



Chatham News + Record

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A NEWS + RECORD REPORT

COVID-19 cases are suddenly increasing again in Chatham — and almost exclusively among the unvaccinated

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

A sudden jump in positive COVID-19 diagnoses in Chatham is almost entirely among the county's unvaccinated and partially-vaccinated population, and health officials warn that the Delta variant of the virus and the persistent refusal of so many residents to get vaccinated are causes for alarm.

Although the raw number of new cases is

relatively small, the Chatham County Public Health Department's Mike Zelek says one key measurement — the number of new cases per 100,000 population — has approached a threshold the county hasn't seen in months.

During much of June, Chatham was seeing "around zero" new cases each day, with a rolling 7-day average of well under 10 cases per 100,000 population, Zelek, the CCPHD director, said. As of last week — after a day in which seven new cases were recorded —

that measurement was approaching 50 cases per 100,000, representing an increase of more than 150% from the prior week and a level considered "substantial community transmission," by definition of the Centers for Disease Control.

The sudden surge comes soon after Chatham crossed another threshold: having 50% of its residents at least partially vaccinated.

See **CASES**, page A8



Zelek

SEMISESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

JOHNSON'S: 75 years later, still cooking up the best burgers in town



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A customer enjoys one of Johnson's signature cheeseburgers. The famed Siler City establishment celebrated its 75th anniversary Monday.

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — What do you get stacking condiments, slaw, onion, chili, tomato and 100% Angus-quality beef — in that order — agglutinated by a thick cheese catalyst?

The perfect cheeseburger, at least according to Carolyn Routh, third-generation manager of John-

son's Drive-In.

Of course, restaurant patrons are free to select any combination of toppings for their burgers. But no matter the ingredients you fancy, there's a specific order to your burger's assembly.

"I guess the idea behind it is everything goes on from flattest to bumpiest," Routh said, "to make sure it all stays together perfectly.

What's more annoying than your tomato sliding off your lettuce and meat coming off the bun?"

Such detail may seem inconsequential to the casual burger eater, but it represents decades of dedication to the science of burgercraft: 75 years to be exact.

On Monday, the legendary

See **BURGERS**, page A13

SCPD releases details of June murder

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Three men connected to a Siler City murder were indicted by a Grand Jury and arrested last Thursday after a sensitive and secretive month-long investigation, according to local police and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation.

On June 15, Siler City police were dispatched to 415 East Sixth St. in response to reports of gunshots, according to Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner. Upon arrival, officers found Todd Laymond Brown, who lived in the house, with a gunshot wound. Emergency care was administered, but Brown succumbed to his injuries at the scene.

Soon after launching a homicide investigation, Siler City police contacted the N.C. State Bureau of Investigation for assistance, according to a SCPD press release.

"After numerous interviews and searches, as well as collaboration with the Chatham County District Attorney's Office, the evidence collected during the investigation was submitted to a Grand Jury," SCPD Lt. Jason Boyd said in the release. "The Grand Jury returned with indictments on three individuals for first degree murder and robbery with a dangerous weapon."

The three men indicted were:

See **MURDER**, page A7

Siler City's new immigrant advisory committee to give immigrants voice

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Decades after immigrants first began flocking to Siler City, the town will soon have a new immigrant advisory committee — and its creators have high hopes for the opportunities it's meant to bring.

On June 21, the Siler City Board of Commissioners approved the town's first Immigrant Community Advisory Committee as part of its efforts to better integrate immigrants into the community. Delayed by COVID-19, the idea originally emerged several years ago amid the Siler City Building Integrated Communities (BIC) initiative — a partnership between the town, the Hispanic Liaison and the UNC Latino Migration Project to identify and address immigrant residents' needs.

"I think it's a really important step to create more relationships and communication and a channel for the immigrant community to have direct communication with town commissioners, town management and town staff about issues in the community that are relevant and need to be uplifted and need to be talked about and addressed," the Liaison's founder and executive director, Ilana Dubester, told the News + Record.

"We haven't had that kind of space before within town government to do that," she added. "There hasn't been an official channel. There's been, of course, the Hispanic Liaison bringing up issues, but that's not the same as having a body that is part of the town and

See **IMMIGRANT**, page A7

Mitchum's 'Evening of Music' comes after years of honing his talents at home, away



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Oliver Mitchum started playing piano when he was seven. Now, he's a junior at N.C. State University and member of the marching band and basketball pep band.

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Oliver Mitchum started playing the piano when he was just 7 years old.

No one in his family really played an instrument, so music was "kind of a foreign concept" to him.

But his parents signed him up anyway.

"I remember on my way over there thinking about all the scribble marks in the hymnals at church," Mitchum says of that first lesson, "and being like, 'How on earth does anyone understand this?'"

