing a Fitbit on my near-daily three-mile walks, I normally eschew any kind of watch. I go barefoot at home, even in the winter, and because I spend so much of my day clacking away at a computer keyboard, I'm usually found not wearing my wedding ring because it cuts into my typing speed.

I'm just particular about what's "on" me, touching me — and that includes headgear.

As for the vanity part: I have very few positive physical attributes, but I did inherit my maternal grandfather's hair. His was thick and wavy and luxurious, and mine, though graying (despite my entering "brown" as my hair color on my last passport application a few years ago, to my wife's



The author's old favorite (right) and new favorite hats.

— and the State Department's — dismay) has remained wavy, and still attached to my head, all these years. I've had stylists and even the occasional person I've just met (just women, of course) ask me if I minded if they ran their fingers through my hair. Which, unlike the feel of a wallet in my back pocket or a watch on my wrist, didn't bother me in the least. (Oddly, though, none of those women asked to feel my abs.)

So what about hats? In a concession to vanity, I'm happy,

and quick, to put on a hat when my hair isn't coiffed or gelled just the right way.

I've owned a number of them over the years, but my "go to" ball cap is a distressed and weathered blue hat with a large (also blue) "KU" sewn on the front. I bought it probably 10 years ago at the campus bookstore of my alma mater, the University of Kansas. (My backup lid — and the hat I walk, and sweat, in — is my khaki Chatham News + Record cap, which I also like a lot.

Email me and I'll tell you how to get one.)

The KU hat is special. It's understated and sturdy and has accompanied me on travels to a dozen or more countries since I've owned it. It's remained my favorite despite acquiring and being gifted some other nice-looking hats that now rest unworn on a shelf in my closet.

But now, though, the KU hat has competition: a new artichoke-greenish cap I bought a few weeks ago on a whim with the "KC" logo of baseball's Kansas City Royals.

Soft and comfortable, with a perfect fit, I really like that hat. The awful Royals aren't even my favorite team, but that didn't keep me from leaving my "KU" hat at home during our family vacation last week in favor of my new lid. So when the Royals hat became soaked with sweat during a strenuous four-mile family hike to a waterfall last Sunday? I gave it a good shampooing in the shower upon our return to the rental house. Then, to keep it looking brand new, I shaped it out just so and stuffed it with a towel to dry.

Here's the problem: I love this hat so much that I just

ordered two variants from the same company in the exact same soft, comfy style: a gray one, with the NFL's Chiefs logo (Kansas City's good sports team) for football season, and a KU cap featuring a large Jayhawk mascot on the front for when the collegiate mood strikes me.

In my exuberance, I couldn't help but add to the order a cap for my son Zach, who chose the colors and logo of the Hartford Whalers, predecessor to his favorite hockey club, the Carolina Hurricanes.

My sudden and frequent purchases from the company — it's called '47 Brand, a family-owned business based in Boston — have provided me reward perks and discounts. Its great product line (I counted 61 Royals hats on the website, for example), slick direct marketing and cool website have provided me with lots of fun browsing and the possibility of a new hat addiction.

So many other possible new favorites to choose from.

Too bad I only have one head.

Bill Horner III can be reached at [bhorner3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com) or [@billthethird](https://twitter.com/billthethird).

## Offering two cents' worth not always a bad thing

Some time ago in a conversation with my older, older brother, I was lamenting some things



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

I felt were out of kilter in our world. As I went on making a mountain out of a molehill, I began to listen to myself and hear some of my own disparaging thoughts about the issue.

"You know," I finally said to my mama and daddy's first-born, "I think I'm becoming a grouchy old man."

"What do you mean 'becoming'?" he said.

I didn't think that was nice of him so I fussed at him for awhile and then I threatened to take him off my Christmas card list. This, of course, is the same older brother who has on more than one occasion told me I'm a passive-aggressive type, meaning if I don't like something I don't necessarily take out my displeasure in an active manner but rather just don't do anything about whatever it is — not a veto by doing the opposite but a veto by just doing nothing.

He may be right — at least now — but as I remember that style never worked well with my mama.

Anyway, despite all that I have continued to think about how we as human beings express ourselves and our opinions and wondered if there is a right way and a wrong way to do that.

For instance, some time ago I was in the company of someone who proceeded, without my request, to offer his opinion on an issue in which I was involved but about which he didn't know as much as he thought he knew. He went on to summarily explain why what he thought about the matter was the end-all, do-all of the situation.

At first, I was shocked — first of all that he even brought it up, since we really didn't know each other all that well, and secondly that he thought it was his right and privilege to lecture me about something involving me for which he didn't have all the details.

As I listened to him do chapter and verse on the matter, my mind was wondering what I should say. The tape that kept playing over and over in my head was my mama's admonition to "play pretty" and "be nice." So consequently, I didn't say much of anything, partly because of my mama's voice and partly because in my own mind I didn't want to come across as the jerk I thought he was.

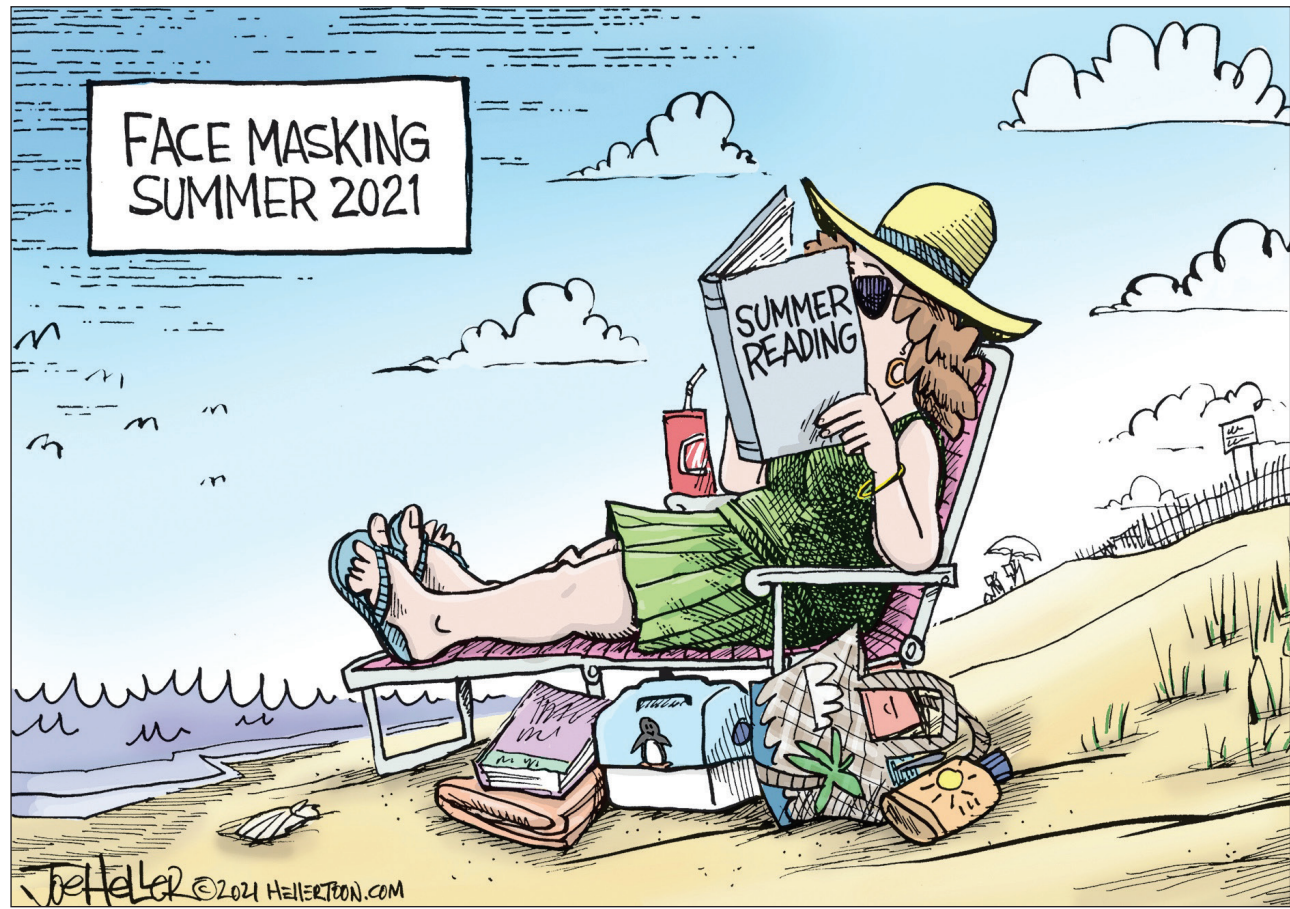
Since that day, and with the benefit of some conversation with another principal player or two in the issue, I have come to understand that most likely I was in somewhat of an error in not taking him to task, at least in some way. "For some reason," my friend told me, "he brought it up and felt compelled to tell you what he thought. Why didn't you tell him what you thought?"

That's a good question.

I think the answer I've now learned is that you can say what you think without shooting with a bazooka or a tank. I don't know if that's my mama's definition of "playing pretty" but I think it works for me.

Whether or not I can pull it off remains to be seen.

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.



## You are enough

I believe I once received a message from God.



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

I know that is quite a sentence! To tell the story, I will share about my experience with infertility as well as roller coasters, ancient Greek myths, and a state of anxiety Christians have called "the dark night of the soul."

Let me begin here: When my wife and I decided to have children, we pored over the logistics. We discussed things like healthcare, budgets and careers. We did not discuss infertility.

That's something you talk about when you can no longer avoid it.

We will never know what caused The Problem. A battery of tests all came back inconclusive. Perhaps there were a number of things not quite right, maybe even with both of us.

All we knew was The Disappointment.

In the beginning, I rallied quickly. Maybe that's a guy thing. But as the months passed, I began to feel the toll. I used to think of The Disap-

pointment as a roller coaster — my slowly rising hope that suddenly came rushing back down, meaning we had to start all over. I use this metaphor because I hate roller coasters. I don't mean to imply that there is anything fun or thrilling about infertility.

My wife talked about the image of Prometheus, the mythological figure punished by having his heart eaten every day by an eagle. Each month, my beloved felt her heart grow back only to be devoured out of her chest again.

Today she and I have three healthy kids: two boys, through two separate IVF cycles, and a girl — surprise! I had a happy Father's Day with lots of love (and three new pairs of crazy socks).

Yet, I know couples with infertility stories who do not have happy endings. And my heart breaks for them. I wanted to share my experience as a prelude to a revelation that I hope will be helpful for many people to hear whether they have children or not.

Throughout our infertility, my worst fear was that our marriage would not survive. That my wife needed more than just me. To be clear, she never led me to believe that. In fact, she assured me of just the op-

posite. My fear was in my own head and heart. A dark night of my soul.

Late one night, when I had been unable to sleep, I went to the kitchen for a glass of water and received what I can only describe as a vision. I saw a light, but not in the room itself. The light was behind my eyes. And I heard a soundless voice. A message in my brain:

*You are enough.*

Unlike biblical narratives, I was not transported to the heavenly throne room nor did I catch sight of wheels of fire in the sky. There were no angels or earthquakes. My vision would not make the Book of Revelation.

Yet, these three little words have helped me through many other periods of anxiety and times of trouble, including the past 15 months in the pandemic. Maybe you need to hear the exact same words at this point in your life, wherever you are, whatever your struggle in your soul:

*You are enough.*

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."

### What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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# VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | JAIME DETZI, CHATHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## Sound and Basic: That's a low bar for North Carolina

Does your child, your grandchild and/or your neighbor deserve a sound, basic education?

I think we can all agree that yes, each child deserves a sound, basic education

and here in N.C. it is actually mandated in our state constitution. Did you know that over the past 19 years, N.C.'s court system has determined that the state is falling short of even this very low bar? Surprised? Saddened?

Enough to actively get involved and demand that our state and local governments must provide a high-quality, exemplary education for all? It is not only the right thing to do but a smart investment as education investments directly benefit GDP, tax base and have societal benefits.

If you have lived in more than one state, especially one in the Northeast, it is obvious: money CAN buy educational resources and school districts across the United States when compared to N.C., and even within N.C., are NOT at all equitable.

Let's bring this topic home. How do inequitable school resources impact students here in Chatham County? Simple: more

money, when used appropriately, ensures a well resourced school district. A district with adequate school staffing, qualified teachers and principals, access to early learning opportunities, an equitable and dependable school funding stream, meaningful student assessments and school accountability metrics, and a strong high school career and college advising corp to assure our students are ready for a 21st century college or career opportunities.

The solution to what seems an intractable problem has been well articulated in North Carolina through the Leandro remediation plan developed as a result of a court mandated independent commission. The Leandro case was brought to the courts in 1994 by families from five school districts suing the state for failing to meet their constitutional obligations.

In 2004, the N.C. Supreme Court confirmed what had been found in 1994, that "an inordinate number of students had failed to obtain a sound basic education and that the State had failed in [its] constitutional duty." The case was again brought to the courts in 2018 and the courts stated that "the evidence before this court...is wholly inadequate to demonstrate...substantial compliance with the constitutional mandate."

The court then ordered an independent study, assigned

to WestEd, to create a report for NC on how they could meet their constitutional obligations for all students' rights to a sound, basic education. The courts stated, "WestEd concluded, and this Court found, that considerable systematic work is still required to deliver fully the Leandro right to all children in our State."

Despite there being a well articulated, comprehensive plan for addressing the most pressing needs in our schools, progress toward enacting such a plan has stalled in the General Assembly and is now back in the courtroom. After 20 years we are still not close to fulfilling our constitutional obligation to our children, and gaining ground may now be up to us, through our votes and voice, to let it be known that our children, and our communities, deserve immediate relief by way of funding what is a comprehensive system of remedies.

Why is this an urgent issue? It is apparent that underfunding our schools for such a long period of time is impacting not only individual students, but our state economy, our ability to fill jobs with viable candidates, and the opportunity to entice corporations to our state when we lack an adequate number of highly educated workers with 21st century skills.

The courts previously found: "[T]housands of students are not being prepared for full par-

ticipation in the global, interconnected economy and the society in which they live, work and engage as citizens. The costs to those students, individually, and to the State are considerable and if left unattended will result in a North Carolina that does not meet its vast potential".

Another important note by the court is that state funding "has not kept pace with the growth and needs of the PreK-12 student body." Let these numbers speak for themselves:

- N.C. ranks 39th nationally (nea.org) per pupil spending
- Over the past decade, per-pupil spending has declined by 6% in NC
- Teachers pay is No. 33 in the Nation
- Enrollment in undergraduate education programs is down across the UNC system
- N.C. ranks No. 44 nationally for principal pay
- The corporate income tax in NC is only 2.5%, one of the lowest in the nation and leaves little funds for our public schools

Take a look at other states and see what tax dollars and a well articulated, consistently executed, sustainably funded and well monitored plan can buy in education. Then look at the state of public education funding in N.C., a stark and appalling difference.

When the state does not provide enough funding to fully fund our local public schools

here in Chatham County, we have two choices. One, to use our local tax dollars to fill the holes left by the state of N.C. Or two, go without.

To bring it home here in Chatham, what could an increase in school funding mean for our students?

- A school nurse in each school
- More social workers in each school. The recommended ratio is one social worker for every 250 students. North Carolina has one for every 1,289 students.
- More school counselors in every school
- Adding middle school career/ college development coordinators
- More teachers in the pipeline to ensure increased quality
- Strong teachers and principals with sustained professional development

Every child deserves a high quality, exemplary education; as individuals it is up to each of us to advocate for this actively and vocally, at the local and state level. Leadro rulings and the subsequent comprehensive remediation plan offers us a specific plan and golden opportunity. Let us not waste it. We should set our bar higher and I know our students will rise to that challenge.

*Jaime Detzi is the executive director of the Chatham Education Foundation.*

## Thinking back on the storms — the named ones — of life

Tropical storm Claudette paid us a visit Sunday, bringing much rain but little damaging wind. The experts at N.C. State predict an above average number of storms will hit us this year. So does my farmer's almanac.

Ana, our first named storm, came ashore near Myrtle Beach last month, jumping the gun on the official start of hurricane season, which runs from June through the end of November. Bill, the second storm, formed off Hatteras about two weeks ago before charging off to the Canadian Maritimes. The next storm will be named Danny.

At this rate the meteorologists will run out of names and will have to start all over from the beginning of the alphabet; if so, I believe the good people at NOAA should pick more exciting names; Attila, Brunhilde and Caesar are much more powerful names for unstoppable forces of nature than Andy, Betty and Carl.

I lived in the midlands of South Carolina when Hugo the horrible hit us in 1989. I was lucky; the winds toppled only one of the massive pine trees in my front yard. The big pine came up by the roots, clipped the corner of the second story, crushed the porch, fell across the driveway and totaled a car parked next door. I had to use a chainsaw to get to my front door.

I missed most of Hurricane Fran by being in Boone at the time. I dodged Floyd by living in Brooklyn. A friend took me to a trail not too long after Hurricane Fran hit. At first glance the trailhead looked like a flattened forest, but upon closer inspection I saw that every tree across the trail had had its blocking segment removed by chainsaw.

Of all my hurricanes, Bonnie in August of 1998 left the most lasting impression. I lived sound-side with two other guys on Roanoke Island in a single-story party house right on the water. Dubbed the "Prince House" after the last name of its original owner, it had electricity and running water but not much else. It was uninsulated and unheated, and living there was a lot like camping out — only indoors.

What made the house such a great place to live in the summer was the full-length front porch. We could sit on the porch and watch the crab boats and sailboats and thunderstorms roll across the water. Sunsets were like lava lamps: soft, silky events to be applauded every evening. On calm mornings the color of the water and the sky merged until there was no horizon, no line dividing the two elements. The house was in the sky, and the distant mainland was a cloud.

We came crashing back to Earth when Hurricane Bonnie showed up. Official evacuation orders were issued and all the tourists drove home. We at the Prince House had a lease; technically, we were residents, so we stocked up on supplies, filled the coolers with ice, and hunkered down, waiting for the power to go out.

We did not have to wait long. Bonnie slowed and then stalled on top of us, blowing wind and rain for days. Having a hurricane became the new normal, and I became complacent about the weather.

The big sounds that make up North Carolina's vast inland sea have no lunar tides. There are inlets to the open Atlantic that ebb and flow, and there are currents in the sounds, but the primary determining factor in sound-side flooding comes from the wind. I know this now, because when the eyewall of the storm passed, the wind changed direction, and all that water that had been blown to the other end of the sound came rushing back. I was fast asleep at 6 a.m. when one of my roomies burst into my room and shook my shoulder, yelling, "We have to get out now!" The water was up under the house and waves had already taken out a couple of pilings on the porch. We stayed with friends on high ground until it was over. I never stayed in the Prince House again.

There is one named storm for which I will always have good memories: Hurricane Ivan. Again I was sound-side on Roanoke Island, and Ivan was the only uninvited guest Elizabeth and I had to crash our wedding. I was informed the next day that all the eligible bachelors gathered where the lawn met the waves that night to see who could lean into the wind the farthest before falling into the water. It sounds like fun for some, but I can do without that wind.

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

## LETTERS

### What to do about Third Street?

TO THE EDITOR:

I am biased, both ways. Mountaire is a wonderful business addition to our community. Mark Reif, Mountaire's public relations representative, became a good friend and president of the Siler City Rotary Club, where I have been a member for 50-plus years. His contributions there are greatly appreciated.

Mountaire gives generously to community projects, such as bicycles for Christmas. The Mountaire payroll is major for Siler City, Chatham County, and beyond. Mountaire water use is both critical to Siler City's water budget and Mountaire recycles to prevent water waste, including rain that falls on their very large "impervious surfaces."

I like chicken! Mountaire built on the site where the Moore brothers operated one of the first chicken processing plants in Siler City. They may not realize how embedded they are in the history of our community and the origins of the vertical integration of chicken production.

I do business on Third Street. These businesses have also supported Siler City Rotary Club, Baird Sales, Black Tractor, Siler City

Automotive, and S&J Plumbing and Pro-Kleen have all contributed regularly to Rotary Bazaar and auction for our fall fundraiser and have bought tickets for our spring money raffle. There are many other fine businesses on Third Street between 2nd Avenue and Mountaire.

I am not a customer and have not asked them for Rotary contributions or closure evaluations. Third Street formerly was Hwy. 64 and brings old to new Hwy. 64 and the new commercial strip that has grown up there as Siler City "followed the traffic" out to the bypass. Mountaire has emphasized the chicken trucks moving in and out of the plant; they must reach new Hwy. 64 bypass, but they also come in to the plant on Third Street.

We have experience. Third Street was closed for about six months to enable Mountaire construction. I asked the above business operators whether or not the closure affected their business. Baird said

closure did not make much difference but some, and Black Tractor and Pro Kleen replied similarly. Siler City Automotive calculated losses at over \$50,000 and S&J said that if Third Street closed again they would likely close their plumbing supply. I have driven down Third Street and past Mountaire more often as COVID-19 isolation has lifted, and have not encountered disruptive truck traffic; others at other times of day may have a different experience. Surely the town could place an observer to evaluate long enough to be useful.

What to do? It would seem prudent for the Town Of Siler City and/or Mountaire to survey the businesses on Third Street. Information is a very useful start for decision making. Maybe they have already done this, and I am simply ignorant. The effects of closing Third Street can be evaluated; we did that, we can measure it. The town and Mountaire might decide that the problems they hope to solve by closure are not as significant as the problems they might create; or vice versa.

**Dr. John Dykers**  
*Siler City*

### The Chatham Board of Elections' proposal to merge and split precincts is a bad idea

TO THE EDITOR:

The Chatham County Board of Elections has proposed splitting Oakland and Manns Chapel precincts, and combining four rural precincts. Merging precincts, Albright with Hadley and Bennett with Harpers Crossroads, is objectionable. This change would make it more difficult for citizens in these rural parts of our county to vote on election day.

When I ran for the state house (Dist. 54) in 2010 it became quite apparent how large Chatham County is — 709 square miles to be exact. Citizens in urban areas already have conveniences nearby. These proposed changes would add many more miles for rural citizens to travel, thereby making it more difficult to vote. I oppose these proposed changes.

**Cathy Wright**  
*Chapel Hill*

### What's on your mind?

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# VIEWPOINTS

## Government shouldn't set prices

I once found a \$20 bill on a sidewalk in Washington, D.C. I picked it up, thus ruining the punchline of an old joke.

Two economists are walking along when one points to a \$20 bill. The other shakes his head. "That's not really there, because if it were someone would already have picked it up." They keep walking.

The joke works on two levels. For certain advocates of the "efficient markets" hypothesis, which argues that professional money managers can't outperform market averages over time, the joke satirizes the idea that any chance of making an extra \$20 is always snapped up quickly by "the market."

Regarding public policy, critics

tell some version of this joke to ridicule what they understand advocates of free enterprise to be asserting: that markets always produce the best-possible outcomes. No government intervention is required because markets are, in effect, perfect without it.

This is a silly caricature of what most free-marketeers actually believe, however. We recognize that markets are highly imperfect — as are all human institutions. They are imperfect because human beings are imperfect. We have biases. We make mistakes. We yield to temptations.

The real reason to be skeptical of government "fixes" is that the actual human beings who craft and carry out public policies are themselves biased and fallible. Markets do not render perfect outcomes, but attempts to second-guess them often result in government failure.

I think debates about the minimum wage represent a telling

case. Over the decades, I have heard many advocates claim that businesses themselves will be better off if government raises the minimum wage. Why? Because if businesses paid much higher wages, that would reduce turnover and make their employees more productive.

Responding to this argument does not require me to insist that all businesses are currently paying all their workers the "right" amount of money. I am willing to grant that some employers could make themselves better off by paying their employees more. What I am not willing to grant is that most employers are so uninformed, so foolish, or so inattentive to maximizing their profits. Minimum-wage advocates are essentially suggesting that the sidewalks of the labor market are blanketed with \$20 bills that these uninformed, foolish, inattentive employers refuse to pick up.

If you truly believe that, why

waste time arguing with me? You should go pocket those piles of cash. Not only would you personally benefit, but you'd also improve the lives of all those oppressed workers.

Of course markets aren't perfect. They also bear little resemblance to the economists-on-the-sidewalk joke. Markets are in constant motion. The closer we get to them, the more details we can pick out — but even then our knowledge is constrained.

The reason most industries with lesser-skilled workers don't already pay \$15 an hour is that they see details the politicians and political activists can't see. They know some of their youngest, least-skilled workers don't generate anywhere close to \$15 an hour in output. If forced to pay them more than their labor is worth, some businesses will let them go. Others will respond by adjusting hours, non-wage benefits, and working conditions

in ways that many employees won't like. Still others will raise consumer prices to offset their higher payrolls.

There are, in other words, real costs associated with picking up "free" \$20 bills.

By the way, that \$20 bill I saw in Washington was near the front door of a restaurant. I picked it up, took it inside, and left it with the manager, assuming that one of his patrons had accidentally dropped it on the way out and might come back to claim it.

Why not pocket it? Because I want to live in a world where dropped cash gets returned to its rightful owner. In a free society, we need not accept any current state of affairs. We always have the power to act to make it better. But that doesn't require we force our preferences on others.

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

## A North Carolinian in Afghanistan to 'the bitter end'

President Joe Biden has ordered the troops in Afghanistan to be home by September.

Why does one North Carolina man promise to continue his work there?

David Zucchini, winner earlier this month of a Pulitzer Prize for his book, "Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy," lives in Durham. He plans to keep working in Afghanistan "until the bitter end."

Why? Zucchini, a former reporter for the Raleigh News & Observer and the Los

Angles Times, currently writes about Afghanistan for The New York Times.

He explains, "I am fascinated by the place. I've been going there for 20 years and we're at a really pivotal moment in Afghanistan. I was there for the tail end of the invasion and been going back and forth I don't know how many times since then. I know a lot of people there, been to a lot of places there and really care about the country. I want to be there when things shake out, and later this year I think we're going to see some big changes."

In a May 6 article for the Times, Zucchini summarized the 20-year history of American involvement in Afghanistan, concluding, "A combat mission that has dogged four presidents — who reckoned with American casualties, a ruthless enemy and an often corrupt and confounding Afghan government partner — is at last coming to an end."

Coming to an end, but not yet at an end, as Zucchini explained in two Times articles earlier this month.

In a June 5 story Zucchini relates the story of Afghan Air Force Maj. Naiem Asadi, who had been in hiding with his wife and daughter, age 5, for seven months. The Taliban had threatened him, posting his photo online with instructions: "Find him and kill him."

After initially being turned down for a refugee application for permission to enter the United States, Assadi was granted a "humanitarian parole" by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Assadi and his family have safely relocated to the U.S. aided by Kimberley Motley, a North Carolina-based human rights attorney.

But his story raises questions about other Afghan pilots, many of whom could be targets of the Taliban. Lt. Col. Jalaluddin Ibrahimkhel, an Afghan Air Force spokesman, stated, "It's a pity. He did this to escape from serving his homeland" and that others were now more likely to "make excuses and escape."

Zucchini writes, "Many pilots and soldiers have been threatened by the Taliban. Most can only dream of relocating their families to the United States."

Another group of Afghans whose service to Americans puts them at risk are those who served as interpreters.

In a June 10 Times article coauthored by Najim Rahim, Zucchini quotes former interpreter Shoab Walizada: "I get phone calls from the Taliban saying, 'We will kill you' — they know who I am and that I worked for the Americans."

Zucchini continues, "Now, as American troops depart and Americans experience a growing sense of anxiety and despair, the visa applications have taken on renewed urgency. With the Taliban taking advantage of the U.S. withdrawal, many former interpreters say they are more likely than ever to be killed."

Zucchini reports that more than 18,000 Afghans are awaiting decisions on their applications, for Special Immigrant Visas ("SIVs") according to the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan. "Many say they are seized by dread, fearing they will be denied, or approved only after they have been hunted down and killed," he writes.

The fates of Afghan military and interpreters will be only two of the many stories Zucchini will report as the American military withdrawal continues and after its completion.

*D.G. Martin hosts "North Carolina Bookwatch," at 11 a.m. Sundays and 5 p.m. Tuesdays on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel at 8 p.m. Tuesdays and other times.*

## Yesterday's news tomorrow

"I'm tired of reading yesterday's news tomorrow," a friend com-

plained about his local daily newspaper. "I'm not going to pay to get Saturday's ball scores in Monday or Tuesday's paper."

The once proud newspaper profession has been humbled and weakened, causing concerns about the future of informing the public.

Let me be clear from the outset. Even with their problems and shortcomings, I strongly encourage you to support your local newspaper by subscribing to it, just as I want you to support your local radio and television stations by buying from their advertisers.

We begin by understanding the mission of the news business. It is equally divided between disseminating news while generating enough revenues to pay the costs of so doing and making some profit. Not too many years ago we knew the owners and publishers of papers, seeing them in church, at civic or social settings. But you can count on your fingers the number of papers still owned locally, and they struggle to remain true to their mission. Most papers are part of a large chain, generally financed by hedge funds, and their mission appears to be to eke out a profit, not so easy as it once was. The same is true with television and radio stations. But that's not the only change.

Journalism itself changed, venturing from the who, what, when, where,

why and how of the story. When I first started, if a reporter had a slant, bias or opinion about a story it was inserted on the editorial page, not the front page. Watergate was a big catalyst for change, as reporters recognized they needed to be more adversarial, questioning those in positions of leadership. But the style of reporting also changed, evolving more into human-interest stories. Sometimes it was hard sorting out the facts from how the story impacted a person or group. These journalistic style changes led too many papers, too far to the left, forgetting this is a center-right state. They lost subscribers, who now had other options for news.

Management also failed to grasp the impact of the internet and how fast it changed us. They couldn't figure out how to monetize online news, wanting to charge readers for articles the public could receive online for free. Classified ads, a principal source of revenue, disappeared, moving to free listings on the web. As the ratio of operating costs (especially of printing and delivering hard-copy papers) to revenues got further out of balance, papers raised subscription prices and cut reporters, essentially giving up their exclusive franchise of in-depth local reporting. Readers quickly realized they were paying more to get less and canceled their subscriptions. Many who remained quipped they did so in order to read the obituaries, which became a major revenue source for papers. Add to these problems the fact that Millennials, Generation Y and Z young people never developed the habit of reading hard-copy papers, getting all their news online.

What's the future, everyone (includ-

ing those in the profession) is asking?

Here's my spin: The big question is who will pay for trusted, independent, accurate and timely dissemination of news. The Bible admonishes us against putting new wine in old wineskins, a recognition that the news business has to change. We cannot and should not depend on social media and many internet sources; one can say, make claims, accuse or fabricate almost anything on these sites, with no vetting whether a statement is true or not. Making decisions based on faulty or misleading information is a recipe for disaster.

Some say the news profession will turn to donors to fund news delivery, but this is vexing; one has to question how these contributors will influence the slant of the news we receive. The UNC school of journalism is currently under questioning as to whether a major contributor to that school might have influenced a hiring or tenure decision. Nobody wants their news coverage influenced by the largest donor.

The sad but simple truth is that the news profession itself must humbly acknowledge their shortcomings and have the courage to fix what's wrong.

We face many questions as we look into the future, but none so important as reestablishing trust, and that needs to start with making sure the news we get is sound and truthful. It has to be the foundation on which we stand.

*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.*

### GUEST COLUMN | GARY PEARCE

## What Boris Johnson can teach Democrats

To many Americans, especially Democrats, Boris Johnson is a clownish British version of former President Trump. But Democrats might take a page from Johnson, especially on how to talk to people.

The party is going through self-analysis now. Yes, President Biden beat Trump and Democrats won a 50-50 split in the Senate. But they'd hoped to do much better; they want to get to the bottom of why the bottom fell out on their high hopes.

Democrats being Democrats, they think they need a stronger economic-policy message — and the right set of policy proposals.

Not so fast. There's a reason most people avoid economics classes in school. Economics is boring. Economic policy proposals are boring.

Americans want specifics, but they yearn for hope and optimism. They're listening more for tone: confidence, strength and persistence. They want to hear music, not just read lyrics.

Boris Johnson gets it. He says his goal as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is "to recapture some of the energy and optimism that this country used to have."

Democrats could use more energy and optimism — and less hectoring and lecturing.

Johnson's style is analyzed in a new article in The Atlantic, "The Minister of Chaos: Boris Johnson knows exactly what he's doing," by Tom McTague. He wrote of Johnson, "To him, the point of politics — and life — is not to

squabble over facts; it's to offer people a story they can believe in."

Johnson led the Brexit "Leave" campaign in 2016, just before Trump won the Presidency. McTague notes that the "two campaigns looked similar on the surface — populist, nationalist, anti-establishment."

But Johnson's story isn't the same as Trump's "American carnage." Johnson says the U.K., contrary to "claims of impending disaster ... is a great and remarkable and interesting country in its own right."

Johnson is a former journalist. He knows the power of words. He says, "People live by narrative. Human beings are creatures of the imagination."

The article added:

"Johnson understands the art of politics better than his critics and rivals do. He is right that his is a battle to write the national story, and that this requires offering people hope and agency, a sense of optimism and pride in place. He has shown that he is a master at finding the story voters want to hear."

Writing the national story is the challenge Democrats face. Studying the UK makes sense; we share a mother tongue.

At this month's G7 meeting in Cornwall, England, there was much talk about the "special relationship" between the U.S. and the U.K. There also has been, over the last 40 years, a rhythmic relationship between the two nation's politics.

Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, both conservatives, came to power at the same time. So did New Democrat Bill Clinton and New Labour Tony Blair. Then came Trump and Johnson. Now Biden and Johnson.

Despite their parallels, Johnson isn't a Trump clone. At the G7 meetings, he and President Biden agreed on climate change, women's rights, sanctions against Russia and a middle-class economic agenda. Johnson compared Biden's infrastructure bill to his promise of "leveling up" the economically struggling north of England with the more prosperous south.

He said, "When it comes to building back better, we're totally on the same page. It's been very interesting and very refreshing."

As Democrats struggle to tell their story in today's divided America, they might study how Johnson tells his. Sometimes he might be a clown. But sometimes clowns are on to something. And given today's angry politics, it wouldn't hurt to laugh and lighten up a bit.

*Gary Pearce was a reporter and editor at The News & Observer, a political consultant, and an adviser to Governor Jim Hunt (1976-1984 and 1992-2000). He blogs about politics and public policy at www.NewDayforNC.com. To read The Atlantic article, go to: https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/07/boris-johnson-minister-of-chaos/619010/.*

# STUDENTS

Continued from page A1

relief act and the American Rescue Plan Act, will be spent on technology and connectivity devices, at least 68 school and district staff positions and more — including summer programming over the next three years.

The CCS Board of Education approved the district's summer learning plan in April. The plan includes elements mandated by House Bill 82, which state legislators unanimously approved on April 1 to combat COVID-19 learning challenges.

"We bring a similar plan to you every summer of this nature," Amanda Hartness, CCS assistant superintendent of Academic Services & Instructional Support, told the board at its April meeting. "We've always had a tradition of offering summer opportunities for our students, but this year, it comes with many more layers of complexity and requirements."

## 'Filling the gaps that COVID left'

HB82 requires school districts to offer students at least 150 hours or 30 days of in-person summer instruction, along with a minimum of one enrichment activity during each instructional day. While the program is geared toward at-risk students, any student may attend, provided there's space for them.

Chatham County Schools invited more than 3,000 students to take part, and to date nearly 1,200 have enrolled in K-8 and about 425 in high school programming, with the potential for up to another 300 high schoolers who will participate in online



Submitted photo

**Sherri Homan (back left), middle school instructional program facilitator, and Darlene Reap-Klosty, MTSS instructional coordinator, help prepare for CCS's summer programming. The district is giving summer teachers tubs filled with classroom supplies and materials, along with lesson plans and digital resources.**

course credits through N.C. Virtual School or Central Carolina Community College.

The opportunities are open to all students, and participation is voluntary.

"What's different in our district," Hartness told the News + Record, "(is that) in addition to the required pieces for the academic components, we're also offering these other free opportunities to any student in the district, regardless of who is on grade-level or not.

An overview of the programming, "Ignite Chatham: Empowering Learners," can be found online ([rb.gy/nttgsf](http://rb.gy/nttgsf)) and includes the dates, times and contact information for the district's 10 different summer programs, which you can view in the information box adjacent to this story.

After a year of remote and hybrid learning — including a virtual summer program last summer — this year, all instruction will be in-person. As mandated by the

state, these programs include meal services and physical activity for each instructional day, small group instruction, social emotional support and transportation. It also includes instruction for End of Course subjects and credit recovery opportunities at the high school level. K-8 students can also receive reading, math and science instruction, with science required for grades 3-8.

The district previously estimated the six-week program would cost \$1.5 million, to be fully funded by various federal and state funds. The summer program's approximately 100 staffers will be paid their daily rates of pay, plus a \$1,200 bonus — dictated by the state for certain teachers but expanded by CCS to all certified summer staff.

"That's something that we've chosen to do to entice our staff to want to work," Hartness said.

She said the district originally "fell short" in having enough excep-

tional children teachers signed up for the summer, as those classes require one teacher for every student. EC (exceptional child) teachers will get a \$2,000 bonus instead.

"We needed more staff to support EC, and that's our most vulnerable group of students," Hartness said. "It was really important that we were able to serve those students and that we were able to have appropriate staff to keep them safe."

In addition, 3rd-grade teachers can earn \$50 for each student who passes the reading end-of-grade assessment by the program's end.

CCS teachers will also get tubs filled with classroom supplies and materials, along with lesson plans with digital links to resources. In some other districts, summer teachers come up with their own lesson plans and get little to no supplies.

"That's one thing I'm really proud of," Hartness said of the supplies, "And we've had pro-

## CCS SUMMER PROGRAMS

- K-8 Reading, Math, Science Ignite Camp: June 21st- July 29th
- High School Summer School: June 15 - Aug 12
- High School College-Ready Academies: June 15 - Aug 12
- High School CTE Summer Academies: June 15 - Aug 12
- High School Voluntary Dual Enrollment: CCCC > May 19 - Aug. 3; N.C. Virtual Public School > July 1 - Aug. 11
- Extended School Year, Recovery Services, Compensatory Services for Exceptional Children's Division: Various offerings for K-8, HS
- Occupational Course of Study Credit Recovery for Exceptional Children's Division: Various offerings
- Summer Enrichment/Art Camps (K-12)
- AIG Summer Camp (3-5)
- YMCA Summer Programs: June 14 - August 6

grams like this for years, as far as the way we do our summer camps."

The district is also paying classified staff — such as custodians, bus drivers and instructional assistants — time and a half and a \$500 bonus. Bonuses for classified staff were not required by the state.

Also not required by the state, the district partnered with dozens of community organizations to provide summer enrichment opportunities for students beyond its 10 programs — camps for dual language, theater, dance, recycling and more. (You can view the full list of offerings at [rb.gy/1cyvpp](http://rb.gy/1cyvpp).)

CCS students can attend such opportunities for free; the district is paying for any student enrolled at CCS to attend.

"We have thousands of our students who are going to leadership camps and poetry camps and

YMCA camps, parks and rec camps, dance, theater, camps, all kinds of things. Any student in Chatham County Schools that desires to have some type of summer opportunity could access it if they so desire," Hartness said, adding that it's a "win-win" for all groups involved.

This is what Chatham County, and this type of small community, is all about, she said.

"Everybody lost something during COVID," she said, "whether it be business, whether it be academics, whether it be socialization, time or loss of income. To me, this summer program is just that perfect partnership of kind of filling the gaps that COVID left for all of those different groups."

Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at [hannah@chathamnr.com](mailto:hannah@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**While beer is BMC's primary ware, Rice hopes to promote the brewery as a family destination and will sell cookies made from malted grain.**

# BREWERY

Continued from page A1

of Belgian candied sugar and fermented with Trappist yeast."

"We have a list of 13 beers and recipes that we've tested and we brewed and we're just waiting to scale up and sell," Rice said. "So we're really excited about all of them."

And BMC — which stands for "Bite My Cookie" — will feature another unique product: baked goods made from spent grain.

"To make beer we use malted grains and we extract all the sugar out of those," Rice said. "But then we're left with the grain itself, and there's still nutritional value in that grain. So, we're

going to pull some of it out, dry it in a dehydrator, and we can grind it into flour that we'll have a commercial restaurant use to make cookies that we'll sell here at the brewery."

He hopes the cookie menu will signal to visitors that BMC is a family-friendly destination, not just a bar.

"We just don't want to be a beer hall," Rice said. "We picked this place in particular because of the open spaces and a family atmosphere that most of the events have. And so if somebody wants to come out with their family and have a picnic and they can pick up a couple of cookies, we're all for that."

Rice, himself a scientist, got his start as a home brewer more than

30 years ago. He made his career as a pharmaceutical researcher specializing in drug discovery, cell biology and yeast physiology. But commercial brewing was always the dream. After years of deliberation, he decided in 2019 it was finally time to ditch his career in research and pursue his lifelong passion.

Then the coronavirus pandemic hit.

"It's been interesting to say the least," he said. "But we're really glad that things are coming around."

Last month, The Plant unveiled its new Bath House, a standalone building housing three private bathrooms, which will primarily serve BMC patrons. More than 50 attended its

grand opening, including Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass and other Chatham officials. Such public activity encourages Rice, he said, but still he plans to save BMC's official grand opening for later this summer.

"We just want to make sure we've got all of our processes down, we've got beer on hand, and we'll feel out what it's like when people first start coming out," Rice said. "... So we'll do a soft opening, get us to the point where we're feeling confident that we can handle a grand opening, and then we'll do a grand opening."

But that's not to deter anyone from visiting the brewery, he pointed out. As COVID-19 recedes and public gatherings revive, Rice hopes Pittsboro residents will make BMC their post-pandemic haunt.

"It's been so helter-skelter in the last year, we just didn't want to be disappointing the people," Rice said. "But I know there's a good group of people that want to come out and share beers with us and life experiences and we're just we're looking forward to being able to open to do that — to provide a space for people to get together."

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at [dldolder@chathamnr.com](mailto:dldolder@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter @dldolder.

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Chatham News + Record

# Gloria Mock joins CN+R staff as Advertising + Marketing Manager

CN+R Staff Report

Gloria Mock, the former advertising director for INDY Week and a veteran event and festival producer, has joined the staff of the News + Record as Advertising + Marketing Manager, Publisher Bill Horner III announced.

In the position, Mock will be responsible for all advertising sales and revenue generation through News + Record promotions and events.

Mock assumes the position held by Dawn Parker, whose family has moved to Wake County.

"We're very excited to have Gloria as part of our team," Horner said. "She has extensive print advertising sales experience and is very highly regarded in our

industry as a sales professional. As we expand what we're offering to our readers and audiences in Chatham County, Gloria is a perfect fit for the position."

After graduating from the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism with an emphasis in advertising, Mock began her career at The South Boston News in Southside Virginia. Upon returning to the Triangle, she landed a job at the Comic Review, which was eventually purchased by the Independent Weekly (now INDY Week) where she held several roles throughout her tenure. In her time working in sponsorship development, Mock also helped produce the Hopscoth Music Festival for the past six years.

"I was having the time of my life helping to run Hopscoth music festival," Mock said.

She broadened her event production experience with the EnoFest in Durham and at Hulaween in Florida. But

when the COVID-19 pandemic shut down live music events, she began to explore a possible change in careers.

"That's when I met Bill Horner III," Mock said. "I could see right away that he has vision, he's innovative and open to new ideas and I wanted to be part of that. The viability of local media has become so important and this opportunity gives me a seat at the table, to take part in the conversation. Chatham County is not only home for me — it's also unique and fascinating. There is so much rich history and thriving agriculture against the backdrop of expansive growth and development."

Mock is no stranger to Chatham. She lives on the border of the county at the Orange County line and her husband Mouse Mock is a real estate broker and property manager who focuses much of his business in north Chatham. Her brother-in-law (Pete Mock) is also the book buyer at McIn-

tyre's in Fearrington Village.

"This is our neck of the woods," Mock said. "It's our home. I love this community."

While Mock says she's thrilled to be returning to a news media organization, she specifically is looking forward to meeting clients, building advertising campaigns, working on projects such as La Voz de Chatham and much more.

"I kind of feel a little like a kid in a candy store," Mock said. "There are so many opportunities to build and create ... It's so exciting and I'm honored to be part of this team."

Mock, a yoga enthusiast and Grateful Dead fan, and is an avid hiker. She also enjoys traveling — whether visiting a new restaurant five miles down the road or a destination hundreds or thousands of miles away. During the lockdown, she developed an interest in history and psychology and has been devouring podcasts and lectures in these fields. The Apex High School

graduate says she's also a fan of kombucha, white Russians, the Oxford comma and author Barbara Kingsolver.

"Our print product, the News + Record newspaper, has won more news and reporting awards than any other community paper in North Carolina the last two years," Horner said. "Gloria is going to help share our value proposition with advertisers, but she also will focus on getting ad support for our other products, including a video news program we're developing, new digital products and events. I couldn't be more excited to have someone with her experience and of her caliber to help us showcase our work."

"I love people and their stories," Mock said. "I think that is my superpower. I'm a connector. I'm looking forward to building new connections here in Chatham County."

Mock can be reached at gloria@chathamnr.com or by phone at 919-270-2021.

## JOHNSON

Continued from page A1

hold his hand and get him up the stairs, and then do the same thing getting him back down the stairs."

Curtis persevered, conquered his fears, and eventually graduated from the Chatham County School system.

Today he's a volunteer firefighter in Wilmington.

"He's out there helping save other people's lives," Johnson said. "And we helped him along the way, because he learned to go up and down those stairs."

Those who have worked with Johnson over the course of her career also describe her as something of a life-saver for CIS. Her steady hand — and her keen eye on the finances — has played a critical role in helping the organization with its mission to surround students with a network of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Johnson, 65, retired last week after a 21-year career at Communities In Schools of Chatham County, now based in Siler City — a career which began when CIS was known as "Chatham Together" and Johnson arrived at the nonprofit as an office manager, and the "fourth or fifth" member of the organization's staff and little formal training for the role.

The former 10th-grade dropout departs as CIS's chief operations manager, having overseen an annual budget in excess of \$600,000 with a firm penchant for detail.

And with heartfelt appreciation of co-workers who've labored beside her.

CIS's former executive director, Kim Caraganis, who retired last spring, remembers Johnson's early days at Chatham Together.

"Pam had the experience of working in a for-profit setting, bringing a professionalism to the organization that buoyed our organizational policies, technology, and overall organizational health," Caraganis said. "This allowed CIS to grow and showed our funders and supporters that we had the infrastructure to steward their support."

**'That's who Pam is'**

Caraganis recalls many occasions working on grant applications under tight deadlines and detailed parameters.

"The table in the waiting area was covered with papers and stacks, and Pam stuck with me to the bitter end and organized it all with post-its — and then checked and rechecked everything," she said.

"She made sure we had everything right. That's who Pam was, that's who she is. She'd stay late, give up personal time, work

nights, weekend, vacations ... whatever it took to get the job done."

Before coming to Chatham Together, Johnson had already worked in the corporate environment, including a stint as one of the early employees at the shipping giant Federal Express. But after moving to Chatham County, she worked several part-time jobs at once — including at the Chatham Education Foundation. She and Caraganis, who would become Chatham Together's director and oversaw its affiliation with the national Communities In Schools organization, each had young children at the time; they got to know each other.

Johnson didn't have an accounting degree or much accounting experience, but through her work at the Education Foundation learned to use the same accounting software Chatham Together was using.

"That's what got me the job," Johnson said.

Back then, Chatham Together was, "for sure, just a mom and pop organization," she said. When she joined the staff, the personnel policy was "literally one piece of paper," Johnson remembers.

"It consisted of the holidays that people could take off, and a little bit of a sick leave and vacation leave policy," she said. "And that was it. That was the policy."

Knowing the organization need more substantive practices and policies in order to grow and thrive, Johnson began to make suggestions for changes. She said Caraganis and "inspirational board members" encouraged her to work at that.

"I really wanted to make the agency stronger," she said. "Kim was the creative person with the vision, and I was the person who could take her vision and the board's vision and put it into concrete action. And I think that's just a really good balance. I was always just willing to do the work to take those decisions and make them reality ..."

"So that's been my role. I'm an organizer. I'm a doer and when I hear about good ideas, I can help put meat on the bone, instead of it just being 'pie in the sky.'"

**An eye for detail**

A native of Nash County, Johnson and her husband, Steve, settled in Chatham by virtue of having a friend who had a home available for rent. (Steve retired about three years ago as a research specialist in the orthopedic lab at Duke University.)

Despite leaving high school after 10th grade, Johnson's persistence and eye for detail got her jobs at large corporate operations before she moved to Chatham County. Around the time she began working for Chatham Together, and long after earning her GED, she went back to school at Central Carolina Community College at age 43 — and graduated with honors.

She applied her talents and knowledge well, said Caraganis, who depended upon Johnson for her "wizardry of financial matters and planning skills and all matters HR."

"She took the time and the initiative to teach herself about things she didn't know — everything from accounting to phone/computer

systems," Caraganis said. "She was my closest counsel in all things: celebrating little 'victories' and making difficult decisions. We did not always agree but I respected her opinion and often changed my course of thinking or operating based on her perspective."

"Caraganis' successor as executive director, Tych Cowdin, has been on staff at Communities In Schools since 2014. He described Johnson "an absolute cornerstone" for CIS, performing "all-encompassing" duties and making contributions to the agency which allowed it to grow in size and impact.

"Her tireless work ethic, reliability and dependability have enabled CIS staff to focus solely on their direct service work and personal growth with little worry to all of the behind-the-scenes effort it takes to coordinate a well-functioning non-profit," Cowdin said.

When Johnson joined Chatham Together, Shirille Lee was already there. Now the Youth F.I.R.S.T. Student Support Specialist, Lee also described Johnson as the behind-the-scenes glue which has held CIS together.

"We may be the faces people associate with Communities In Schools, but Pam is the backbone that keeps up standing tall in this community," Lee said.

Johnson's focus on fiscal accountability and policy kept Lee and other employees on their toes, she said. But Johnson was more than a strict overseer.

**'Tried to make myself better'**

"She's family," Lee said.

"She was there for my girls' dedication when their adoption was final; she was there when my brother and aunt died. She has been on my school contact list to pick up the girls if anything happened to me or I could not get to the school in time. She has kept my mom happy with an endless supply of peach honey. She's my sister. She laughs with me, cries with me, complains with me, helps me see the other side ... We don't always agree — most sisters don't — but at the end of the day I know she loves me and I love her."

Long-time board member Paul Bauer said another of Johnson's strengths was keeping board members informed and engaged.

"From the smallest of questions to the most complicated issue, Pam would address it and help to develop a solution and present options about how to proceed," he said. "She helped guide the decisions, but she was always careful to let the board make decisions."

And while Johnson was always there to help staff and board members, Bauer said her main goal was "to help provide necessary resources to our school-age children in Chatham County."

"The children of our county definitely come first with her and they are her priority," he said.

Johnson says she's "deeply, deeply proud of the organization" she's leaving. She thinks Cowdin's enthusiasm and vision as its chief executive will help Communities In Schools continue to grow, and its staff — including her replacement as chief operations manager, Perla Ayala — and financial strength will enable it to

continue to help students and their families in Chatham County.

In retirement, Johnson plans to help be a caretaker for her intellectually challenged older sister, who will come to live with her and Steve in Chatham County, and to support her other family members as well — including joining Steve in more of the gardening chores at home.

And, not surprisingly, Johnson plans to continue to learn — as an avid reader and someone who has engaged in "self-reflective journey" work throughout her life, she says she's always learned more from life than from an educational institution. But she'll never forget the critical role education can play in someone's life.

"That's one of the reasons I'm so passionate about the work, and about making Communities In Schools solid," she said. "There are other 'Pams' out there who are going to drop out of school. There's always going to be that kid, and we need to show them that it's not the end of the world, that it's just one chapter in their story. It just means you might have to work harder than some other people."

"It's one of the reasons

I went back to CCCC — because I was beginning to realize if I had a little bit more formal education, I could be a stronger employee," she said. "That's why I went back to school. The kids we serve at Communities In Schools are worth the work. I didn't want to be the reason they couldn't succeed, so I tried to make myself better."

# NOW ENROLLING



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# OBITUARIES

## MARION R. JOHNSON



Marion R. Johnson, 90, of Siler City passed away on Monday, June 14, 2021, at the Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

He was the son of Arlie Johnson and Mazie Keck Johnson. He was born in Alamance County on December 9, 1930.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Marie Teague Johnson of Siler City; daughters, Marcelle J. Prater and husband Larry of Chapel Hill, and Marsha J. Lewis and husband Keith of High Point; step-grandchildren, Hunter Lewis and Michelle Prater Harrell; step-great grandchildren, Lavendar Lewis, Claudia and Finley Harrell.

Marion had a brother, William Paul Johnson, and a sister, Alma Johnson, both deceased. He worked for Collins & Aikman for 40 years and farmed raising cattle. His hobbies were fishing, hunting and gardening. He had been a member of Rocky River Baptist Church for 63 years, serving on many committees. He served three terms as a deacon, 42 years as Sunday School secretary and sang in the church choir. Marion was a member of Silk Hope Ruritan Club for 42 years with 30 years perfect attendance and also serving on many committees. He has been a member of Post 93, American Legion for 54 years, serving as chaplain for the past 3 years. He was a kind, loving person and will be missed by his family and friends.

Marion laid in repose on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City, N.C. Family and friends also paid their respects on Thursday, June 17, 2021, from 12:30-2:30 p.m. prior to the funeral service at 2:30 p.m. at Rocky River Baptist Church Fellowship Hall with Dr. Greg W. Burriss officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery with Military Rites.

Memorials may be made to Rocky River Baptist Church, 4436 Siler City-Snow Camp Rd., Siler City, N.C. 27344 or to UNC Hospice, P.O. Box 1077, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Johnson family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## ANDREW JACKSON BRADY



Andrew Jackson Brady, 90, of Bennett, passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born in Randolph County on October 16, 1930, to Robert Lee Brady and Fannie Murray Brady. He was a faithful member of Bennett Baptist Church and a Korean War Veteran. He was a farmer and worked at B.B. Walker Shoe Company for 13 years. Jack was part-owner of Joyce-Brady Funeral Home when he retired. In addition to his parents, Jack was preceded in death by his sister, Fannie Brady Pryor and brothers, Dewitt Brady and Roy Brady.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Helen Wright Brady; sons, Michael Alan Brady (Lori) and Patrick Dwayne Brady (Lorriann); grandchildren, Meghan Brady, Dylan Brady, Anna Brady, Nicole Brown (Jason) and Leigh Ann Sumner; great-granddaughter, Kayleigh Brown and a host of family and friends.

The funeral was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Bennett Baptist Church with Rev. Tim Strider presiding. The family received friends at the church prior to the service from 10 to 10:45 a.m. and after the service in the fellowship hall. The viewing room at Joyce-Brady Chapel was open on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. for those who wanted to sign the register.

Condolences may be offered online at [www.joycebrady-chapel.com](http://www.joycebrady-chapel.com).

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

## JANICE FREEMAN LAMBERT



Janice Freeman Lambert, 71, of Bear Creek passed away on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at UNC Hospice, Pittsboro.

Mrs. Lambert was born in Alamance County on March 4, 1950, the daughter of Willie C. and Mildred Brewer Freeman. Janice was a graduate of Chatham Central High School. She spent her working years at Brookwood Farms. Janice loved to crochet using her talents to give baby blankets to UNC and

Randolph hospitals. She would always pick and cut up with her friends and family. Janice is preceded in death by her mother, Mildred Brewer Freeman and her husband, Eddie Ray Lambert.

She is survived by her father, Willie C. Freeman of Bear Creek; sons, Rodney Testerman and wife Frances of Denton, Tryon Lambert of Biscoe; sisters, Kathy Hefner of Bear Creek, Tina F. Gaines and husband Steve of Goldston, Ann Ray and husband Dale of Bear Creek, and Betty Stephens of Wendell; two grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 4 p.m. at Bear Creek Baptist Church, 1278 Bonlee-Carbonton Road, Bear Creek with Rev. Bob Wachs officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Bear Creek Baptist Church, 1269 Bonlee-Carbonton Rd., c/o Joe Oldham, Bear Creek, N.C. 27207.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Lambert Family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## BRANDON WADE BRYARLEY



Brandon Wade Bryarley, 33, of Staley, passed away on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Mr. Bryarley was born in Orange County on June 8, 1988, the son of Robert Edwin and Rochelle Jolley Bryarley. Brandon spent his working years working in the scrapyard for D.H. Griffin. He loved his family, especially his children. You could find Brandon hunting and fishing in his free time, and he loved spending time riding his bikes. He was the greatest father, son and brother.

He is survived by his daughters, Pheona Bryarley and Emma Barth; son, Levi Greene and fiancé, Holly Barth, all of the home; parents, Robert Edwin and Rochelle Jolley Bryarley of Siler City; brothers, Nathan Bryarley of Liberty, Justin Bryarley of Liberty, Jordan Bryarley of Siler City; an uncle, Herb Jolley and wife Crystal of Snow Camp; and an aunt, Mary Bryarley of Siler City.

The family received friends on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Ave., Siler City, and other times at the family home. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at Fairview Cemetery, Swannanoa Avenue, Liberty with Rev. Don Southern officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Bryarley family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## LUCILLE B. JOHNSON



As recorded in Proverbs 31:10 and 25, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies... Strength and honor are her clothing, and she shall rejoice in time to come." That time of rejoicing came for Lucille B. Johnson in the early morning on the 9th day of June, 2021, when she was called home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lucille was born in Bear Creek, N.C., on December 7, 1932, to the late Ernest Thurman Hanner and Evie

Marsh Hanner. She and her 11 brothers and sisters were raised in a loving home. They were a tight-knit group who worked — and played — during the week, went to church on Sundays, and looked out for one another.

She graduated from what is now J.S. Waters School and years later attended CCCC, completing the Nursing Assistant Program. She courted and married Charlie Baldwin Jr. and they were blessed with five children. After marriage, she remained in the family home where she had grown up. There, she took care of her mother and raised her children to be kind and respectful of others. She was a gentle, compassionate, and loving woman, who many sought for advice, or a listening ear, or a simple hug that assured them everything was going to be all right. In later years, Lucille was happily married to Lonnie R. Johnson, who preceded her in death.

During her working years, Lucille was employed with several local companies, including Boling Chair Company and Quality Molded; however, she derived the most satisfaction from her work with the Child Care services she provided in her home. Many people in the area took comfort in knowing they were leaving their children in good hands when they went to work.

Lucille was a member of the Bear Creek Community Savings Club, and she was a registered and avid voter. She was a wonderful cook and will be remembered for her peach and strawberry cobblers and her molasses cake. She enjoyed sharing these and other treats with her family and folks in the community.

Above all else, Lucille was a devout Christian who began her walk with God at an early age. As a faithful member of Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church, she served as Sunday School Teacher for the Beginner and Primary classes; leader of the Buds of Promise Department; Director of the Tots Choir; member of the Centennial Gospel Singers, Life member of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, and member of the Durham District Lay Council. She was a virtuous woman who was loved by so many, and who will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Heaven has gained an angel.

Lucille was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and 10 siblings. She leaves with cherished memories, her daughters, Sharon Luanne Nettles (Phillip), Loretta Nettles, Myra Kearney (Mike), Jacqueline Waddell (General), and son, Kenneth Baldwin; a special sister, Bonnie Reaves; eight grandchildren, Candice Nettles, Amber Hester (Curtis), General Waddell (Daneque), Kyle Nettles, Cordea Nettles, Brittany Nance, Clay Nance (DeLisa), and Amber Kearney; seven great-grandchildren, Laila Waddell, YaShari Waddell, Aria Williams, Alex Williams, Elijah Hester, Raegan Hester, Gabriel Colon; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services were held at Centennial AME Zion Church on Sunday, June 13. Granddaughters and nieces served as flora bearers. Grandsons and nephews served as pall bearers.

We, the family of Lucille B. Johnson, wish to express our sincere gratitude for the love shown us during the illness and passing of our beloved mother. Your presence, prayers, and many acts of kindness have truly touched our hearts, lifted our spirits, and helped to sustain us during this time. We pray for God's blessings on each one of you.

Special thanks to Bonnie Reaves for lovingly keeping "Nay" company; to Lisa and Tony Marsh, and Clyde and Debbie Harris for their love and support; and to Thompson and Little Company for the use of their transportation services.

## LORRAINE ADELAIDE BYE DIGEORGIO

Lorraine Adelaide Bye Di-Georgio, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The family received friends from 1 to 2 p.m. on Friday, June 18, 2021, at Hillview Christian Assembly. The funeral followed at 2 p.m. with Pastor Ray Bodin officiating. Burial followed in Buffalo Cemetery.

Mrs. DiGeorgio was born in Philadelphia on May 18, 1936, to the late Robert Rush Bye and Lilla Adelaide Hoopes Bye. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John DiGeorgio, and a son, William Russell Johnston. Lorraine worked for many years as a hairdresser.

She is survived by her daughters Barbara Lehrner and Arlene Smith, both of Florida; son, Robert Johnston of Sanford; sister, Nancy Bye of Sanford; brother, Robert Bye of South Carolina; eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## BRANDON RAY FORE

Brandon Ray Fore, 43, of Sanford, died Thursday, June 17, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral was held Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Lemon Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Andy Foley and Rev. Curtis Norris presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Brandon was born on March 19, 1978, in Lee County, to Marty Ray Fore and the late Cynthia Delores Brown. He worked as a carpenter. In addition to his mother he was preceded in death by his grandfather, Forrest Fore, step-grandfather Ron Weatherhogg and great-grandparents, Carl and Lola Clayton.

Surviving relatives include his father, Marty Fore of Sanford; step-mother, Cynthia G. Fore of Sanford; grandmothers, Thelma Barker Fore of Sanford, Lois Clayton Weatherhogg of Sanford; sons, Caleb Fore and Wyatt Barker Fore, both of Sanford; sisters, Brooke Fundakowski and Nicolette Fore, both of Sanford; step-sister, Molly Lois Brown and step-brother, Taylor Allen Anderson, both of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

## BRUNHILDE VEITL SOUTHARD

Brunhilde Veitl Southard, 86, of Sanford, passed away at Liberty Commons on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

The funeral will be held at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Chapel on Friday, June 25, 2021, 2 p.m. with Pastor Larry Acord Jr. presiding. Burial will follow in the Zion Christian Church Cemetery.

She was born in Germany in the Town of Kaufbeuren on April 5, 1935, to the late Michael Veitl and Anna Rottenkolber. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by husbands, Thomas Jasper Mauldin and Ronald Southard, a daughter, Carolyn Morris, and a son, John Talcott. Mrs. Southard worked as a sales associate for JC Penney.

She is survived by her sons, Robert Mauldin of Sanford and Thomas Mauldin of Raleigh; a daughter, Angie Grijalva of Youngsville; a brother, Ewald Hostmann of Velbert, Germany; three grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com).

See **OBITUARIES**, page A10

# SUBSCRIBE

# OBITUARIES

Continued from page A9

## PAULETTE JOHNSON MCLAURIN

Paulette Johnson McLaurin, 68, of Pittsboro passed away on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill. Mrs. McLaurin was born in Chatham County on February 13, 1953, the daughter of William Paul and Ruby Jones Johnson. Paulette was a member of Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church. She spent her working years as a Teacher's Assistant. Paulette loved to spend time with her grandchildren and enjoyed cooking a delicious meal. In her free time, you could find Paulette somewhere fishing. In addition to her parents, Paulette is preceded in death by her grandson, Chase Fogle.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Earle McLaurin; daughter, Julie M. Fogle and husband Aaron of Pittsboro; son, Dwane McLaurin and wife Jennifer of Pittsboro; sister, Jean J. Loflin of Siler City; brother, Billy Johnson and wife Michelle of Morehead City; grandchildren, Alex McLaurin and wife Katie, Tanner Fogle, Laurin Fogle and Abi McLaurin.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at Pleasant Hill United Methodist Cemetery, 7019 Pleasant Hill Church Rd., Siler City, with Rev. Ray Gooch officiating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church Handicap Parking Lot Fund, c/o Dixie Tysor Clark, 340 Landrum Creek Dr., Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the McLaurin family.

Online condolences may be made at [www.pughfuneral-home.com](http://www.pughfuneral-home.com).

## CLYDE THOMAS 'TOM' WOMBLE

Clyde Thomas "Tom" Womble, 91, of Pittsboro, died Monday, June 21, 2021, at Genesis Healthcare in Siler City.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Pleasant Hill UMC Cemetery with Rev. Ray Gooch presiding.

Tom was born in Chatham County on December 8, 1929, to the late Gaius and Berta Clark Womble. He was also preceded in death by one brother, Jack Womble and one sister, Doris Womble.

Surviving is his sister, Louise Womble of Pittsboro.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Tom's memory to Pleasant Hill UMC Cemetery Fund, 7019 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Condolences may be made at [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

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

## WILLIAM EDWARD DUNSTON

William Edward Dunston, 72, of Sanford, passed away Saturday, June 19, 2021, at First-Health Hospice House in West End.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## BONNIE JEAN MCDUGALD

Bonnie Jean McDougald, 57, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, June 20, 2021, at her home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## DORTHEA BLACK

Dorthea Black, 69, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## RODNEY JR. MCKOY

Rodney Jr. McKoy, 49, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at UNC, Chapel Hill Hospitals.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## MADELINE (MILLER) HARRIS

Madeline Miller Harris, 65, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## PRIMOSE ESTELLE (EDWARDS) SUTTON

Primose Estelle Sutton, 72, of Goldston, passed away Friday, June 11, 2021, at Genesis Health in Siler City.

Funeral services were held at noon on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at Roberts Chapel Church, with burial following in the church cemetery.

## CHATHAM COMMISSIONERS

# Board approves budget and \$85 million bond proposal; hears public comment on rezoning

BY ADRIANNE CLEVEN

News + Record Correspondent

Dollar signs abounded at Monday night's Chatham Board of Commissioners meeting, during which the board officially approved the county's 2021-2022 budget and accepted a limited obligation bond proposal worth \$85 million.

The Board also heard public discourse on several development projects, including two subdivision plats and a rezoning for a proposed 55-and-older community near U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

### Debate over proposed development

Travis Blake, a developer representing Herndon Farms One LLC, presented a rezoning request to the board for a 161-unit development on U.S. Hwy. 15-501 for adults aged 55 and older. In addition to 92 single family dwellings, 16 duplexes, 34 detached rowhomes and 19 townhomes, the 97.86-acre proposed project would include both indoor and outdoor event space, community gardens, a pasture and a congregational care facility.

Zoning Administrator Planner Angela Plummer, speaking for county staff, expressed reservations with several aspects of the Herndon Farms plan. The placement of a bus stop and lack of on-street parking recorded in plans for the project were of concern, as was the availability of affordable housing.

"The applicant is proposing a payment in lieu of affordable housing," Plummer told commissioners. "This continues to be requested, and the county never sees any actual affordable housing made available to its citizens."

In a Fiscal Impact Analysis document accompanying its presentation, Herndon Farms listed a "payment-in-lieu" contribution of \$80,500 and categorized it under "one-time revenues." That figure represents one \$500 affordable housing charge per each unit in the 161-unit development.

Perhaps the most controversial part of the meeting stemmed from Blake's proposal to rezone a one-acre plot of land separated from the

residential area of the development by Hwy. 15-501. The purpose of the rezoning proposal, which would reclassify the land as "IL Light Industrial," was to build a wastewater treatment plant in that area.

"The plant itself will be two pieces of equipment that will be 50 ft. long, 18 ft. wide and 12 ft. high. That's it. That's all the room they take up," Blake said.

Chatham residents took the podium to express concerns about the wastewater treatment plant's proximity to the Briar Chapel development.

"The proposed location of the wastewater treatment plant is sandwiched between the Oak Island community and Briar Chapel, just north of the power easement near Briar Chapel's veranda and public walking trails," Chatham resident Liz Rolison told the board. "I think most of us would agree that placing a regional wastewater treatment plant a mere 500 to 700 feet from open-air dining is just not a good plan."

Blake countered concerns, noting that the project is "not meant to be a regional wastewater treatment plant," and telling community members, "You won't see the plant. ... You won't hear it, you won't smell it."

But speakers at the meeting seemed unsure, citing past difficulties with wastewater management within Briar Chapel and asking the board to act.

"Issues with the Briar Chapel wastewater treatment plant have been widely publicized, even as they are expanding to double capacity ...," said Briar Chapel resident Patricia Van Hoy. "[Herndon Farms has] conveniently located the plant and spray fields away from their development to the front of Briar Chapel, and next to eating establishments and neighboring subdivisions."

The board ultimately voted to extend the public hearing period on the development — and the wastewater plant — until its next meeting on July 19.

### Bond proposal

The board also unanimously approved a limited obligation bond proposal. The financing, which would come in at around \$85 million,

would go toward building and equipping the Chatham County Schools Central Services Building and an Emergency Operations Center.

A chunk of the financing would also be used to help refinance part of the county's existing debt, but the new interest rate after refinancing isn't yet known.

### 2021-2022 budget

The board also unanimously voted to approve the county's 2021-2022 budget at the Monday night meeting.

Anticipated expenditures in the budget include approximately \$55 million to Chatham County Schools, \$17 million to the Sheriff's Department and \$11 million to Social Services. The budget also includes a 3 percent pay increase for the County Manager, Register of Deeds, Sheriff and Board of Commissioners, noting that the salary increase is "consistent with the increases that County employees will receive."

Still, the economic divide between Chatham's eastern side and western section seemed evident to newly-elected county commissioner Franklin Gomez.

"I want to support the board in their efforts ... you all also help with the growth efforts and future developments over in the [western part of the county]," Gomez said. "... I know this entire board has committed time to the west, whether it's mentorships or volunteering to nonprofits that serve the west. I'm very thankful for you all, and I hope we can continue these efforts here in Chatham County to address growth not only in the east but potentially future growth in the west."

Commissioner Karen Howard also addressed the economic differences across the county.

"It's sometimes difficult to accept that a lot of money goes where there are a lot of people, when it means that a part of a community that doesn't have as many people looks like it's not getting enough," she said. "But we have certainly been very mindful of that ... and [county staff] has been very mindful of that ... you don't necessarily need to have the same playing field, but the playing field should be equitable and fair."

Howard also proposed that the board recognize June 19th as "June-teenth" and designate it as an official holiday within Chatham County. All three commissioners at the meeting — Howard, Gomez and board Chairperson Mike Dasher — voted in favor of the resolution.

The resolution reads, in part, "Residents and employees are encouraged to take the day to reflect and

take action to advance freedom and equality."

In addition, the board approved several fireworks displays — including one at the Governor's Club on July 4 — and approved a plethora of appointments to local committees like the Library Advisory Committee, Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee.

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## Wednesday Spotlight

Pittsboro Rotary is excited to announce this year's scholarship recipient. Bailey Jones is a 2021 graduate of Northwood High School and fully exemplifies the club motto of "service above self." An award ceremony will be held June 30 at 12pm at Forest Hall inside Chatham Mills. Want to know more or get involved? Visit [facebook.com/rotarypbo](https://facebook.com/rotarypbo)



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**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**

Morgan Oldham Jones and John Chase Jones of Bennett announce the birth of their daughter, Eliza Kay Jones. She was born April 4, 2021, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst. She weighed 8 pounds and was 19 3/4" in length.

**CHURCH NEWS**

**PLEASANT HILL U.M.C.**

Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church will celebrate Homecoming on Friday, June 27, with worship at 11 a.m. The annual Homecoming Feast will follow the service. This celebration marks 171 years of ministry. Come share the Pleasant Hill connection!

will be held at Rocky River Baptist Church this Saturday, June 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Classes will be from preschool through high school. Lunch will be provided.

On Sunday night June 27, we will host a free concert with Hindsight Bluegrass at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Building. Everyone is welcome.

The church is located at 4436 Siler City Snow Camp Rd. For more information, call 919-742-5571.

**ROCKY RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH**

Vacation Bible School

It used to be said "a car loses value the moment it drives off the lot."

No longer. The pandemic turned many a market on its head — commodity prices skyrocketed, tourism tanked, gasoline and oil values surged.



**D. LARS DOLDER**  
Enterprising Chatham

Case in point: four years ago, a brand new 2017 Ford F-250 sold for \$52,000. Last week the same truck sold for \$60,000.

"I've been doing this for 16 years," Lynn Gaines, the finance manager at Siler City's Welford Harris Ford, told me, "and I've never seen a market like this." Contributing factors are myriad. The most basic and straightforward is that demand has risen exponentially; for a year, many would-be buyers delayed vehicle purchases as they putzed around in their home hoosegows. Raw materials shortages have also made production more expensive for car manufacturers, limiting supply and inflating prices. And a global semiconductor chip shortage is delaying vehicle deliveries to dealerships.

"Currently we have four vehicles out there somewhere waiting on chips," Gaines said. "And three of those are retail; we've got people waiting on them."

During the pandemic, semiconductor demand boomed as production capacity narrowed. The small but all-important chips appear in dozens of products from household PCs and smart phones to warehouses of computers hosting cloud services. Just about every

device these days needs a semiconductor chip, and cars are low on manufacturers' priority lists.

They "are not only at the back of the line and don't get priority (for chip orders) like smartphones, PC or cloud infrastructure (providers) would get," Mario Morales, program vice president of the International Data Corporation told TechRepublic, but "... it'll take longer for them to recover."

On Tuesday, Reuters reported Nissan would be halting production at several of its Japanese factories in response to the chip shortage. The automaker has said its setbacks would affect about 500,000 cars this year. Last Month, Volkswagen stymied production at a Slovakian plant for the same reasons. GM is likewise slowing down — more than 10,000 workers will have their hours reduced across at least six factories, slowing production of at least eight vehicle models in the GM family. And in April, Ford projected in its quarterly report it would produce 1.1 million fewer vehicles than planned for 2021. Previously, the company had estimated a 40,000

car deficit due to regular pandemic circumstances.

The shortage couldn't have come at a worse time. New car scarcity arrives just when thousands around the country are finally ready to drive again. In turn, they're buying used cars — and they'll pay whatever it takes.

"It's definitely a seller's market," Gaines said, "not so much a buyer's market."

Consumer searches for used cars have doubled in the last year, according to PureCars, a consultancy that advises dealerships on marketing strategies, as first reported by Consumer Reports. And according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, used-car prices went up by 30% between May 2020 and May 2021.

So if you've got a car to sell, now's the time.

"The silver lining for consumers is that even though prices are higher, your trade-in will never be worth more than it is today, and that may put you in a better position to purchase a newer car," Lauren Donaldson, PureCars' senior director of accounts, told CR. "And if you're a consumer who recently bought a new car and you're feeling a little bit of buyer's remorse, now is a good time to sell and

move on to something else."

For dealerships, though, it's not so simple. They can't find inventory at reasonable prices. With some used cars selling at \$2,000 or \$3,000 above retail, it's impossible to make a reasonable profit without gouging customers. For salesman such as Gaines, that's impermissible.

"But I mean, we can't just break even, right?" he said. "So we're in the cross hairs of what's good for the customer and what's profitable."

**Other business news**

The Chatham Chamber of Commerce is looking for new and diverse board members with experience in human resources, auditing, legal and marketing and communications for its upcoming fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. Please contact the Chamber office by phone at 919-742-3333 or by email at info@ccucc.net for more information. All board members must be employed or own a business that is a current Chatham Chamber member.

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

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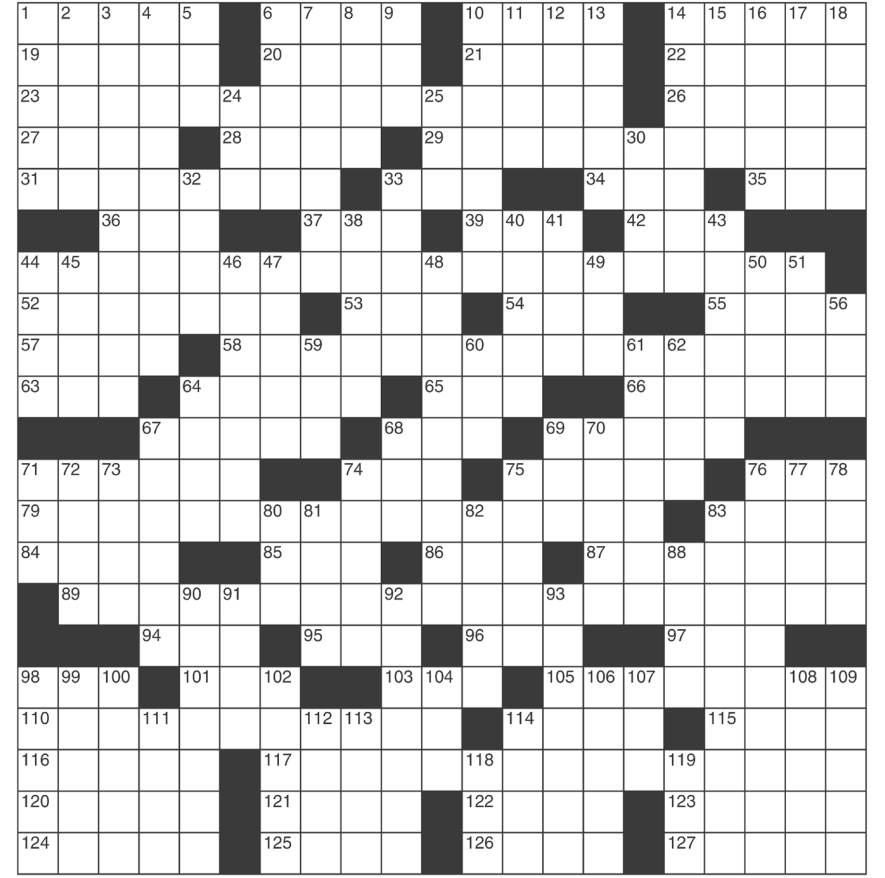
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- |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                                  | <b>54</b> Negative point                         | <b>89</b> Violins donated to people      | <b>4</b> "The Intern" actress                | <b>41</b> Hershey candy bar                   | <b>77</b> "I'm —" (greeting in Apple ads)    |
| <b>1</b> PC program shortcut                   | <b>55</b> Platform for speakers                  | <b>90</b> Folkie Guthrie                 | <b>5</b> Tolkien menace                      | <b>43</b> Halfway point                       | <b>78</b> "Cagney & Lacey" actress Tyne      |
| <b>6</b> Flog                                  | <b>57</b> "It makes sleeping comfortable," e.g.? | <b>94</b> Prior to                       | <b>6</b> Entire                              | <b>44</b> Bird's gullet                       | <b>80</b> Sushi eggs                         |
| <b>10</b> Pelting precipitation                | <b>58</b> "A Nightmare on Elm Street" director   | <b>95</b> Cool, 1940s-style              | <b>7</b> Informal German tavern              | <b>45</b> Unusual                             | <b>81</b> Ritz                               |
| <b>14</b> — Hopkins University                 | <b>59</b> Repeated                               | <b>96</b> "See ya!"                      | <b>8</b> The Hawkeye State                   | <b>46</b> Become rusty, say                   | <b>82</b> "— dabba doo!"                     |
| <b>19</b> Alternative                          | <b>60</b> Berate loudly                          | <b>97</b> With                           | <b>9</b> High-tech "appt. book"              | <b>47</b> — a million                         | <b>83</b> Obtain by entreaty                 |
| <b>20</b> Parka feature                        | <b>61</b> Holy images                            | <b>98</b> Ovine whine                    | <b>10</b> Gave birth to Tom, Dick or Harry?  | <b>48</b> Maker of major repairs              | <b>88</b> Pulls hard                         |
| <b>21</b> Quattro or TT carmaker               | <b>62</b> Device like a Tivo, in brief           | <b>101</b> Water, to Yvette              | <b>11</b> "— Lang Syne"                      | <b>49</b> Like musical works with five sharps | <b>90</b> Earth-scooping machines            |
| <b>22</b> Consume entirely                     | <b>63</b> Jigsaw unit                            | <b>103</b> K-12 gp.                      | <b>12</b> Screened at a bar door             | <b>50</b> Hardware bit                        | <b>91</b> Preside over                       |
| <b>23</b> King penguin's son?                  | <b>64</b> U.S. org. with operatives              | <b>105</b> Rebuke                        | <b>13</b> Twisted cotton thread              | <b>51</b> Gershon of "Killer Joe"             | <b>92</b> Sided against                      |
| <b>26</b> Dazzling light                       | <b>65</b> One — (a handful)                      | <b>106</b> Repeatedly                    | <b>14</b> Archie's pal, in comics            | <b>52</b> USMC NCO art style                  | <b>93</b> Bee fluids                         |
| <b>27</b> A, in Berlin                         | <b>66</b> Hauling rig                            | <b>107</b> Villain from a Virginia city? | <b>15</b> World capital on a fjord           | <b>53</b> Sure-footed equine                  | <b>98</b> Be a braggart                      |
| <b>28</b> Italian island                       | <b>67</b> Gut-punch reaction                     | <b>108</b> Growing older                 | <b>16</b> Valentine's Day symbol             | <b>54</b> Print quality meas.                 | <b>99</b> — Saxon                            |
| <b>29</b> Give a steed a spanking?             | <b>68</b> Tree of Illinois                       | <b>109</b> Villain from a Virginia city? | <b>17</b> Surgery aide                       | <b>55</b> City in Oklahoma                    | <b>100</b> Thai or Iraqi                     |
| <b>31</b> Handheld firework                    | <b>69</b> Alternative to grits                   | <b>110</b> Roofing tile                  | <b>18</b> Quickness                          | <b>56</b> Commercial suffix with Star or Sun  | <b>101</b> Old problem art style             |
| <b>33</b> Ad —                                 | <b>70</b> "— la Douce"                           | <b>111</b> Writer Wiesel                 | <b>19</b> Twisting fish                      | <b>57</b> State-run game                      | <b>102</b> Gut Pan Am competitor             |
| <b>34</b> Direction from Ariz. to Ky.          | <b>71</b> Hauling rig                            | <b>112</b> Frightful giant               | <b>20</b> Print quality meas.                | <b>58</b> Grind, as the teeth                 | <b>103</b> Trail activities                  |
| <b>35</b> Actor Danson                         | <b>72</b> Gut-punch reaction                     | <b>113</b> Sewing cases                  | <b>21</b> City in Oklahoma                   | <b>59</b> As the teeth                        | <b>104</b> Billy Joel's "Just the Way You —" |
| <b>36</b> Hwy. violation                       | <b>73</b> Tree of Illinois                       | <b>114</b> Skin qualities                | <b>30</b> City in Oklahoma                   | <b>60</b> Made attractive                     | <b>105</b> Hawkins of "Lil Abner"            |
| <b>37</b> Back in time                         | <b>74</b> Alternative to grits                   | <b>115</b> Split apart                   | <b>32</b> Commercial suffix with Star or Sun | <b>61</b> Designer                            | <b>106</b> Mom on "Family Ties"              |
| <b>39</b> Western treaty gp.                   | <b>75</b> Consumed                               | <b>116</b> Go beyond                     | <b>33</b> State-run game                     | <b>62</b> Hall: Prefix                        | <b>107</b> Poker stake                       |
| <b>42</b> Answer to "Are you?"                 | <b>76</b> Consumed                               | <b>117</b> Plains shelter                | <b>34</b> Grind, as the teeth                | <b>63</b> — latte (espresso)                  | <b>108</b> No, in Bonn                       |
| <b>44</b> Driving coast to coast on icy roads? | <b>77</b> Consumed                               | <b>118</b> Porcelain babies, maybe       | <b>35</b> Natty scarf                        | <b>64</b> "Someone to Watch Over Me" musical  | <b>109</b> Nintendo rival                    |
| <b>52</b> — Purina (old pet food company)      | <b>78</b> Consumed                               | <b>119</b> Consumed                      | <b>40</b> Natty scarf                        | <b>65</b> Made attractive                     | <b>110</b> Daddy                             |
| <b>53</b> Consumed                             | <b>79</b> Consumed                               | <b>120</b> Consumed                      | <b>41</b> Natty scarf                        | <b>66</b> Made attractive                     | <b>111</b> Poker stake                       |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

OCHS STACK SLAP CAPOS  
THAW COCOA TERA IRONY  
TIMEGONEBY RATS ARLES  
SEEPONED TASSSEL LMO  
POTPIES MURPHYOILSOAP  
TREES ARRAS STATINS  
ABRAHAMLINCOLN USS  
ARAL SINECURE SKI  
DAYS CRAB TANG STAN  
OSAKA CHRISTMASISLAND  
ATHENA ALLIE COARSE  
BROWNUNIVERSITY DIVAN  
LOOS DOCU NAES NEST  
ESS LIBERALS LARA  
SIB DAMIENCHAZELLE  
ANIMALS BETAS AREAS  
FIGUREOFFEIGHT RELEASE  
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METER IROC TREVI EERO  
EYERS SERE DEDEE DRA B

*Music On The Mann*

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FREE 'WELCOME BACK' CONCERT

# Jim Quick and Coastline to perform at Mann Center June 29

CN+R Staff Report

SANFORD — Jim Quick and Coastline will appear June 29 at the Mann Center of North Carolina for “Music on the Mann,” a free “welcome back pandemic relief concert.”

“It’s a free concert as our way of saying ‘let’s get back together and have some fun,’” said organizer Tom Snell.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. for the outdoor event, so bring your chair or a blanket. No tents or coolers will be allowed. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. and goes to 9:30 p.m. The News + Record is a sponsor of the event.

Tuesday Night Music Club will be the lead off band, followed by Jim Quick and Coastline.

Performing what he bills as “genuine swamp soul” music, Quick brings his talent to the stage with a quick-witted, knee-slapping sense of humor coupled with the clear sincerity of his love for his craft.

“As a child, I was real mischievous,” he said. “Playin’ pranks and makin’ jokes; doin’ stupid stuff you do as a kid. People would laugh; the more

they laughed, the more I’d act a fool! It was like applause for more, more, more. I loved being the center of attention. Still do. Add music and, well, that’s spice to the concoction! That’s how I roll.”

Quick’s been touring the Southeast U.S. for more than 20 years, playing nearly 250 shows per year and releasing more than 10 albums. Originally introducing their music as the Coastline Band — a band of friends who played the Carolina beach bars day in and day out — the group pushed Quick to the forefront and naturally transformed into Jim Quick & Coastline. Known for his all-out performances and deliberate, off-the-cuff wisecracks, Jim has been a gracious recipient of the Carolina Music Awards “Entertainer Of The Year Award” — 16 times.

Born and raised in deep Carolina, Quick grew up with a kind and fun-loving family. He, along with his younger sister and childhood friends, spent countless hours loping across the grasslands. In quiet time, Jim enjoyed visits with his grandfather, a Veteran

of World War II, who shared front-porch-sittin’ and lemonade sippin’ while Sgt. Loyd Merle Quick shared tales of the battle and helped little Jim conquer a debilitating stutter — a budding singer’s worst enemy.

“I grew up between the swamplands and the sandhills of Southeastern North Carolina,” he said. “I played a lot in the Gum Swamp area, my yard, and nearby fields. I didn’t have a whole lot of friends in such a sparse, rural area, so I spent most of my time with my imaginary friends. I was a true Son of the South, exploring the land on my bicycle or on foot, pretending I was one of Mark Twain’s characters or a chunky, little descendant of Lewis and Clark.”

When he wasn’t surveying the lands, Jim discovered his love for music in the confines of his bedroom, sitting in front of his Sears & Roebuck stereo with Radio Shack headphones atop his head. Playing the role of both DJ and performer, young Jim would introduce himself before the next song, with which he’d appropriately



Submitted photo

Jim Quick and his band will perform June 29 at The Mann Center in Sanford.

sing along. His playful dress rehearsal wasn’t in vain. At 14, he secured a job as a radio DJ for a small, local AM station giving him the platform he needed to learn about the entertainment business and create the stage character for which he’s known.

“I want my music to be a bridge for many genres; a place where traditional and contemporary music can unite,” Quick said. “But, I do love the pure

emotion and simple-yet-deep concepts of country music. I’m a Southern boy and it all hits home; the lyrics and roots of the music — from the melodies to chord progressions — seem to strike an ancestral nerve with me.”

The Mann Center is a 501(c)(3) community organization organized, in part, to help support the arts. Visit our website, [www.MannCenterNC.org](http://www.MannCenterNC.org) for more information.

## Chatham Arts Council awards grants to 15 local artists

From Chatham Arts Council

PITTSBORO — During the pandemic, emergency funding for artists and arts-workers has been essential. Now, the clouds are beginning to lift and emergency funding is shifting to a new phase of artist relief.

The Chatham Arts Council (CAC) is excited to announce our new JumpstART Grant awardees — 15 local artists and arts-workers. This grant is designed to help get Chatham County artists and arts-workers back to work by paying artists to make art — and to put the arts in the public sphere as we reconnect with one another in our public spaces.

“I think we are all feeling the need to emerge from a long, painful period of anxiety and

uncertainty, and no group is more valuable than the artists in our midst in helping us find a fresh perspective,” said Elisabeth Lewis Corley, JumpstART Grant panel member and CAC board member. “I was thrilled with the idea of creating a grant program specifically to say to Chatham County artists across the county: ‘We need your work. We need your energy, and we stand ready to support you.’”

Corley said among the applications received were many “that were strikingly simple, clearly articulated, touching and deeply appealing.”

“These artists will help us process what we’ve experienced, and these targeted funds are meant to spur new energy and, when possible, new creations, in celebration

of new possibilities,” she said. “We can’t wait to share some of the results in the fall.”

Grants range from \$250 to \$1,000 for individual projects, and \$500 to \$2,500 for collaborative projects. This year’s successful applicants are JR Butler, Tanja Cole, Steve Fagan, Britt Flood, Julia Kennedy, Kate Ladd, Brenda Linton, Sarah McCombie, Stephan Meyers, Nancy Ann Moore, Alexander Percy, Will Ridenour, Dolly Sickles, Wendy Spitzer and Buffy Taylor.

“It’s always gratifying being recognized for our artistic efforts,” said Alexander Percy, sculptor and recipient of the JumpstART Grant. “As an artist, being able to share with others my most vulnerable ways to express emotions, concerns, and idolatries has

always been a passion of mine. When we accomplish moments like this, we realize it is worth it to go through all the struggles on our path that take us here. I feel extremely honored to be celebrated in the county I live in.”

Applicants were required to be performing,

visual, or literary artists OR arts-workers living in Chatham County who have been financially impacted due to COVID-19 cancellations and closures. All grant recipients will participate in a public sharing of their art on Sunday, November 7. JumpstART

Grants were awarded for artwork in sculpture, quilting, bench work, painting, visual and literary art, as well as music.

JumpstART is generously funded by Manbites Dog Theater Fund and Mary Duke Biddle Foundation.

### Declare Your Financial Freedom

Independence Day is almost here. And as we make progress in moving past the COVID-19 pandemic, more of us will be able to enjoy Fourth of July activities. However you observe the holiday, it’s important to recognize all the liberties we enjoy in this country. But you may still need to work at one particular type of freedom — and that’s financial freedom. How can you achieve it?

There’s no one instant solution. But you can work toward financial independence by addressing these areas:

- **Retirement savings** — Approximately 45% of Americans think the ideal retirement involves “enjoying my well-earned freedom,” according to the March 2021 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. But when you’re retired, the risk to this freedom is obvious — the paychecks have stopped but the bills haven’t. Furthermore, you could spend two or three decades in retirement. That’s why it’s so important to contribute as much as you can afford to your tax-advantaged retirement accounts, such as your IRA and your 401(k) or another employer-sponsored plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer’s matching contribution, if one is offered. Whenever your salary goes up, try to increase the annual amount you put in your 401(k) or similar plan. And if appropriate, make sure you have a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments within your 401(k) and IRA. Most people don’t “max out” on their IRA and 401(k) each year, but, if you can consistently afford to do so, and you still have money you could invest, you may want to explore other retirement savings vehicles.
- **Illness or injury** — If you were to become seriously ill or sustain a significant injury and you couldn’t work for an extended period, the loss of income

could jeopardize your ability to achieve financial independence. Your employer may offer disability insurance as an employee benefit, but this coverage is typically quite limited, both in duration and in the amount of income being replaced. Consequently, you may want to consider purchasing private disability insurance. Keep in mind that this coverage, also, will have an end date and it probably won’t replace all the income lost while you’re out of work, but it will likely be more expansive and generous than the plan provided by your employer.

- **Long-term care** — Individuals turning 65 have about a 70% chance of eventually needing some type of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay or the assistance of a home health aide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. And these services are quite expensive — the average annual cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000, according to Genworth, an insurance company. Medicare typically covers only a small part of these expenses, so, to avoid depleting your savings and investments (and possibly subjecting your grown children to a financial burden), you may want to consider long-term care insurance or life insurance with a long-term care component. A financial advisor can help you choose a plan that’s appropriate for your needs.

By addressing these areas, you can go a long way toward attaining your financial independence. It will be a long-term pursuit, but the end goal is worth it.

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

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# Fostering homeless pets is just the start for Chatham Animal Rescue & Education

Chatham Animal Rescue & Education (CARE) was incorporated in 1975 with the name Chatham Humane Society by a group of citizens in Siler City. Today, the mission of CARE is to promote the health and safety of all dogs and cats in Chatham County. This week, we speak with board member Joan Cunningham about CARE's work, which focuses on foster caregivers for homeless cats and dogs and a variety of other programs and educational resources.

Cunningham graduated from George Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University) in Nashville before earning a degree from School of Law UNC-Chapel Hill. She worked in the Durham and Orange/Chatham District Attorneys Offices and retired from the Appellate Section of the N.C. Dept. of Justice.

She's been involved with CARE since the 1990s and has served on its board of directors in several capacities, most recently as chairperson of the Governance Committee. Cunningham and her husband Rick Goode live in Chatham County with a menagerie of dogs, cats and kittens rescued from the woods, roadways and fast food locations across the county.

**What's the past year been like for CARE? And can you give us a general update about the operation now?**

Just as all nonprofit organizations, CARE had to be creative during the pandemic. Many of our in-person events, such as adoption events at PetSmart, and our big fundraiser, Woof-A-Palooza, had to be canceled. We had to find other ways to stay in touch with our constituents and to find new ways to raise funds.

In the past we had Yappy Hour at the Carolina Brewery where people would come, sit on the patio, have a beer or wine and socialize with other people and their dogs. Registration was \$10 and came with a Yappy gift — t-shirt, tote bag, doggie water bowl, etc. We would raffle off some prizes and everyone had a great time. But when COVID-19 hit, we couldn't do that anymore. We had some Zoom Yappy Hours and developed some fun trivia contests, but the energy wasn't the same as in-person.

Now that things are opening up, we are again partnering with Carolina Brewery for "Dine and Donate" every third Monday of the month. You can either order out or dine-in at the Brewery and 5% of the day's profits is donated to CARE. We are very pleased to have Carolina Brewery helping us. They have been a great partner to work with for over 10 years.

We have also experimented with fundraising and did a really fun event called "Awkward Pet Portraits." People sent in photos of their pets and our volunteers tried to draw a picture of them. The pictures were silly, kept things light and put a smile on people's faces.

We also raised over \$12,000 during #GivingTuesday, a day in early December where people are asked to donate to their favorite nonprofit. We built a social



Submitted photo

**Cunningham says Dory is a stray cat she rescued 'who turned out to be a love bug.'**

media campaign around the event and were quite successful.

**Adopting pets was popular during the pandemic... you have data you'll share in your upcoming Impact Report, but what can you share about adoption trends?**

Adoptions were very strong during the pandemic. We had a lot of interest in both cats and dogs and were happy to report that most animals who entered the foster program during this time were successfully adopted. We had to interview people with special attention to making sure they were not just wanting a companion during the pandemic and once life got back to normal the animal would be ignored or returned.

CARE took 123 cats and 99 dogs into foster care in 2020 and adopted 87 and 92 respectively. Among our various programs CARE helped a total of 739 dogs and cats in 2020. We microchipped 551 cats and dogs and provided 613 spay/neuter surgeries.

**So what about unwanted cats and dogs — how is CARE helping with fostering those, and what are your needs when it comes to fostering?**

Unlike sheltered rescue groups that have a centralized location to see cats and dogs, CARE relies on foster families to host pets until they find their forever homes. We can only rescue as many cats and dogs as we have space for in our foster homes at any time. Fostering

a homeless animal provides the joy and satisfaction of helping an animal in need but fostering is not necessarily easy. Fostering takes a great deal of time and energy — both emotional and physical.

We ask that foster caregivers make a one-year commitment and hope they will fall in love with the joys of fostering and stick around much longer. Our foster caregivers provide shelter, socialization, some basic training and lots of love. CARE provides food, litter, flea and tick preventative, all necessary medical treatment, toys, beds and other pet items depending on donations.

**You're a non-profit. Can you talk about your fiscal status and financial and other needs and upcoming fundraisers?**

We so value the loyal supporters who enable us to help stray and unwanted dogs and cats in Chatham county. We have two general appeals a year and a variety of smaller-scale fundraisers. Our next big appeal will focus on funding for CARE's spay/neuter programs. In addition to CARE's Lillie's Fund targeted spay/neuter program, we have a program for community cats and, of course, we spay and

neuter all foster animals before adoption.

In 2020, CARE volunteers worked tirelessly to serve all the animals and to raise funds to support the animals and the organization. These efforts increased revenue in 2020 by 43%.

Currently, we are holding another art-focused fundraiser, only this time the artists are your pets! The Pet-Cas-so contest will involve cats and dogs from the community painting a picture (see the CARE website for instructions) and then you ask your family and friends to donate money to CARE to vote for your pet's artistic creation. The winner will have his/her artwork displayed at Liquidambar Gallery and Gifts in downtown Pittsboro. Voting will run through July 2. Each vote will be a donation to CARE. There is a \$10 donation to CARE to enter your pet's creation.


**Can you talk more about Lillie's Fund and your "Three for Free" program?**

CARE's Lillie's Fund is a targeted spay and neuter program that subsidizes sterilization surgeries for dogs and cats owned by lower income families in Chatham County. The fund was established in 2006 in memory of Lillie B. Cameron, a long-time CARE volunteer and

tireless advocate for making low cost spay/neuter services more accessible for Chatham County residents. CARE is grateful to have Lillie's Fund, which has enabled us to sponsor spay/neuter surgeries for between 375 and 475 pets annually over the course of a decade.

Recipients of spay/neuter assistance through CARE's Lillie's Fund normally pay a minimal cost of \$20 per pet. However, every spring during kitten and puppy season, CARE launches a three-month "Three for Free" campaign, which allows Chatham families to spay up to three females for free. For the past two years, the Three for Free campaign was funded through the Margaret T. Petrie Spaying and Neutering Foundation. CARE's Lillie's Fund also benefits from donations made through the State Employees Combined Campaign. With help from the Petrie Foundation, the SECC, and other donors to the Lillie's Fund, CARE is making progress toward reducing the numbers of unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs that are such an issue in Chatham County.


*For more information about CARE, go to <https://www.chathamanimalrescue.org>.*




## Pinehurst Medical Clinic

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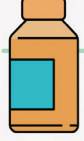
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# ‘Tonight was worth it’: Seaforth’s first in-person meet-and-greet a success

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
 News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**The Seaforth coaching staff poses alongside UNC baseball coach Scott Forbes (center, in white) after his speech in the school’s auditorium ahead of Seaforth’s first in-person coaches meet-and-greet last Wednesday. Seaforth athletic director Jason Amy called them ‘one of the best coaching staffs I’ve ever had.’**

Forbes, who has over 20 years of college coaching experience, took over the Tar Heels’ head coaching job before the 2020-21 season after the retirement of long-time coach Mike Fox. While students and their parents were arriving at the school and filing into the gym, Forbes was having a 45-minute discussion with the Seaforth coaches in the auditorium, where he spoke to them about building a program and connecting with student-athletes.

Amy, who’s known Forbes and his wife, Mandy, from his time as athletic director at Northwood, mentioned he saw parallels in the situations of him and the coaches at Seaforth.

“With him kind of just starting the program at UNC, what better person to give perspective on jumpstarting a coaching staff and giving insight on the things we need to think about,” Amy said, referring to Forbes. “His big emphasis was just to make sure that you’re there for the kids, that you ap-

See **SEAFORTH**, page B4

PITTSBORO — The Seaforth era is officially upon us. With the 2020-21 school year coming to a close, this will be the first off-season in nearly five decades with a new Chatham public high school preparing for competition in the fall. And the Hawks are starting it off with a bang.



Seaforth hosted its first in-person coaches’ meet-and-greet event for incoming students interested in athletics on June 16, which was met with a sizeable turnout that had staff excited for what’s to come.

“I was anticipating about 150 (people) and I think we exceeded that, so I’m really excited for that,” Jason Amy, Seaforth’s athletic director, said. “I believe this is just the beginning. This was a great opportunity for us to finally

stop Zooming and allow everyone to come in and meet face-to-face.”

In addition to it being a fairly packed house in Seaforth’s primary gymnasium, the event was anything but boring.

The Hawks’ meet-and-greet featured more than 25 coaches and staff of 20 junior varsity and varsity sports avail-

able to 9th and 10th graders at Seaforth this upcoming season, along with a first look at some of the Hawks’ new soccer and volleyball uniforms, the unveiling of the athletic department’s booster club, Hawks Nation, and even a coaches session with UNC-Chapel Hill baseball coach Scott Forbes.

## TENNIS, TRACK & FIELD, WRESTLING

# Regional Roundup: What Chatham-area athletes have a shot at a state title?

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Students’ time in the classroom may be over for the spring, but for many Chatham athletes, the most important time of the year is just revving up.

Last week, the NCHSAA held regionals for tennis (women’s), track & field and wrestling, with Chatham being represented in nearly all classifications across all three sports, with a total of 66 athletes participating in regionals for a shot to qualify for states, where they’ll be able to showcase their talents to all of North Carolina within their respective classifications.

Chatham participants were scattered all over the state last week — from Elkin to Greenville — with a grand total of 20 qualifying for this weekend’s state championships for their performances, including eight that were crowned regional champions.

Here’s a look back at regionals, along with a glance ahead at what’s to come this weekend in all three sports.

### Track & Field

**No. of Chatham state qualifiers: 14**

#### Regional Champions:

- Jay Charbonneau (Woods Charter; first place, boys 400-meter dash, 52.53)
- Brooke Garner (Chatham Charter; first place, girls triple jump (33-08.00))
- Jayden Davis, Eral Jones, Jacquez Thompson, Xavier Woods (Jordan-Matthews; first place, boys 4x200 meter relay, 1:33.28)
- Caroline Murrell (Northwood; first place, girls 3,200-meter run, 11:15.52)

While all five Chatham high schools were well-represented at NCHSAA Track & Field Regionals, one of the biggest standouts was the Chatham Charter Knights — one of the smallest programs in the county — who is sending three of its five regional qualifiers to states this weekend after their performance at the 1A Mideast Regionals hosted at Franklinton High School.

The team’s primary leaders — sophomore Tamaya Walden and junior Brandon McKoy — looked excellent, with Walden taking second place in the girls 400-meter



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Chatham Charter sophomore Tamaya Walden (front, in gray) competes in a dash event during the 1A Mideast Track & Field Regionals at Franklinton High School last Saturday. Walden qualified for states in three events after earning two third-place finishes and one second-place finish on the day.**

dash (1:01.84) and third in both the girls 100-meter (13.26) and 200-meter dashes (27.49), qualifying for states in all three events, along with McKoy placing third to qualify in the boys 3,200-meter (10:31.84) and

fifth in the boys 1,600-meter (4:49.28).

However, as sharp as those two looked for the Knights, it was junior Brooke Garner that stole the show, qualifying for states in four different events

— first place in the girls triple jump (33-08.00), second place in both the girls 300-meter hurdles (53.84) and girls high jump (4-10.00) and third place

See **REGIONAL**, page B5

## PLAYOFFS: UWHARRIE CHARTER 11, CHATHAM CHARTER 0

# ‘You have to play through errors’: Knights blanked by Eagles in blunderous first round

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
 News + Record Staff

ASHEBORO — Defense wins championships, but it can also lose them.

As was the case for Chatham County’s lone playoff baseball team on Tuesday.

Chatham Charter’s season met an anticlimactic end in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs in Asheboro against reigning 1A champion Uwharrie Charter Academy with the Eagles shutting out the Knights, 11-0, to keep their title-defending playoff run alive.

For the Knights — who had lost just two games this season, both to Central Tar Heel conference champion Cornerstone Charter Academy — there were plenty of reasons to be hopeful entering the postseason.

They’d scored 110 runs compared to the 38 runs they’d given up, winning by an average score of 9-3. Their offense paired power with efficiency, having multiple players who were both on-base and power hitting machines.

Most importantly, however, they had Trevor Golden, a senior pitcher with a 6-0 record, 87 total strikeouts and a 1.25 earned run average in 2020-21. He’d been nothing short of immaculate all season, and with him, Knights’ head coach Bill Slaughter would tell you they always had a chance — no matter the competition.

But the Eagles were able to do something in the playoff game against Golden and the Knights that hardly any teams had been able to do before them: put the ball in play. And it made all the difference.

“They just put so much pressure on you, they put the ball in play,” Slaughter said after Tuesday’s game. “Trevor’s been striking out 12-14 a game, so we don’t usually have to make a play.”

Through Golden’s four innings pitched, he downed five on strikes, just the second time all season he didn’t record double-digit strikeouts.

Golden averaged a little more than 12 strikeouts per game in his seven regular-season starts, equaling out to more

than two strikeouts per inning. When he was on the mound, the defense rarely had to worry about making plays.

And against Uwharrie Charter, it showed. Chatham Charter racked up seven defensive errors through the five-inning contest, five of which allowed runs to score.

There were dropped balls at third base on routine grounders, misjudged fly balls in the outfield, narrowly missed catches at first base and errant throws on steal attempts.

To put it into perspective, a third of the Knights’ 21 total errors this season came in this game alone.

And while the Eagles had gotten the best of Golden — collecting seven hits, scoring six earned runs and capitalizing off of two walks and a hit-by-pitch — it was the error-riddled defense that took the Knights out of a mid-sized hole and put them into an inescapable abyss.

“We struggled to make plays a little bit and no excuses, but they couldn’t

See **PLAYOFFS**, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Chatham Charter senior pitcher Trevor Golden (15) winds up to throw a pitch in his team’s 11-0 first-round playoff loss to Uwharrie Charter on June 15. Golden pitched four innings, giving up seven hits and six earned runs (11 total) and striking out five batters in his finale with the Knights.**

# PLAYOFFS

Continued from page B1  
 really see in the outfield,” Golden said, referring to the sun bearing down on the sunglasses-less outfielders. “There were three or four dropped balls that should have been caught, a few errors, but at the end of the day, you have to play through errors and mistakes.”

As instrumental as the Eagles’ power and ability to make contact with the ball were to forcing Chatham Charter errors, their base running might have been even more crucial.

Many of Uwharrie Charter’s hitters were extremely quick around the bases, putting even further pressure on the Knights’ defense to make split-second decisions when determining what to do with the ball.

Knights senior catcher Jacob Brannon was one of the primary victims of the Eagles’ quickness.

In the bottom of the first inning, Eagles senior Colt Wilkins — who had walked to lead-off the inning — stole second base without being contested, then followed it up in the next at-bat by attempting to steal third. Wilkins took off running as soon as the pitch left Golden’s hand, headed for the bag.

Brannon, in a rushed attempt to throw Wilkins out, caught the ball on the pitch, stood up and fired it toward third base. But instead of hitting the glove of Knights junior third baseman Colton Nixon,



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Chatham Charter senior catcher Jacob Brannon (6) throws a ball to junior first baseman Landon Hussey for an out during the Knights’ 11-0 first-round playoff loss to the Eagles on June 15.**

the ball flew over his head, allowing Wilkins to trot to home plate unchallenged for the first run of the game.

Brannon made a similar error with a runner stealing second in the bottom of the second inning, allowing the runner to get all the way to third.

However, the biggest example of the Knights being unprepared for the Eagles’ speed also came in the first inning, when senior Dalon Arrington whacked a ball to center field that drifted over the head of Knights senior Carter Phillips, who lost track of the ball in the outfield.

The ball rolled toward the wall as Arrington zoomed around the bases. Instead of stopping at third base for a stand-up triple, his quickness allowed him to get home well before the ball arrived, making it a two-RBI, inside-the-park home run. It was the first home run allowed by Golden all season.

Uwharrie Charter piled it on early against Chatham Charter, scoring five runs in the first inning, two runs in the second and four runs in the third. By the end of the third, the Knights were already on mercy-rule watch.

Yet, despite allowing 11 runs — six of them earned — Golden stuck it out on the mound. It was his last game and, no matter the score, he refused to give up.

“I was going to pull him after three (innings), but he said, ‘I want to go. I want to pitch it all the way,’” Slaughter said. “He didn’t want to hang it up, he wanted to go out fighting. You’ve got to love that.”

“I definitely wanted the mound,” Golden added. “I just wanted to prove that if we can stop making so many errors, then we’re really not as bad as people in the stands make us seem.”

Golden went on to have his best inning in the



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**The Chatham Charter dugout, including freshman Aidan Allred (2) and sophomore Jamir Wright (13), looks on as the Knights bat against Uwharrie Charter in their 11-0 first-round playoff loss to the Eagles on June 15. Chatham Charter was held scoreless on the evening.**

fourth, where he struck out three of four Uwharrie Charter hitters. It’s only fitting that his last pitch on the mound resulted in a swinging strikeout.

Offensively, the Knights were tasked with going up against Eagles senior pitcher Hunter Hill, a North Carolina Wesleyan commit, who is well known for blanking opponents.

Despite not scoring a run in the contest, Chatham Charter was decent at the plate and had a couple of opportunities to drive in runs, but couldn’t capitalize, including a bases-loaded chance in the second that ended with a strikeout to finish off the inning, stranding three runners.

“We led off the second inning with a double and I’m like, ‘Hey, he’s human,’” Slaughter said with a laugh, referring to Hill. “He throws it hard, he throws harder than

we’ve seen all year, but our first four hitters in the order squared him up OK.”

As the game progressed — and the Knights’ deficit grew — the Chatham Charter dugout never seemed tense or downtrodden. Spirits remained high, jokes were hurled to teammates on the field and laughs could be

heard even in the fifth inning, when the game was all but over.

It was a reminder that, even with the season coming to a close in blow-out fashion, the Knights still knew how to have fun with one another, including Brannon, Golden and Phillips, the team’s three seniors.

That’s one of the things that Golden, who graduated on May 21 and will attend Brunswick Community College as a pitcher this fall, will miss the most.

“(My career) was fun, you don’t surround yourself with guys that are just for themselves,” Golden said. “It’s not like that here. If you come to Charter, you’re going to talk to your four, five, six friends in the dugout. You come to work towards something and if it isn’t a championship, then it’s having fun.”

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at [vhensley@chathamnr.com](mailto: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 it. After this week, organized high school sports will be over until August. No more jam-packed Tuesday evenings or playoff games to look forward to. No more inclement weather cancellations or postponements — of which I'm sure we all didn't get enough of. After the big finale of state championships this week, it'll officially be the off-season, where athletes across the county will be grinding to get better for next season. (And taking a vacation here and there because, you know, it's summer.) This weekend, there are the NCHSAA state championships for track & field, women's tennis and wrestling, all of which have at least a hint of Chatham County participation. Enjoy it while it lasts. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Friday, June 25**  
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women at 2A State Championships at Cary Tennis Park in Cary, 9 a.m.  
Tennis: Northwood women at 3A State Championships at Burlington Tennis Complex in Burlington, 9 a.m.  
Track & Field: Chatham Charter and Woods Charter at NCHSAA 1A State Championships at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, 9 a.m.  
**Saturday, June 26**  
Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews at NCHSAA 2A State Championships at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, 9 a.m.  
Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews men at NCHSAA

2A State Championships at Wheatmore High School in Trinity, 9 a.m.  
Wrestling: Northwood men at NCHSAA 3A State Championships at Eastern Guilford High School in Gibsonville, 9 a.m.  
Track & Field: Northwood at NCHSAA 3A State Championships at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro, 4 p.m.

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, June 14**  
No sporting events scheduled.  
**Tuesday, June 15**  
Wrestling: The Northwood men had two wrestlers — freshman Josh Miller (106 lbs) and sophomore Cliff Davis (182 lbs) — qualify for the 3A State Championships after finishing first and fourth at 3A Mideast Regionals.  
Wrestling: The Jordan-Matthews men had one wrestler — senior Jaylan Scotten (106 lbs) — qualify for the 2A State Championships after his performance at 2A Mideast Regionals.

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men fell to the Uwharrie Charter Academy Eagles, 11-0, in five innings to eliminate them in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. The Knights had an uncharacteristic seven errors in the field against the Eagles, paving the way to a massive first three innings that saw Uwharrie Charter score all 11 of its runs. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Aidan Allred (2-for-3) and senior Trevor Golden (0-for-2; 4.0 IP, 7 H, 6 ER, 2 BB, 5 K).

**Wednesday, June 16**  
No sporting events scheduled.

**Thursday, June 17**  
No sporting events scheduled.  
**Friday, June 18**  
Tennis: The Chatham Central women had two duos at the 1A West Regionals in Elkin — seniors Mary Grace Murchison/Sophie Phillips and sophomores Livvy Brooks/Ellie Phillips — both of which lost in the second round, falling just short of qualifying for states. Murchison/Phillips dropped their second-round match to East Wilkes' Sylvia Prevette/Tristen Blevins (2-6, 2-6) and Brooks/Phillips lost their second-round match to Mount Airy's Olivia Perkins/Ella Brant (1-6, 0-6).

Tennis: Chatham Charter had two singles players at 1A East Regionals in Greenville — freshman Elphie Spillman and junior Emery Eldridge — neither of which qualified for states. Spillman, who beat Princeton's Tinsley Moore (6-3, 6-0) in the first round, lost to Riverside's Divia Chawla (5-7, 3-6) in the second, while Eldridge lost her first-round match to Rosewood's Riley Moldonado (3-6, 0-6).

Tennis: Jordan-Matthews sophomore Maggie Thornton qualified for states after making it to the semifinals in the 2A Mideast Regionals in Chapel Hill. Thornton won both of her first two matches — against Carrboro's Anna Horton (6-2, 6-1) and Fairmont's Kiley Oxendine (6-0, 6-0) — to advance to the regional semis, where she lost to the tournament's No. 1 seed, Whiteville's Anna Smith (1-6, 2-6).

Tennis: The Northwood women had their senior doubles duo of Suzanne Earnshaw/Courtney Fisher qualify for states at

3A Mideast Regionals in Burlington after winning their first two matches — against Northern Guilford (6-3, 6-3) and Lee County (6-4, 6-0) — before falling to East Chapel Hill (5-7, 4-6) in the semis.  
Track & Field: Chatham Central had no state qualifiers from its performance at 1A Midwest Regionals in Mocksville. The Bears finished in 14th place in the women's events (15 points). The following athletes competed for the Bears: senior Madison Gaines (6th place, girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.28), sophomore Kailey Green (5th place, girls high jump, 4-10.00), senior Sophie Phillips (7th place, girls high jump, 4-08.00) and senior Grace Jones (9th place, girls shot put, 27-11.75; 12th place, girls discus, 55-10.00). Chatham Central's girls 4x100 meter relay team placed 7th (56.34), while its girls 4x200 meter relay team placed 8th (2:02.86).

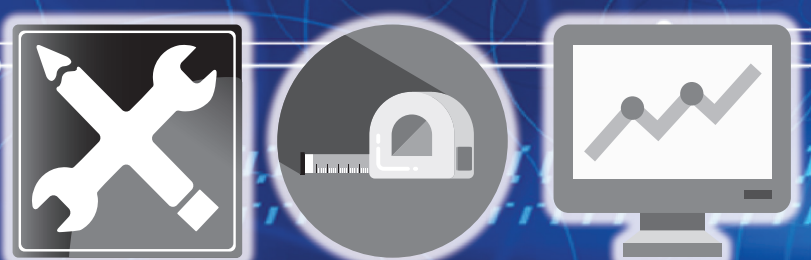
**Saturday, June 19**  
Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews had four state qualifiers emerge from the 2A Mideast Regionals in Franklinton, including one individual (senior Eral Jones, boys high jump) and three relay teams (boys 4x100, boys 4x200, boys 4x400). The Jets finished in 5th place as a team in the men's events (45 points) and tied for 18th in the women's events (5 points). The following athletes competed for the Jets: senior Xavier Woods (10th place, boys 100 meter dash, 12.07), sophomore Aiden Harrison (8th place, boys 800-meter run, 2:21.79), senior Shane Conroy (7th place, boys 3200-meter run, 12:26.00), junior Calvin Schwartz (8th place, boys 300 meter hurdles, 45.88), senior Eral

Jones (3rd place, QUALIFIED, boys high jump, 5-10.00), senior Jacquez Thompson (5th place, boys long jump, 20-01.25), senior Jayden Davis (6th place, boys long jump, 19-10.00), freshman Anna Vicente (9th place, girls 400-meter dash, 1:13.46) and junior Geneva Woolford (8th place, girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.83). The Jets' relay teams included: the Boys 4x100 (2nd place, QUALIFIED, 44.66), Boys 4x200 (1st place, QUALIFIED, 1:33.28), Boys 4x400 (3rd place, QUALIFIED, 3:45.23), Boys 4x800 (5th place, 9:59.00), Girls 4x100 (10th place, 57.38) and the Girls 4x200 (5th place, 2:00.43).  
Track & Field: Northwood had two state qualifiers emerge from 3A Mideast Regionals in Sanford, both individuals: junior Caroline Murrell (regional champion, girls 3200-meter run) and senior Jacob McCall (3rd place, boys pole vault). As a team, the Chargers finished 13th in the women's events (10 points) and 18th in the men's events (8 points). The following athletes participated for the Chargers: senior Jacob McCall (3rd place, QUALIFIED, boys pole vault, 11-06.00), senior Davis Neff (9th place, boys discus, 104-10.00), junior Charlotte Cantrell (10th place, girls 100-meter dash, 13.03; 12th place, girls 200-meter dash, 27.49), junior Caroline Murrell (1st place, QUALIFIED, girls 3200-meter run, 11:15.52) and junior Bentley Brooks (9th place, girls discus, 75-06.00). Northwood also had one of its relay teams compete, the boys 4x400 (7th place, 3:43.12).  
Track & Field: Chatham Charter and Woods Charter both had a few individual state qualifiers emerge from 1A Mideast

Regionals in Franklinton. All athletes competing for the Knights included: junior Brandon McKoy (3rd place, QUALIFIED, boys 3200-meter run, 10:31.84; 5th place, boys 1600-meter run, 4:49.28), sophomore Tamaya Walden (2nd place, QUALIFIED, girls 400-meter dash, 1:01.84; 3rd place, QUALIFIED, girls 100-meter dash, 13.26; 3rd place, QUALIFIED, girls 200-meter dash, 27.49), junior Brooke Garner (1st place, QUALIFIED, girls triple jump, 33-08.00; 2nd place, QUALIFIED, girls 300-meter hurdles, 53.84; 2nd place, QUALIFIED, girls high jump, 4-10.00; 3rd place, QUALIFIED, girls 100-meter hurdles, 21.51), freshman Meredith Reese (9th place, girls long jump, 10-11.75) and junior MacKenzie Brooks (11th place, girls shot put, 23-05.00). The Knights finished in 3rd place in the women's events (52 points) and 14th in the men's events (10 points). All athletes competing for the Wolves included: senior Kyle Howarth (2nd place, QUALIFIED, boys 200-meter dash, 23.78; 4th place, QUALIFIED, boys 100-meter dash, 11.72; 6th place, boys long jump, 20-03.25), senior Jay Charbonneau (1st place, QUALIFIED, boys 400-meter dash, 52.53; 5th place, boys long jump, 20-03.25), senior Tobin Berrier (11th place, boys triple jump, 33-00.00) and freshman Ellie Poitras (4th place, QUALIFIED, girls 1600-meter run, 5:46.47; 4th place, QUALIFIED, girls 3200-meter run, 13:04.39). The Wolves placed 10th as a team in the men's events (30 points) and 14th in the women's events (10 points).

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Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## Daylilies and roses are in full bloom at Yoga Garden in Pittsboro.

Yoga Garden offered free classes for a week earlier this month in celebration of what owner Lexi Wolf described as 'Gratitude Week.' Wolf said it was a thank-you to the community for 'helping us stay open and supporting us during the pandemic by attending livestream and outdoor classes.' Yoga Garden offers meditative yoga, soft yoga, advanced yoga and beyond. In addition, the business has been collecting donations for the American India Foundation's Covid-19 Emergency Relief Fund. 'We as yoga practitioners are steeped in India's culture and history,' Wolf said. 'The American India foundation is working on health facility, frontline health worker, and community-centered interventions in India. This organization was recognized and recommended by Yoga Alliance to yogis who want to help.'



### Chatham County Council on Aging WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: In what year was Goldston incorporated?

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

## SEAFORTH

Continued from page B1

appreciate and challenge your kids. And just give them everything you've got."

Being a college baseball coach with plenty of firsthand knowledge, Forbes was able to give his point of view on helping high school athletes get recruited, dealing with conflicts in the locker room and making an impact on student-athletes' lives.

"The one thing that I would say is you have to genuinely love your players and the only way to do that is to figure out who they are individually," Forbes said. "I have a ton of respect for people that coach kids between the ages of 14-18. ... The neatest thing about what you guys do is you have even more of an impact, probably, than (college coaches) do because that age is so important."

Once Forbes' session was over and everyone was gathered together in the gym, the event — half pep-rally, half info session — could begin.

The coaches, lined side-by-side at the front of the gym, took turns speaking into the microphone and introducing themselves to the crowd of students and their parents. It was a chance for them not only to briefly convince students to try their sport, but to quickly allow the students to get

to know their interests, their personalities and who they are both as people and coaches.

And for the first time since the influx of hirings last month, the wide range of talent — from recent college graduates to coaches with 25-plus years of experience — that makes up Seaforth's first-ever coaching staff was on full display.

"I've said this and I'll keep saying it, I've put together probably one of the greatest coaching staffs I've ever had," Amy said. "Everybody saw the facility and saw a fresh start and an opportunity to kind of create your own program from the ground up and that excites people."

And that was the sentiment expressed by a majority of coaches during their introductions, too.

Many of them mentioned how pumped they were to get their program off the ground, to coach at a brand new school or to meet and lead an entirely new group of students.

Once all of the coaches had said a few words and the Hawks Nation presentation had finished, all of the coaches and students went into breakout groups. Each section of the bleachers was designated for a different sport so that students could find and speak to the coaches they were most interested in.

With more than 150 stu-

dents in attendance, the era of Seaforth athletics got off to a hot start, with students and coaches being one step closer to sports starting back up in the fall.

This upcoming season, despite Seaforth being a new school that's set to only host 9th and 10th graders in 2021-22, the Hawks will be a member of the Mid-Carolina split 1A/2A conference alongside Chatham Central and Jordan-Matthews.

And they'll be competing in a mixture of varsity sports and junior varsity sports, which will present its own set of challenges when going up against teams of upperclassmen.

While it seems that the first in-person coaches meet-and-greet was a success, the work for Amy and the rest of the Seaforth staff is all but over, with a few more hirings still to be made, youth summer camps to put on and community events to host ahead of the fall season.

They never said building a program was easy.

"I have difficulty sleeping right now ... I've always had difficulty sleeping, but now I'm at an all-time high," Amy said. "My thought is that it's hard to lay down and sleep when there's so much to be done, right? ... But in the end, I feel like it's all worth it. Tonight was worth it."

Reporter Victor Hensley

can be reached at [vhensley@chathamnr.com](mailto:vhensley@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

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Chatham COA  
Events & Announcements  
June 14th through June 30th

#### Thursday, June 24th

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

#### Friday, June 25th

- [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 28th

- [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 29th -

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Hurricane Preparedness with Chatham County Emergency Management and CERT](#) at 11:15 AM 📶

#### Wednesday, June 30th

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

📶 On Zoom 📞 On Conference Line: 727-731-8717

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Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Seaforth cheerleading coach Heather Algieri (left, in red) speaks to a group of cheerleaders and parents at Seaforth's first in-person coaches meet-and-greet last Wednesday.

# REGIONAL

Continued from page B1

in the girls 100-meter hurdles (21.51) — and joined Jordan-Matthews senior Eral Jones as the only other Chatham athlete to achieve the feat.

Walden and Garner, with seven top-three finishes between the two, earned Chatham Charter the third place spot in girls team scoring (52 points), behind first-place Research Triangle (130 points) and second-place Princeton (121 points). The Knights finished 14th in the men's events (10 points) with McKoy being the only runner.

Woods Charter joined the Knights at the 1A Mideast Regionals in Franklinton, with senior Kyle Howarth (second place, boys 200-meter dash, 23.78; fourth place, boys 100-meter dash, 11.72) and freshman Ellie Poitras (fourth place, girls 1,600-meter run, 5:46.47; fourth place, girls 3,200-meter run, 13:04.39) leading the pack with two state qualifications each.

The Wolves also had one regional champion, senior Jay Charbonneau, in the boys 400-meter dash (52.53), to round out the team's five qualifications on the day. As a team, they placed 14th in the girls events (10 points) and 10th in the men's events (30 points).

As if Franklinton wasn't packed enough, Jordan-Matthews competed in the 2A Mideast Regionals at the same venue earlier that morning, where head coach Lamont Piggie's confidence in the Jets' relay teams was justified.

J-M qualified for states in three different relay events: the boys 4x200 (first place, regional champion, boys 4x200 meter relay, 1:33.28; second place, boys 4x100 meter relay, 44.66; third place, boys 4x400 meter relay, 3:45.23). The boys 4x200 meter relay team — consisting of Jones, senior Jayden Davis, senior Jacquiez Thompson and senior Xavier Woods — earned the regional championship, giving Piggie hope that his seniors could bring home a state title this weekend.

"Everything went well (at regionals), it pretty much went as expected," Piggie told the News + Record on Monday. "With the relay teams, the 4x200, we have a good shot in states."

Jones, a member of the three qualifying relay teams, also qualified for states in the high jump after a third-place finish (5-10.00), despite having just recently picked the event up a few weeks ago.

As a team, the Jets finished fifth in the men's events (45 points) and tied for 18th in the women's events (five points).



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Jordan-Matthews senior Jacquiez Thompson tumbles into the sand during the boys long jump at Franklinton High School last Saturday as part of the 2A Mideast Regionals.**



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Woods Charter junior Peter Ising completes a toss during the boys discus at Franklinton High School last Saturday as part of the 1A Mideast Track & Field Regionals.**



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Jordan-Matthews sophomore Maggie Thornton uses her fronthand during a match at the 2A Mideast Women's Tennis Regionals in Chapel Hill last Friday. Thornton qualified for states in her first season of competitive tennis after her top-four finish at regionals.**

of its six participants — junior Caroline Murrell and senior Jacob McCall — qualify for states after top-three finishes at 3A Mideast Regionals hosted by Southern Lee High School in Sanford, with Murrell, the team's dominant distance runner, finishing first as the regional champion in the girls 3,200-meter run (11:15.52) and McCall placing third in the boys pole vault (11-06.00).

Chatham Central, despite a couple of close calls, was the only Chatham team to not have a state qualifier after its performance at 1A Midwest Regionals hosted by Davie County High School in Mocksville.

A couple of those close calls included senior Madison Gaines (sixth place in the girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.28), sophomore Kailey Green (fifth place, girls high jump, 4-10.00) and the girls 4x400 meter relay team (5:03.96), but the Bears just couldn't get over the fifth place hump to get into the top four in any event.

**Looking ahead:** Chatham Charter (1A), Woods Charter (1A), Jordan-Matthews (2A) and North-

wood (3A) will participate in the NCHSAA Track & Field State Championships this Friday and Saturday, June 25-26, at North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro.

**Women's Tennis**  
**No. of Chatham state qualifiers:** 3

**Regional Champions:** None

With significantly less Chatham participants than track & field, last weekend's women's tennis regionals were much less chaotic than their counterpart — but that doesn't mean they were any less exciting.

The performance of the weekend belongs to Jordan-Matthews sophomore Maggie Thornton, who advanced to her first-ever state tournament after a fantastic showing on Friday that saw her win her first- and second-round matches against Carrboro sophomore Anna Horton (6-2, 6-1) and Fairmont senior Kiley Oxendine (6-0, 6-0).

Thornton went on to lose to the tournament's No. 1 seed, Whiteville's Anna Smith, 1-6, 2-6, on day two, but making it to the tournament's

semifinals was enough to propel her to states this weekend.

For Thornton, who is playing her first season of competitive tennis after already being a two-sport athlete in basketball and soccer, this proves just how much of a natural athlete she truly is. It even surprises her.

"Maggie is just such a wonderful person and when we finished and got ready to go (on Friday) and I told her I'd see her on Saturday, she looked at me and said, 'Did I just qualify for states?' and I said, 'Yes you did,'" Nia Marsh-Pope, J-M's head tennis coach, said with a laugh. "For this to be her first year playing competitively, and to get to the level of going to states, that day on Saturday it just kind of all came full circle, like, 'Oh my god, I really did do this.'"

Northwood is home to the other two state qualifiers — the senior doubles duo of Courtney Fisher and Suzanne Earnshaw — and just like Thornton, they made it to the regional semifinals in the 3A Mideast Regionals in Chapel Hill, enough to qualify for states, but narrowly lost to the East Chapel Hill duo of to keep them away from the regional title.

Fisher/Earnshaw won their first round matchup

against Northern Guilford duo (6-3, 6-3) and their second round match over Lee County duo (6-4, 6-0) en route to the semifinals and state championship qualification.

A few other regional participants were close to making it to states, including Chatham Charter freshman Elphie Spillman, who lost to Princeton's Tinsley Moore (3-6, 0-6) in the 1A East quarterfinals and both Chatham Central duos — seniors Mary Grace Murchison/Sophie Phillips (2-6, 2-6 to East Wilkes' Sylvia Prevette/Tristen Blevins) and sophomores Livvy Brooks/Ellie Phillips (0-6, 5-7 to Olivia Perkins/Ella Brant) — which lost in the 1A West quarterfinals.

**Looking ahead:** Jordan-Matthews' Maggie Thornton will play in the NCHSAA 2A State Championships at Cary Tennis Park and Northwood's duo of Fisher/Earnshaw will play in the NCHSAA 3A State Championships at Burlington Tennis Complex, both this Friday and Saturday, June 25-26.

## Wrestling

**No. of state qualifiers:** 3

**Regional Champions:** • Josh Miller (Northwood; first place, 106 lbs, 3A Mideast)

Once the 3A Mideast Regionals came to an end on June 15 at Eastern Guilford High School in Gibsonville, Northwood head coach Ryan Armstrong told the News + Record via text message that it wasn't "a good day for Northwood wrestlers." That sentiment could be extended to most of Chatham County, which saw 10 of its 16 regional wrestlers lose in the first round of their respective tournaments, including five wrestlers from Northwood alone.

However, the county still managed to have three individual state qualifiers for this weekend's NCHSAA Wrestling State Championships, including two from Northwood and one from Jordan-Matthews.

Northwood freshman Josh Miller (106 lbs) won the regional title in his weight class after defeating Southern Durham's Ashton O'neal in the first-place match without too much trouble. In fact, Miller cruised his way through his three regional matches, according to Armstrong, which is impressive for a fresh-

man going up against upperclassmen.

"The Miller boy just dominated out the gate and beat a very good Christopher Watson (Eastern Alamance) in the semis to make it to the finals," Armstrong said, "and then he basically annihilated an extremely well Ashton O'neal in the finals."

Miller's teammate, sophomore Cliff Davis (182 lbs), also qualified for states after finishing fourth in his weight class. He lost in the semifinals to Orange's Brendon Worsham by fall, then again in the third-place match to Harnett Central's Jose Zambrano by a 10-1 major decision to fall to fourth.

This weekend, however, Armstrong said he believes in his young guys to make a run, as long as they work on a couple of things beforehand.

"Cliff's just got to move on the bottom, if he moves on the bottom, he wins and if he sits on the bottom, he loses," Armstrong said. "We saw that in both of his matches on Tuesday, where he got beat when he didn't move on the bottom. ... It's just minor tweaks and adjustments, then we should be good to go."

Jordan-Matthews senior Jaylan Scotten (106 lbs) was the only other state qualifier in Chatham, who finished in fourth place in his weight class at 2A Mideast Regionals at Walkertown High School.

Scotten won his first two matches over Ledford Senior's Jake Cartrette (tech fall) and East Davidson's Joseph Myers (fall), but lost in the semifinals to Trinity's Spencer May (fall) and the third-place match to Morehead's Jared Thomas (fall). He'll look to avenge those two losses as the only representative from his team at states this weekend.

**Looking ahead:** Jordan-Matthews' Jaylan Scotten will participate in the NCHSAA 2A State Wrestling Championships at Wheatmore High School in Trinity, while Northwood's Josh Miller and Cliff Davis will again compete at Eastern Guilford High School in Gibsonville for the NCHSAA 3A State Wrestling Championships. Both events will take place on Saturday, June 26.

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



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- 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! !!

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

SAN MARCOS TAQUERIA Y BUFFET

# New Mexican restaurant opens in Siler City

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In a small, white-sided building that once housed Rojo Canela, a bakery owner has opened up a new Mexican restaurant — and he did it all on a whim.

“If you ask me why I grabbed it, well, I don’t even know honestly. Seriously,” owner Bernardo Gallegos Rodriguez told the News + Record in Spanish, laughing. “... It’s something that I don’t know how I got into, really, but we are trying to move forward to see what happens.”

The restaurant — named San Marcos Taqueria y Buffet — officially opened last month at 315 East Third Street about two and a half months after its predecessor, Rojo Canela, closed. Gallegos Rodriguez also owns and operates Melanie’s Bakery in downtown Siler City, as well as another bakery in Biscoe.

And how did a baker come to open a restaurant? It’s the result of one friend’s persistence and the baker’s own willingness to try something new.

Gallegos Rodriguez used to eat at Rojo Canela and became friends with the previous owners, who approached him about buying the building. He hesitated at first.

“He (Leo Davalos) had already been saying to me for a year, ‘I will give it to you, I will give it to you, I will sell it to you, and I’m like: ‘Man.’ I said, ‘What am I going to do here? I don’t know anything about food. I don’t know anything,’” he said. “And then whenever I came, he would tell me and tell me to go ahead, that he would sell it to me.”

Yet despite his reservations, Gallegos Rodriguez gave in shortly after Rojo Canela closed and decided to give the restaurant business a try.

“When I took it over, the first plan was to rent it to someone else, but then I said, well, because it’s already there, let’s try it out for a while,” he said. “I said if we can’t, we will rent it to someone else who has more experience.”

With a laugh, he added, “But it’s funny because — what is this man doing in a restaurant?”

Inside, not much has changed since Rojo Canela closed. Gallegos Rodriguez removed the chimney, brought in a buffet station, and painted the walls a honey-flavored yellow. He also brought in a little piece of home by naming the restaurant San Marcos after his hometown’s most famous festival in Mexico.

“It’s called San Marcos because the place where I am from, there’s the San Marcos Cathedral, which is a church,” he said. “It’s San Marcos Square, which is like a garden, and the San Marcos Fair. It’s the largest fair in the whole country; it’s the best known. ... People from all over the world go to that fair.”

Gallegos Rodriguez hails from Aguascalientes, Mexico, where every spring residents celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Mark with a large fair known in Spanish as the Feria Nacional de San Marcos. The fair starts on in late April and runs for three to four weeks.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Martin Hernandez (left) helps San Marcos owner Bernardo Gallegos Rodriguez pour juice into the restaurant’s slushie machine. San Marcos Taqueria y Buffet opened on May 15.**



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**San Marcos Taqueria y Buffet offers a variety of menu items. According to owner Bernardo Gallegos Rodriguez, empanadas and tacos have been among the restaurant’s most popular dishes.**

The restaurant is full of references to the fair — from the rooster statue greeting customers in the doorway to the Temple of San Marcos at the top of each menu. Beyond mariachis, games and charreadas (Mexican rodeos), cockfighting and bullfighting are some of the fair’s most famous activities.

Among other menu items, the restaurant serves tacos, quesadillas and carnitas (Mexican pulled pork),

though Gallegos Rodriguez said the empanadas are one of San Marcos’ most popular dishes, along with carne asada (grilled steak) and tacos.

“(The empanadas) are fried and have cheese inside and the meat you want — steak, chicken, barbecue, carnitas, sausage, (Mexican) barbacoa,” he said. “We put whatever they want in one. We decorate them with lettuce, tomato, avocado, cheese and sour cream.”

People can also try the restaurant’s aguas frescas, or Mexican fruit drinks, and on the weekends, San Marcos has been serving up hot soups, like menudo and beef stew — what Gallegos Rodriguez describes as a Mexican tradition.

“Many people drink on the weekend and the next day they come to eat their spicy broth,” he said. “They come, have their broth and one or two, three beers and they relax. It’s the custom that maybe the ancestors had that you drink and the next day you have a broth and the hangover goes away.”

He added with a laugh, “That’s why the broths are made on weekends.”

**‘It’s what they want’**  
Opening his restaurant

people don’t have time to come and wait for someone to cook for 10, 15 or 20 minutes, like those who work and see that they have half an hour for their lunch,” he said. “They want to arrive, serve themselves and eat. This is why I am doing it ... I believe that this COVID thing is passing, and hopefully, God willing, they will give me the permission.”

Right now, Gallegos Rodriguez said his biggest hope is that his restaurant will survive, and he’s doing what he can to pull it off. But it’s not just about building a successful business, he said; it’s also about creating more jobs for the community.

“If right now there aren’t any sales because we’re starting, I have three or four workers,” he said. “Imagine when it goes up. There are jobs for more staff. I was

hasn’t been a smooth ride, though, Gallegos Rodriguez said. Disaster first struck just after San Marcos opened: two cooks he’d hired left after a few days — leaving him and another worker to pick up the slack.

“I told myself, ‘Well, I won’t know what to do, but there are the cooks I got (that will know),’” he said. “No, they left me after two days. Some didn’t want to work. As soon as we opened, one lasted one day and the other lasted about four days and then they left.”

So far, the restaurant has had both American and Hispanic patronage — “a little more Hispanic,” he said — and it’s been enough to support the restaurant’s expenses. But it’s still been a bit slow some days.

The restaurant is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

“There are times when a lot of people come to lunch from 11 to 12 or from 11 to 1 and from there it dies down,” he said. “Sometimes there is nothing left in the afternoon, and sometimes it is the other way around. ... Since we’re just starting, many people don’t know us, so we don’t have an established clientele.”

He’s also worried about what the town’s decision to re-route parts of Third Street could mean for his business, but he’s forging ahead with plans to increase San Marcos’ offerings, especially a buffet.

Originally, he said, that was the plan all along — it’s even in the restaurant’s name — but he couldn’t right away, since opening a buffet required him to submit an application completely separate from county-mandated inspections, especially during a pandemic. Now that COVID cases numbers have been decreasing and vaccinations rising, though, Gallegos Rodriguez plans to apply soon.

“For many people, it’s what they want. Many



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**San Marcos Taqueria y Buffet is a new Mexican restaurant that opened on May 15 along East Third Street in Siler City, where Rojo Canela used to be. Restaurant owner Bernardo Gallegos Rodriguez also owns Melanie’s Bakery in downtown Siler City.**

talking to a person the other day, and he said, ‘Why do you give him a job? If you can do it.’ But I say no, it’s really about sharing something that’s blessing you right now,

and if you can give more people jobs, then you’ve got to do it.”

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).



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SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

# Town takes steps to better support Hispanic community

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners entertained several presentations in its regular meeting Monday on propositions to enhance the town's relationship with Hispanic residents.

Siler City is a "minority majority" community, a town in which most residents are non-white. The most populous single demographic is Hispanic. Almost half of Siler City's residents — 47.1% — are Latino.

Despite their contribution to the area's population, however, Hispanic residents have played a disproportionately small role in the town's leadership community and exert undersized influence over the town's development, a topic the commissioners have discussed often.

To improve Siler City's relationship with its Latino residents, organizations such as the Hispanic Liaison have worked to bridge the cultural and language divide. Nancy Darden, the town's human resources director, presented a new incentives program Monday with similar intent.

In 2018, the town began an initiative with the police department by which staff and officers could earn a 5% pay raise for demonstrating a level of oral and written fluency in Spanish.

"We would like to expand this to non-law enforcement individuals whose core responsibilities and the tasks of their job include

dealing with the public," Darden said. "It's essential for them to communicate with (Spanish speakers) as easily as it is for us to communicate with the English-speaking community."

Among current staff, Darden predicted seven might be eligible for the pay raise, and the police department is in process of hiring another bilingual officer, she said.

The commissioners quickly expressed support for the new incentive. They voted unanimously to approve the new policy effective July 2021, the start of the next fiscal year.

To further demonstrate its interest in facilitating stronger inter-cultural relationships, the board also approved the creation of an Immigrant Community Advisory Committee per the request of representatives from Building Integrated Communities, "a community planning and leadership initiative" at UNC-Chapel Hill "that partners with North Carolina local governments to create inclusive practices and policies for residents born in other countries," according to the group's website. BIC began its collaboration with the town in 2017.

Hannah Gill, associate director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC, explained the premise and function such a committee would have.

"This recommendation is important," she said, "because it would

create a more permanent bridge between local government and immigrant residents and serve as a supportive group for town staff and leaders."

The group will likely count among its objectives to develop leaders who represent immigrant communities, to recommend strategies that will promote more civic participation and to advise the commissioners of opinions and requests from within the Hispanic community, according to Gill.

The committee will have seven members from "historically underrepresented communities with ancestry in Latin America and/or other world regions," the board's resolution said. After advertising the positions for 30 days and approving committee members, the Immigrant Community Advisory Committee will meet once a month.

### Hispanic Heritage Fiesta

Continuing the meeting's theme, Ilana Dubester, the founder and executive director of the Hispanic Liaison, petitioned the board to approve the eighth Hispanic Heritage Festival "to celebrate Latin America's diverse cultural traditions and promote community integration."

Dubester's request was met with considerable resistance, however, mostly surrounding fears of scant police presence at the event.

Pending approval, the fiesta is scheduled to be held in September, which

is National Hispanic Heritage Month. Unfortunately, Dubester said, the only available day for the Liaison is Saturday, September 11 — the 20-year anniversary of the terrorist attack on New York City's World Trade Center.

"My staffing on that particular day is three," Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner said in the meeting, "therefore I could not guarantee any type of dedicated services just for that event. Plus it's a historical event in Chatham County as well because of 9/11 and I don't have any information on that just yet."

Fire Chief Scott Murphy submitted similar concerns to the board in writing.

"We will do what we can," he said, "as far as I know they are doing something for the 20th anniversary of 9/11 at the Fire Responders Memorial in Pittsboro that day, just not sure what the times are."

If circumstances allow, the fiesta will host about 1,000 attendees in downtown Siler City with 50 non-profits and businesses participating. A crowd of that size without police supervision aroused consternation among some commissioners.

"If we're looking at 1,000 people or more," Commissioner Norma Boone said, "who's to say what could or could not happen and we don't have anybody there to handle it. That's my concern."

Dubester pointed out that while Siler City police may have other obligations, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson had previously voiced his support for the event

**'This recommendation is important because it would create a more permanent bridge between local government and immigrant residents and serve as a supportive group for town staff and leaders.'**

HANNAH GILL, associate director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas at UNC-Chapel Hill

and offered to contribute officers.

"I have commitment from the sheriff to supply several deputies," she said.

But the commissioners were still apprehensive. Rather than vote to approve or deny Dubester's request, the board scheduled a special meeting for June 28 to revisit the subject.

Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray supported the decision to host that special meeting, but voiced strong support of the fiesta.

"This is the way I feel about it," she said, "we need people to come downtown. We need to have things downtown. And they are providing something for people to come downtown, so what can we do to accommodate them?"

### Other news

The board voted unanimously to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-22, details of which the News + Record has previously reported.

Taxes and utility rates will not increase in the next year, the budget stipulates, although town spending will go up by about 12%.

Eight new town staff positions are funded in the budget. Half belong to the police department (three police officers and an evidence technician), which alone stands to re-

ceive more than \$813,000 for departmental expansion.

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

The commissioners honored Town Attorney William C. Morgan with a surprise resolution commemorating his 25 years of service.

Among his many accomplishments, "William C. Morgan Jr. has attended almost 1,000 meetings over the last 25 years of the board of commissioners," Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray read from the resolution. The commissioners and all in attendance responded with spontaneous standing applause.

"I never thought there'd be a time when I'd be here longer than — well, I don't remember anybody that was here in '96," Morgan said. "Anyway, I never thought I'd be like the oldest," he said, laughing. "Maybe not the oldest, but the longest serving. But it's been an honor and I can say I'm not retiring any time soon."

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at [dldolder@chathamnr.com](mailto:dldolder@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter @dldolder.

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# POLICE REPORTS

## Sheriff's Office honors two long-serving deputies

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Sheriff's Office is celebrating the distinguished careers of two valued employees as they reach retirement. Corporals Brad Johnson and David Scott each began their careers in public service in the early 1980s. Both men leave behind impressive legacies and will be deeply missed within the ranks of the Sheriff's Office.

From an early age, Brad Johnson knew he wanted to protect vulnerable populations. He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1984 and served for four years before joining the Siler City Police Department as a sworn officer. In 1999, Johnson took a position with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety as a probation and parole officer, and later joined the Chatham County Sheriff's Office family in 2002.

Johnson found a home among his fellow staff members at the Sheriff's Office and served with skill and conviction until his last day in uniform.

During his time at the Sheriff's Office, Johnson consistently showcased his tireless work ethic and remarkable aptitude for connecting with people. He served across many different units, rising to particular acclaim during his time within the Domestic Violence Unit when he received the "Men for Change Award" from the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

During his career, Johnson earned the title of Certified Criminal Investigator and was awarded his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission. He also served on the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard Team, graduated the Chatham County Leadership Academy, volunteered with Chatham County Communities in Schools as a Lunch Buddy, and continued to train and mentor new deputies for the remainder of his career.

"Brad has worked hard to reach this milestone in his career and deserves a great retirement," said Chatham County Captain Chris Cooper. "I remember looking up to him and admiring his professionalism when I first joined the Sheriff's Office. He was always compassionate and caring when working with victims. He is also very knowledgeable in the grant process and helped ensure the Sheriff's Office received key resources to better serve the community."

Other staff members imparted similar praise and shared their favorite memories of Johnson during his retirement ceremony on May 21, inside the Historic Chatham County Courthouse. It was an emotional farewell for all involved.

"I'm going to miss the people in this room," Johnson said, as he stood before the group of his closest friends, family, and colleagues on his last day as a sworn deputy. "We are family. We've been through so much together and it's been a pleasure working with you."

Johnson's ceremony and admitted he felt a similar sense of nostalgia and nervousness as he listened to Johnson's farewell speech. His own retirement ceremony is set



Johnson

for July 6.

"I'll miss the people — my coworkers and friends I've made over the years," Scott said. "We have been together through the ups and downs, good and bad, but I've loved building those relationships and making memories. I feel honored to make it to this point in my career."

Scott served 10 years in the Army National Guard, 28 years in law enforcement at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, and 31 years as a firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with the Siler City Fire Department, where he retired at the rank of Captain.

As a dual-sworn deputy, Scott has worked in nearly every unit at the Sheriff's Office. He was a founding member of the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard Team and has earned his Advanced Law Enforcement Certification as well as the Advanced Service Award. Scott is a member of the Law Enforcement Assistance Programs of North Carolina and Virginia, which provide support and resources to first responders in each state. He also teaches Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) courses — two areas of instruction that have grown in popularity among first responders in recent years.

CIT training promotes officer and community safety by preparing law enforcement to assist persons with mental health disorders or addictions as well as those in need of critical medical treatment in times of crisis. CISM training, also known as psychological first aid, is designed to help first responders cope with traumatic and high-ly-emotional events they

may experience during their careers.

Scott knows the value of this training from personal experience as a survivor. He is the recipient of the Medal



Scott

of Valor, one of the most revered symbols of honor and courage in law enforcement. Medals of Valor are only awarded for extraordinary heroism and bravery while engaged in law enforcement action; recipients' actions must have been so notable and have involved risk of life so extraordinary as to set these individual apart from their peers. Scott has received the Medal of Valor not once but twice during his career with the Sheriff's Office.

"It's not every day you meet a true hero, but David is the real deal. You would never guess that he is so decorated because he is also infinitely humble," said Lt. Sara Pack, who credits Scott with mentoring her from her very first day on the job. "David is a wonderful teacher and friend. He has spent a lifetime putting others ahead of his own wellbeing, and he deserves the respect, appreciation, and acknowledgment he has earned for his many years of service and sacrifice."

"We hope the community will join us in wishing David and Brad long, happy, healthy retirements," said Sheriff Mike Roberson, who admits such milestones are bittersweet moments for staff members. "We are excited and proud to see Brad and David reaching this point in their careers, but we are also sad to see them go. We will miss their leadership, their friendship, and their presence around the office, but their influence will remain in the hearts of the young men and women who have looked up to them for guidance through the years. Their contributions to Chatham County and the Sheriff's Office will not be forgotten."

### CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On June 7, John Edward McLean, 33, of 315 Fontana Circle, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for larceny of a motor vehicle and misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 19.

On June 7, Marquise Daquan Black, 25, of 315 Fontana Circle, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 7, Collins Jeffrey James, 47, of 315 Fontana Circle, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$300 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 30.

On June 7, Garrett Russell-Collin Petty, 31, of 128 Cannon Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on July 8.

On June 7, Justin Davis Phillips, 35, of 3009 Arthur Teague Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for second degree trespassing, assault on a female and misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 29.

On June 10, Yush Kahmyu Smith, 23, of 260 Laura Johnson Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for injury to personal property and injury to real property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 30.

On June 11, Jessica Mae Derrick, 38, of 2261 Edwards Hill Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for misdemeanor larceny. She was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 7.

On June 11, Jacob Brad-

ley Tilley, 24, of 220 Shaw Avenue, Southern Pines, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for obtaining property by false pretenses and financial card fraud. He was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 19.

On June 11, Roland Vance Ellis Sr., 54, of 12037 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for assault by strangulation. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on June 28.

On June 11, Jamaal Antwain Hollis, 36, of 58 New Hope Street, Whiteville, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray, for assault by pointing a gun. He was issued a written promise to appear in Columbus County District Court in Whiteville on July 2.

On June 11, Danny Ray Kennedy, 46, of 4870 Chatham Street, Bennett, was arrested by Sgt. Joe Reece for driving while license revoked, fictitious title/registration card/tag, possession of marijuana up to a half ounce and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 30.

On June 13, Michael Todd Hudson, 55, of 60 Augusta Lane, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for assault with a deadly weapon. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court on June 30.

On June 13, Gerald Lee Greene Jr., 48, of 8108 Siler City Glendon Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on June 30.

On June 13, Gary Lee Louk Jr., 33, of 21 Elmer Moore Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Jonas Lassiter for failure to appear. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 14, Gary Lee Louk Jr., 33, of 21 Elmer Moore Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Alex Lukasewycz for

failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 13.

On June 15, Ricky Gene Looney, 53, of 2170 Dewitt Smith Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for obstruction of justice. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 16.

On June 15, Justice Tahj Henry, 23, of 4203 Hewitt Street, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Grant Carter for assault on a female, possession of stolen motor vehicle and felony probation violation. He was issued a \$10,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on June 16.

On June 15, Joseph Anthony Prete 53, of 8397 N.C. Hwy. 87 N, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 28.

On June 15, Clara Kila Carelock, 21, of 710 Lowdermilk Street, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for failure to appear. She was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greensboro on July 13.

On June 15, Anthony Jukheen Vaughters, 25, of 18946 U.S. Hwy. 64 W, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for injury to personal property, fleeing to elude arrest, no operator's license, failure to wear seat belt, failure to secure a passenger under 16, misdemeanor child abuse, resisting public officer, hit and run leaving the scene with property damage, failure to report an accident and reckless driving to endanger. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 13.

On June 15, Shawn Delee Kelly, 3204 Plymouth Street #3, Archdale, was arrested by Sgt. Brian Inman for failure to appear. She was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on June 16.

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# Chatham commemorates Juneteenth

**BY VICTORIA JOHNSON**  
News + Record Staff

Chatham County celebrated Juneteenth last Saturday both online and in person — and throughout it all, speakers offered one overarching message: Complacency kills progress.

“You never get to sit back, you never get to really fully enjoy your victories, because every time you win something, they’re (opponents of racial equity) fighting trying to figure out how to get around. ... That is the world that we’re always going to be in,” said Rep. Robert Reives II during Chatham’s Fourth Annual Juneteenth Festival Saturday.

He added: “The lesson you’ve got to learn is that the fight’s never going to end and that fight takes a strong coalition of people.”

Juneteenth signifies June 19, 1865, the day that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to occupy the state and ensure all slaves were set free. That day, U.S. General Gordon Granger read General Orders No. 3: “The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a proclamation from the executive of the United States, all slaves are free.”

About two months earlier, Confederate General Robert E. Lee had formally surrendered at the Appomattox Court House in Virginia, marking the end of the Civil War. Two and a half years before that, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which only freed slaves in states waging war against the Union.

To commemorate the occasion, Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE) produced Saturday’s event, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Pittsboro Fairgrounds, both in person and online.

Reives, Chatham’s representative in the state house (Dist. 54), gave the keynote address. The celebration also hosted a variety of performers, including singer Jennifer Baker, Chatham Dance Connections and poet Alex Johnson.

“I wanted to encourage continual liberation,” Johnson said at the end of his presentation. “Liberation from fear, liberation from inexperience, liberation from self-hate, liberation from separation of



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**CORE produced Chatham’s Fourth Annual Juneteenth celebration in Pittsboro on Saturday. Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S.**



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Maricela Morales Torres holds up her self portrait during CORE’s Juneteenth celebration Saturday. She’s the Family Outreach Coordinator for the Chatham County Partnership for Children.**

ourselves because we are powerful together.” For those unable to attend, CORE live-streamed the celebration via Facebook and placed the recording on YouTube, which can be viewed at bit.ly/2SObrAw. Terry McMillian of a Sanford-based videography company, Brick Capital Video, also produced a video of the event, which people can view at bit.ly/3gPpj6J.

CORE’s festival wasn’t Chatham’s only Juneteenth celebration. The Chatham Community Library hosted a virtual historical lecture led by North Carolina Central University’s Dr. Charles Thompson from 11:30 to 1:30 Saturday.

The lecture — titled “From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans in Chatham County, N.C.” — was the third in a series of lectures chronicling the county’s communities of color, held in conjunction with the Chatham 250 celebration.

Juneteenth, Thompson said, should be a time to reflect on what African Americans have been through and celebrate Black achievements as well as “the contributions of our allies towards our efforts for freedom.”

“Most importantly — and I cannot emphasize this enough — it also must be a day for recommitting ourselves in tangible ways



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Larry Brooks won the Juneteenth raffle’s cash prize on Saturday in Pittsboro. He received around \$150, about half of the money spent on tickets, and the remaining half was set aside to help fund next year’s Juneteenth celebration.**



**Annette Roberson (left), Rep. Robert Reives, Sheriff Mike Roberson and Terry McMillian attended CORE’s Juneteenth celebration on Saturday in Pittsboro. Juneteenth, or June 19, 1865, commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S.** Staff photo by Kim Hawks

to the equality and freedom for African Americans,” he added. “Symbolic changes are not enough. We have a way in this nation of celebrating enlightening and extolling processes that are not complete without taking real consideration for where we are.”

Thompson’s lecture traced the history of Chatham County’s African American community from west Africa, the West Indies

and the Piedmont all the way to the present day, both in collective and specific terms. To listen to the full lecture, visit the Chatham Community Library’s YouTube page.

The country, he said, has entered another period of reform where people are much more open-minded, and everyone needs to make the most of it. This window of opportunity won’t last forever, he warned, and change

requires everyone — especially allies in the white community — to commit to make “definitive steps.”

“No one can do everything, but everyone can do something,” Thompson said. “And the thing that you can do is to change how you think and to work on yourself. Each of us must do this.”

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).

**Jared Little sings ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing,’ plus other songs, during CORE’s Juneteenth celebration Saturday in Pittsboro. He sang some songs a cappella.** Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Rep. Robert Reives II gave the keynote speech at Chatham’s Fourth Annual Juneteenth Festival Saturday in Pittsboro. ‘The fight’s never going to end, and that fight takes a strong coalition of people,’ he said.**



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Siler City commissioner Norma Boone reads Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation during Chatham’s Fourth Annual Juneteenth Festival Saturday in Pittsboro. Issued in 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves in states waging war against the Union.**



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**This group of Chatham County residents devoted a lot of time and planning to CORE’s Juneteenth celebration on Saturday. From left to right: Norma Boone, Larry Brooks, Mary Harris, Ann Alston, Evelyn Yancey and Malinda Marsh.**



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Gabrielle White of Gifts Galore was one of many vendors present at CORE’s Juneteenth celebration on Saturday in Pittsboro. Besides performances and speeches, the celebration also hosted a Black business expo.**

NEWS BRIEFS

**Chatham County Public Libraries release needs assessment final report**

PITTSBORO — Results from the 2020 Chatham County Public Libraries Needs Assessment Survey are now available online for public review at <https://tinyurl.com/CCPLFinalReport>. The assessment process, which began in July 2020, was conducted by Karen Dash Consulting. The Needs Assessment was supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural

Resources. With more than 800 survey respondents, the final report includes data on the assessment methodology, community feedback and priorities, and potential actions or recommendations for the future of Chatham County Public Libraries. “We appreciate all of the valuable feedback from Chatham County residents who took time to respond to the Needs Assessment Survey,” said Chatham County Public Libraries Director Linda Clarke. “Results from the final report will be used to develop targeted strategic planning for the libraries within the next three to five years which will be critical as our county continues to grow.” Originally designed to be conducted in a variety of in-person forums and locations, the onset

of COVID-19 forced all related activities to the needs assessment to take place virtually. Additionally, the scope of the assessment was expanded to collect data on both pre-COVID services as well as those needed during the pandemic. For questions or comments about the final report, residents may contact Clarke at [linda.clarke@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:linda.clarke@chathamlibraries.org). **Town of Siler City seeks volunteers for board and committees** SILER CITY — The town of Siler City has vacancies on the following boards and committees: **Airport Authority** The Airport Authority will have a vacancy for one member with no residential require-

ments as of July 1, 2021. The Airport Authority serves as an advisory board to the board of commissioners concerning operating, regulating and promoting the Siler City Municipal Airport and to establish a framework to be utilized in coordinating local, state and federal efforts toward this end. Major emphasis shall be placed on providing the basic facilities essential for attracting and encouraging sound growth of the Siler City Municipal Airport, as a tool for overall economic growth. The authority meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 1 pm at the airport. **Parks & Recreation Committee** The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has a vacancy for one member with no

residential requirements. The committee makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners for the establishment of a system of supervised recreation for the town. All positions are advisory in nature and are unpaid. Persons interested should submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson Town of Siler City, Post Office Box 769, Siler City, N.C., 311 N. Second Avenue, or [jjohnson@silercity.org](mailto:jjohnson@silercity.org) no later than July 31. The letter of interest should include: home address, phone number, email address, educational background, current employment, civic involvement, why you wish to serve and any other information you feel pertinent. — CN+R staff reports

**Kid Scoop** THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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**Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories**  
Bedtime Stories Became Classic Literature  
Rudyard Kipling made up bedtime stories for his children. He wrote them down in 1902 and called them *Just So Stories*. Using a lot of imagination, these tales were fun ways to explain things like how the elephant got his trunk, the leopard his spots and the camel his hump.

**How the Camel Got Its Hump**

When the world was new and the animals were just beginning to work for Man, Camel lived out in the middle of the desert because he didn't want to work. Whenever anybody spoke to him, Camel just said . . .

**HUMPH!**

Other animals asked Camel to help with their work . . .

**HUMPH!**

After three days, the Man spoke to Horse, Dog and Ox.

That Humph-thing in the desert won't work, so you must work double-time to make up for it!

**HUMPH!**

This made the three animals very angry, so they asked a Djinn (also called a genie) to help make Camel do some work, too.

The Djinn warned Camel to stop saying "HUMPH." But Camel said it again and again. So the Djinn cast a spell on Camel.

You have missed three days of work. Now you'll work without stopping or eating for three days!

And since then, Camel always wears a lolling hump (we call it a hump now to not hurt his feelings). But he never caught up with the three days of work he missed at the beginning of the world. And he has never learned how to behave!

**Extra! Extra!**  
**Persons, Places and Things**  
Look through the newspaper and find five of each of the kinds of nouns:  
○ Persons  
○ Places  
○ Things  
Cut them out and glue them to a piece of paper by category.  
Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Identify and categorize nouns.

**Why are they called Just So Stories? Put these sentences in order to discover the answer.**

telling the first three chapters as \_\_\_\_\_ words, exactly in the words she \_\_\_\_\_

was used to -- or she would complain. \_\_\_\_\_ bedtime stories to his daughter, Josephine. These had \_\_\_\_\_

Rudyard Kipling began working on the book by \_\_\_\_\_ to be told "just so" -- in other \_\_\_\_\_

**Kid Scoop Together: How to Draw a Camel**

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For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit [kidscoopnews.org](http://kidscoopnews.org)

**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Rudyard Kipling wrote 12 Just So Stories. Do the math to complete the titles.

How the \_\_\_\_\_ Got His Throat  
9+9+9+2

How the \_\_\_\_\_ Got His Hump  
8+7

How the \_\_\_\_\_ Got His Skin  
8+8+8

How the \_\_\_\_\_ Got His Spots  
12-4

The Elephant's \_\_\_\_\_  
6+3+3

The Sing-Song of Old Man \_\_\_\_\_  
4+9

The Beginning of the \_\_\_\_\_  
9+9

How the First \_\_\_\_\_ was Written  
9+9+3

How the \_\_\_\_\_ was Made  
3+3+3+5

The \_\_\_\_\_ That Played with the Sea  
22-5

The \_\_\_\_\_ That Walked by Himself  
32-9

The \_\_\_\_\_ That Stamped  
16-5

18 = ARMADILLOS    24 = RHINOCEROS    14 = ALPHABET  
15 = CAMEL    12 = CHILD    29 = WHALE  
17 = CRAB    23 = CAT    8 = LEOPARD  
11 = BUTTERFLY    21 = LETTER    13 = KANGAROO

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Flow simple written directions.

**Double Double Word Search**

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

LOLLOPING  
ALPHABET  
CHAPTERS  
BEDTIME  
LEOPARD  
KIPLING  
DESERT  
BEHAVE  
PLOW  
CAMEL  
DJINN  
HORSE  
TROT  
DOG

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

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

**Write On!**

**Favorite Author**

Who is your favorite author? Write down three significant or surprising facts about that person.

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COUNCIL ON AGING

# COA building stronger programs, relationships and community during pandemic

From the United Way of Chatham County



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

**Brewer's dog Bernie keeps her company when she's by herself at home. She enjoys sitting on her porch, but hopes to one day have a motorized scooter so she and Bernie can roam the property together.**

**Community comes together to provide meals for seniors**

At the start of the pandemic, even before Chatham County saw its first positive cases of COVID-19, the Council on Aging had begun phone conversations and meetings with everyone receiving services. As initial health recommendations emerged, COA staff taught seniors how to sneeze into their elbows and to wash their hands while singing two rounds of "Happy Birthday," and began discussing what their needs may be during the pandemic should they have to stay home.

COA's doors closed March 16, 2020, with staff and a few volunteers coming in to help with meal delivery. They initially put their in-person congregate meals on hold at both the Eastern (Pittsboro) and Western (Siler City) Senior Centers. Soon after, to protect the safety of volunteers — many of whom

are seniors themselves — the daily, volunteer-driven Meals on Wheels went on hold as well. Staff had to make changes to their meal delivery programs, immediately shifting to shelf-stable and frozen meal delivery.

Streets said COA was "proficiently proactive" and placed a large order of shelf-stable meals early into the pandemic before the meals became hard to find. In 2020 United Way of Chatham County awarded COA \$9,000 through its COVID Relief Fund, which provided 2,960 shelf-stable meals, serving 195 individuals. Clients now have their choice of a box of shelf-stable meals, or frozen meals (from Asheboro's Golden Corral).

"When I heard about the United Way COVID Relief Fund in May 2020, I was reluctant at first to request support because I knew many other local nonprofits were also struggling with the issues and needs presented by the pandemic," Streets said. "Still, I was so pleased to learn we were awarded funds to support purchase of shelf-stable meals and other items to assist Chatham seniors sheltering in place.

"Nearly a year later, we have now served 128 new meals recipients in addition to those we already had enrolled in our nutrition program before the pandemic began."

For the first month during the pandemic, meal deliveries were handled by volunteers — then other agencies stepped in, including the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Chatham County Manager's Office, Emergency Management, the Chatham County Health Department, UNC Medical School, Siler City Pharmacy, Chatham Health Alliance and Chatham County Parks and Recreation. The Chatham Agriculture and Conference Center provided storage space for the shelf-stable meals. Eventually the delivery assistance from those agencies was replaced via a partnership with Chatham Transit, which now delivers all meals, incontinence supplies, medical equipment, pet food and supplies, and fans (during summer months). COA has also worked closely with CORA Food Pantry during the pandemic, and CORA now delivers groceries to several COA clients.

**Howard Alston**

Howard Alston works for Chatham Transit and has been delivering meals and supplies to seniors since Chatham Transit took over. He's had the same route with the same seniors for about one year.

"I've always said, 'Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you,'" Alston said. "A lot of (the seniors) are very, very, very kind and very glad to get their food. A lot of them are shut in and don't have transportation."

Alston said it was humbling to know that so many people take time to care for the seniors of Chatham County.

"A lot of times they are overlooked and not treated as part of society as they used to be," he said. "It's a joyful feeling when they come to the door and give you that smile."

**In-home aide and caregiver challenges**

Prior to the pandemic, COA had five state-licensed home care agencies under contract. Soon after the pandemic struck, it added two more. COA currently provides personal in-home aide care to 62 seniors. Streets said its board of directors recently approved to continue with seven agencies this next fiscal year. Even with seven agencies, there is still a waiting list.

Cheek, COA's homebased services manager, said she calls each agency weekly to ask if aides are available.

"It remains very difficult to find an available aide when we get a new case," she said.

Cathy, the in-home aide for Thelma Brewer, works for First Choice, a company contracted by COA. She works 48 hours each week and has a total of five clients with COA. She said her clients have felt safe with her, but some of her clients' family members didn't always wear masks, and she ended up having to quarantine twice due to positive cases among clients' family members.

COVID fears contributed to some seniors being completely alone in their homes.

"Close to 100% of the people who participated in my driveway visits in the fall and winter had no visitors — their children didn't want to come around them because of COVID," said Susan Hardy, the human services team leader and caregiver specialist for COA. She does the initial intake for COA's caregiver respite program, which also faces problems finding aide coverage.

"They are starving for people to interact with," Hardy said.

Hardy said COVID fears also caused some in-home aide clients to temporarily discontinue the program, with family or friends taking over and becoming the caregiver. Ironically, prior to COVID, a consumer-directed care program was in the works at COA — a program they implemented during the

pandemic with the help of the Triangle J Council of Governments. Triangle J completely oversees the program, and Streets said a recently awarded grant will help pay for the program again this coming fiscal year.

The pandemic has also shed light on the need for caregiver respite, which is intermittent caregiver relief. Prior to COVID Hardy was in the final planning stages of a volunteer-based respite program — REST (Running Errands and Sleep Time). The program was to offer caregiver respite at 13 churches across Chatham, for four hours each week, allowing the caregiver to have time to themselves. Twenty volunteers had already been trained to help staff the churches, but the program had to be put on hold due to the pandemic. Hardy hopes it will begin by the end of 2021.

Another program of Hardy's, a caregiver support group, had to go from in-person meetings to virtual. Prior to the pandemic caregivers would bring their loved ones to the senior center for activities, while the caregivers met and provided conversation and support to one another. The virtual support groups have been helpful, and Hardy now offers driveway visits. In addition, the Family Caregivers' Support Group has recently resumed socially distanced in-person meetings on the porch of COA's Eastern Center.

"A lot of caregivers need a break but are afraid of letting anyone into their homes," she said. "They have been isolated with their loved ones without any help."

**COVID vaccinations and reopening Senior Centers**

Streets said vaccine education and sign-ups became a priority for the senior community once the vaccinations became available. COA worked closely with the Chatham County Public Health Department, and Public Health eventually allowed the COA to register people directly into its system. COA staff called everyone they served, helping family members navigate the vaccination rollout and signing up those who were homebound and had no one to help them. COA also helped arrange transportation through Chatham Transit to vaccination centers. In addition to continuing its support of transportation to medical appointments, the COA also began arranging transportation to pharmacies, grocery stores, banks and other essential services.

Brewer said she was elated when vaccinations became available.

"When they got those shots, his old woman was the first in line to get hers," she said.

"They were afraid of COVID," Cheek said of the seniors she spoke with. "They wanted to get out. They were so glad when they got the shot."

Preparing for reopening, COA staff called 125 of their senior center congregate meal participants, and of the 100 who responded, 94 were already vaccinated.

"Having people fully vaccinated will make it much easier for us to reopen," Streets said. "The vast majority of our participants say they really want folks to be vaccinated if they were to be at the senior center."

Cheek said in speaking with her clients each day, she knows they are looking forward to returning to the senior centers.

"They need that interaction, and we had a great time up here," she said. "They had a lunch bunch, would go on trips, play dominoes, exercise, eat ... it's a fellowship and it's like a family. A lot of them have missed that and they are looking forward to coming back."

This July, the vaccinated seniors of Chatham will hopefully be able to do just that. The COA's 47th anniversary celebration will be a virtual event July 8, but Streets said he hopes to invite people back to the senior center for a hot meal. Because the Eastern (Pittsboro) Center will be undergoing renovations, COA will begin shuttling people from Pittsboro to the Western Center (Siler City). Occupancy numbers will be significantly reduced; however, staff is looking forward to having people back.

"Socialization is so big — a huge part of their well-being," said Allison Andrews, COA's Volunteer Coordinator. "We want them back at the centers."

The pandemic has challenged COA staff, the COA Board of Directors, volunteers, and their community partners in many ways over the past year, and they are all in agreement the experience has made the agency stronger.

"I can't think of enough adjectives to express my delight with the staff and people wanting to help — volunteers, the community partners ... it's been a team effort," said Streets. "When you talk about faith in humankind, that's what it is. People have really gone beyond the call of duty in terms of finding ways to help each other within our community. It's gratifying. I'm blessed to work with an outstanding group of people."



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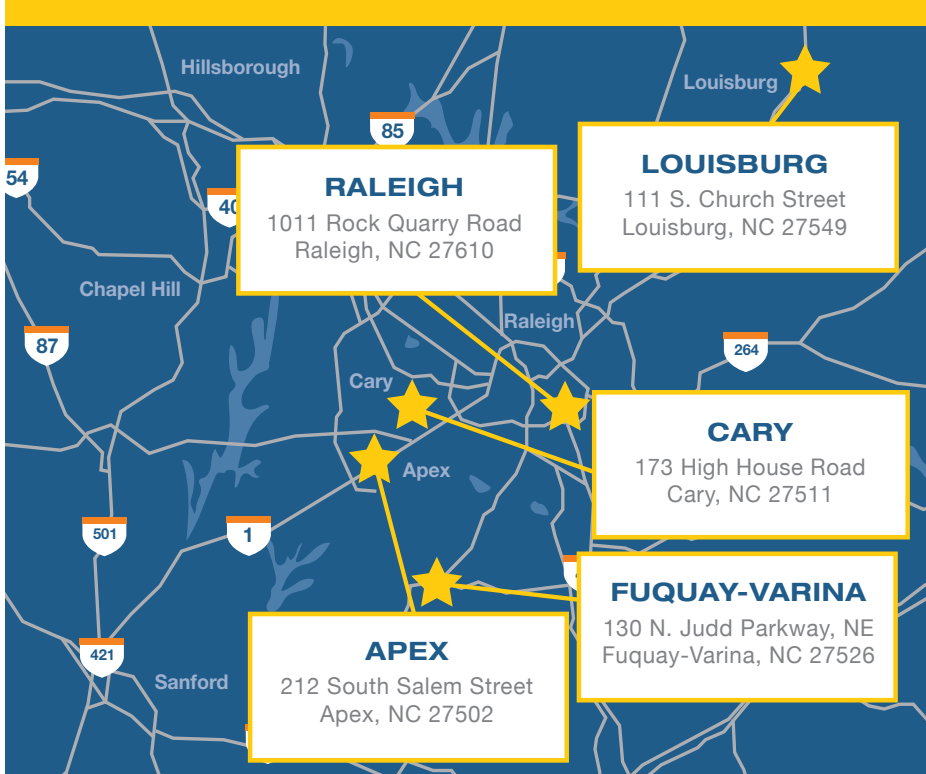
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# CLASSIFIEDS

## 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

## YARD SALES

**SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 7 A.M.,** 316 South Third Avenue: Household items, clothes (women's small to X-large) (men, small and mediums), shoes, fishing poles, table. Jn24,1tp

**POTTERSTONE VILLAGE,** Community Yard Sale, Entrance at 64 May Farm, Pittsboro, Saturday, June 26, 8am to 1pm. Over 20 homes participating - look for the balloons. Jn24,1tp

**HUGE MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE,** Friday, June 25, 219 Chatham Square, Siler City. Parking lot of Countryside Collectibles Antique Mall. 7 a.m. until... Jn24,1tp

## 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

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## 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

**ROBIN'S CLEANING SERVICE** is looking for help. Must have a driver's license and be willing to work flexible schedule, Monday - Friday. Please contact Robin at (919) 742-0964 for more information. Jn24,-Jy1,8,15,4tp

**CHATHAM MONUMENT COMPANY** has an immediate opening for a monument installer. Work involves digging monument foundations, mixing cement

and installing monuments. Work is generally Monday through Friday, 8 to 4:30 p.m. but some weekend work is necessary. Please apply in person to: Chatham Monument Co., Inc., 227 N 2nd Avenue, Siler City. Jn24,tfnc.

**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/careers. 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 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 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

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,Jn24,4tp

**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

## 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.

be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 3rd day of June, 2021. **LEIGH ANN GALLUCCI, Executor** 113 Lockinvar Ct. Cary, NC 27511 Jn3,Jn10,Jn17,Jn24,4tp

**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, Texas, are notified to exhibit the

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Bidding Begins To Close At 6pm  
Tuesday, June 29th

### Tractor Equipment, Antique Cars, Tools & Furniture, Antiques.

Items include:

John Deere 2030 tractor with loader, blue '56 Oldsmobile 88 324 V8 Rocket, Red '56 Oldsmobile 88 350 Engine 4BI Carb, Krafstman 16x7 Trailer Model DR 1009, 7ft United Box Blade, Rock Rake, Fred Cain Chisel Plow, Manure Spreader, 6ft Hay Rake, Fork Attachment, John Deere Bench For Tractor Ride, Craftsman Toolbox, various tools (hand, power and pneumatic), old advertising signs, enamel top table, 8 pc. patio set - table, bars and chairs, art deco lamp and SO MUCH MORE!



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AUCTIONEER - BROKER NCAL #8420  
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OFFICE (919) 742-3286 - FIRM #8086



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 under-

signed 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 the 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,Jy1,4tc

**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 pay-

ment to the undersigned. This the 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,Jy1,4tc

**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 the 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,Jy8,4tc

**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,Jy8,4tc

**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](mailto:Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov) by 4 p.m. on June 28th, 2021. Jn17,Jn24,2tc

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE**  
 Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. ROY BROCK and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ROY BROCK and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **18-CVD-825**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **7th day of July, 2021, offer for sale** and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction **at the courthouse door in Chatham County**, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina **at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:  
 TRACT TWO: Being all of **Lot No. 88 of Crestview Subdivision** as shown by a plat of the same made by Dunn Engineering Company and recorded in Plat Book 8 at Page 58 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Chatham County. Reference is hereby made to said plat for a more accurate description. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. **Parcel Identification Number: 0014960**  
 The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 10th day of June, 2021. /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 Jn24,Jy1,2tc

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE**  
 Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. ROY BROCK and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ROY BROCK and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **18-CVD-825**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the **7th day of July, 2021, offer for sale** and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction **at the courthouse door in Chatham County**, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina **at 12:00 o'clock, noon**, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows:  
 TRACT ONE: Being all of **Lot No. 101 of Crestview Subdivision** as shown by a plat of the same made by Dunn Engineering Company and recorded in Plat Book 8 at Page 58 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Chatham County. Reference is hereby made to said plat for a more accurate description. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. **Parcel Identification Number: 0075876**  
 The undersigned Commis-

**PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS**  
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 Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.  
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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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sioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 10th day of June, 2021. /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 Jn24,Jy1,2tc

Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: BEING all of that tract or parcel of land, containing 7.08 acres, more or less, as per plat and survey entitled "Property of David S. Turck & Meredith S. Turck", recorded in Plat Book 21, Page 63, Chatham County Registry, reference to which is hereby made for a more particular description. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 10th day of June, 2021 /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 Jn24,Jy1,2tc

of HAROLD SMALLS, Incompetent and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, LAWRENCE SMALLS and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of LAWRENCE SMALLS and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, WILLIE SNIPES and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of WILLIE SNIPES and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, JOEY SCOTTON and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of JOEY SCOTTON and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, REUBEN SNIPES and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of REUBEN SNIPES and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, VALERIA WILSON and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of VALERIA WILSON and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, ELVIRA RATLIFF and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of ELVIRA RATLIFF and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, and PETER T. BLA-ETZ, GUARDIAN of the ESTATE of HAROLD SMALLS, et al, **12-CVD-821**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 7th day of July, 2021, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described real property, lying and being in Matthews Township, State and County aforesaid, and more particularly described as follows: Being all of Lots 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40, as described on a Plat entitled "GREENWOOD ACRES SUBDIVISION, dated September 1960, prepared by Clotus Craven, RLS,

and recorded in Plat Book 8, Page 50, Chatham County Registry, to which Plat reference is hereby made for greater certainty of description. SAVING AND EXCEPTING from the above described lots the Eastern 25 feet of Lot 39 and Lot 40. Subject to restrictive covenants and easements of record. Parcel Identification Number: **0014496** The undersigned Commissioner makes no warranties in connection with this property and specifically disclaims any warranties as to title and habitability. This property is being sold as is, without opinion as to title or any other matter. This sale will be made subject to all outstanding city and county taxes and all local improvement assessments against the above described property not included in the judgment in the above-entitled cause. A cash deposit of 20 percent of the successful bid will be required. In addition, the successful bidder will be required, at the time the Deed is recorded to pay for recording fees and revenue stamps assessed by the Chatham County Register of Deeds. This sale is subject to upset bid as set forth in N.C.G.S. Section 1-339.25. This the 10th day of June, 2021. /s/ Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill, Commissioner P.O. Box 25 Trenton, NC 28585 Jn24,Jy1,2tc

will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 24th day of June, 2021. James Hunt Johnson, Administrator, Estate of Susan Hunt Johnson, Deceased Law Offices of James Hunt Johnson 106-A South Maple Street Graham, NC 2723 Jn24,Jy1,Jy8,Jy15,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS BERA EDWARDS WILLIAMS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY FILE # 21 E 332** The undersigned, having qualified as Executor for the estate of BERA EDWARDS WILLIAMS, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to present such claims to the undersigned executor c/o Ralph A. Evans, Attorney at Law, at P.O. Box 1145, Liberty, North Carolina 27298 on or before September 22, 2021 or this Notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This the 21st day of June, 2021. Vernon Edward Williams, Executor 1234 Zion Church Road Staley, NC 27355 Ralph A. Evans, Attorney at Law P.O. Box 1145 Liberty, NC 27298 (336) 622-5320 Jn24,Jy1,Jy8,Jy15,4tp

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE** Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. JAMES EDWARD RAETZ, ADMINISTRATOR of the ESTATE of RICHARD RAETZ, JAMES EDWARD RAETZ and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees of JAMES EDWARD RAETZ and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, et al, **17-CVD-725**, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 7th day of July, 2021, offer for sale and sell for cash, to the last and highest bidder at public auction at the courthouse door in Chatham County, North Carolina, Pittsboro, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock, noon, the following described real property, lying and being in Hadley

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE** Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. HAROLD SMALLS, Incompetent and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees

**NOTICE OF TAX FORECLOSURE SALE** Under and by virtue of an order of the District Court of Chatham County, North Carolina, made and entered in the action entitled COUNTY OF CHATHAM vs. HAROLD SMALLS, Incompetent and spouse, if any, and all possible heirs and assignees

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 362** All persons having claims against SUSAN HUNT JOHNSON, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of June, 2021. Colton Lambert, Administrator c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 Jn24,Jy1,Jy8,Jy15,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 350** All persons having claims against RUBY CRIBB MARSH, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of June, 2021. Jennifer Dianne Lane, Executor 1020 Wooded Lake Dr Apex, NC 27523 Jn24,Jy1,Jy8,Jy15,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** All persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of ALFRED PAUL DE LA HOUSAYE deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before the 24th day of September, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to please make immediate payment. This the 24th day of June, 2021. BRIANNA MARIE DE LA HOUSAYE Administrator c/o LEWIS & ANDERSON, PLLC Attorneys at Law P.O. Drawer 4825 Chapel Hill, NC 27515-1825 Jn24,Jy1,Jy8,Jy15,4tp

# Here's some berry good cake

In the spring a young child's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of fields of pick your own strawberries. (Apologies to Alfred Lord Tennyson.) When The Kid was little we often visited local farms in order to pick pound after pound of strawberries. I'd ask the proprietors if they'd like to weigh my child on the way in and out, and we'd pay the difference. They always laughed and said no — until they saw The Kid at work. While picking, I'd notice my toddler's head turned

away. Bad sign. I'd call out, and The Kid's head would pop up, splattered in bright red juice, looking like a zombie child who got caught eating the babysitter. It was at that point that the farmers realized when I asked them about weighing The Kid, I wasn't actually joking. Of course, when we got home, we'd set down the 50 or 60 pounds of freshly picked strawberries and reenact the final scene of "The Graduate." Petey and I would look at each other and wonder, "What now?" We had enough berries to make jelly for every PBJ eaten by every American school kid for 10 years. After a few years, and more pounds of sad, spoiled, furry berries

than I care to admit to, I realized that the berries were tasty, but the trips themselves were and should be the point. This strawberry cake only takes about a dozen fresh strawberries — but they should be the ripest, plumpest, most gorgeous strawberries in the field. The rest of the berry flavor comes from a very surprising ingredient that you might never think of: freeze-dried strawberries. When freeze-dried, the water in food is completely removed. It's the texture of that space ice cream or Styrofoam. But when ground up, it lends the color and the flavor of real strawberry without adding more liquid. Many grocery stores carry bags of them, and if all else fails, there's

always the internet. But I'll tell you, you haven't lived until you've seen the strawberry fields of the living dead, as portrayed by your own berry go-re-covered offspring. Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.



This strawberry pie can be made with relatively few strawberries. Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

**Joyland Strawberry Layer Cake**

Cake: 2 sticks butter, softened	1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup sugar	2 teaspoons baking powder
3 large eggs, room temperature	1 teaspoon salt
2 1/4 cups cake flour	1 cup sour cream
1/3 cup crushed freeze-dried strawberries	2 tablespoons real vanilla

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 8 or 9-inch round tins.

Cream together butter and sugar until very light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each.

Sift together flour, strawberry powder, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Mix into butter mixture. When mixture just comes together, mix in sour cream and vanilla until batter is fully blended. Carefully spoon batter into prepared cake pans and bake for 25-35 minutes. Start checking after about 22 minutes and remove from oven as soon as toothpick comes out clean, but moist. Cool in pan 5 minutes and then turn out onto cooling rack to finish cooling completely.

**Vanilla Simple Syrup**

1 cup sugar	1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 cup water	

Heat sugar and water in pan on stove until the sugar is completely dissolved. Stir in vanilla and let cool.

**Mom's American Buttercream**

3 1-pound boxes powdered sugar	3/4 cup of water (or less)
2 teaspoons salt	2 tablespoons vanilla
3 scant teaspoons cream of tartar	2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1 cup butter-flavor Crisco	1/4 cup crushed freeze-dried strawberries
3 egg whites	

Dump all ingredients except the jam into mixer. Beat ingredients at low until it starts to come together. Put water in at this point, a bit at a time. Once it gets to a creamy frosting and piping consistency, let it go on medium-high for 4 minutes.

Remove two-thirds of the frosting, cover, and set aside. Add crushed berries to remaining frosting in mixer and let it go on medium-high until completely incorporated and smooth (2-3 minutes).

**Assembly**

12 big beautiful fresh strawberries	Brush both cakes generously with simple syrup.
1/2 cup crushed, freeze-dried strawberries	

Cut tops off cake so they're straight and level and put cut pieces and crushed strawberries into a food processor until they're small crumbs and set aside. Slice each cake in half, horizontally. Pipe one ring around the outside top of three layers as a dam, then fill with strawberry buttercream, and smooth down. Stack onto cake board or plate, topping with unfrosted layer then put into fridge until frosting firms up.

Frost with about half the remaining frosting. Smooth it as much as you can. Gently press the cake and berry crumbs around the sides of the cake until it's fully covered.

Using a large star tip, put a border around the top and bottom of the cake. Cover the top with piped stars and top with strawberries. Cover and refrigerate at least six hours or overnight before service.

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