More than a decade — and hundreds of hours of practice — later, Mitchum doesn't just understand how to read and play music. He's become an artist. He started composing his own piano pieces when he was 10 years old, played piano at his church growing up and also picked up the saxophone — an instru-

ment he earned honors for playing during his time at Jordan-Matthews High School.

Now a rising junior at N.C. State studying mechanical engineering, Mitchum is in his school's marching band — "The Power Sound of the South" — along with the basketball team pep band. He grew up watching college football with his family, so traveling to and watching games was appealing. But more than that, Mitchum says he was drawn to the community, and to the music they could make together.

"Being surrounded by that many people in that community was really nice," Mitchum, 21, says. "It was nice to go over there and have so many new friendships just right there. And also, it was fun to play with such a large group, because we made a

See **MITCHUM**, page A3

IN THE KNOW

New building code ordinance could aid Siler City's revitalization. **PAGE A8**

Revised education bill could limit how schools teach American history. **PAGE A12**

Pittsboro's Cedar Grove UMC to host 'summer fiesta' Saturday. **PAGE B5**

Durham El Futuro reopens, but Siler City's office staying remote. **PAGE B9**





Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A rising junior at N.C. State University studying mechanical engineering, Mitchum is in his school's marching band, 'The Power Sound of the South,' along with the basketball team pep band.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Mitchum plays piano and saxophone — an instrument he earned honors for playing during his time at Jordan-Matthews High School.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

'Music for me, it's kind of a break from all the other stuff,' Mitchum said of his engineering studies.

MITCHUM

Continued from page A1

lot of sound."

He made it to one ACC Tournament Basketball game his first year before the games were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, the pandemic limited a lot of what the band and pep teams were able to do together.

"We didn't really have any in-person marching band, we just made a few recordings where we each individually took a video of ourselves playing a piece and then like someone that university would

combine it into one single video," he says. "Which was pretty cool and neat to see how they edited all of that together. It definitely wasn't as fun as being able to travel and be with all the people you're playing with though.

Pandemic or not, Mitchum has continued to practice and make music.

While much of his course work last year was online, that didn't necessarily ease the load. He's always enjoyed math and science in school, as well as doing things like fixing and working on cars. He still enjoys those things,

'I kind of found it therapeutic in a way just to be able to relieve stress and everything by just sitting down at a keyboard and playing music.'

OLIVER MITCHUM, a junior at N.C. State University

and still plans to be an engineer.

"But music for me, it's kind of a break from all the other stuff," Mitchum says, "When you're in an engineering program, you get so much of that, that it gets kind of tiring after a little while. I kind of found it therapeutic in a way just to be able to relieve stress and everything by just sitting down at a keyboard and playing music."

Mitchum says he's "definitely more invested in piano," but he plans to continue making music — including the saxophone — his "number one hobby" for years to come.

Next weekend, he'll tick off another music accomplishment: playing his first solo concert, at his home church, Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church in Pittsboro. Mitchum's

excited for the opportunity, but it wasn't his idea. He said a longtime family friend and fellow church member, Robin Brady, proposed the idea to him.

Brady, who's been a member at Brown's Chapel for the last 15 years, remembers Mitchum when he first started playing piano.

"I remember his grandmother telling me his piano instructor had told his parents that he no longer needed lessons, he was beyond needing lessons in his skill level," Brady says. "Oliver would play at church for special occasions.

When he began playing original pieces that were really good, the congregation knew he had a very special gift."

Last month, Mitchum played such a moving rendition of the hymn "In the Garden" at church, Brady said, that she and another church member suggested paying to hear him play.

"The light bulb went on and I asked Oliver if he would consider playing a concert, for the church and the community, and he replied with an enthusiastic, 'Sure,'" she says. "I just began putting things in place for 'An Evening of Music with Oliver.' I later learned that Oliver's 'In the Garden' performance a few weeks earlier had been arranged on the fly — he had never played it that way before the church service that Sunday."

Mitchum's concert will take place at 7 p.m. this Saturday and feature hymns, classical music, and original compositions — including songs written and to be performed by his friend, Savannah Cribbs. The event will feature a radio broadcast in the church parking lot, followed by a short reception.

For those who can't make it, Brady said people can hear some of Mitchum's music under the playlist tab on Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church's YouTube channel.

"I would love for everyone in the community to experience Oliver's talent," she says.

Until then, Mitchum is busy practicing, as he says he sets pretty high expectations for how he plays music.

What makes all the practice and time spent playing worth it? For Mitchum, it's listening to himself play. Not because he is arrogant or cocky about his own ability, but because he loves to find and then produce music that's satisfying to him.

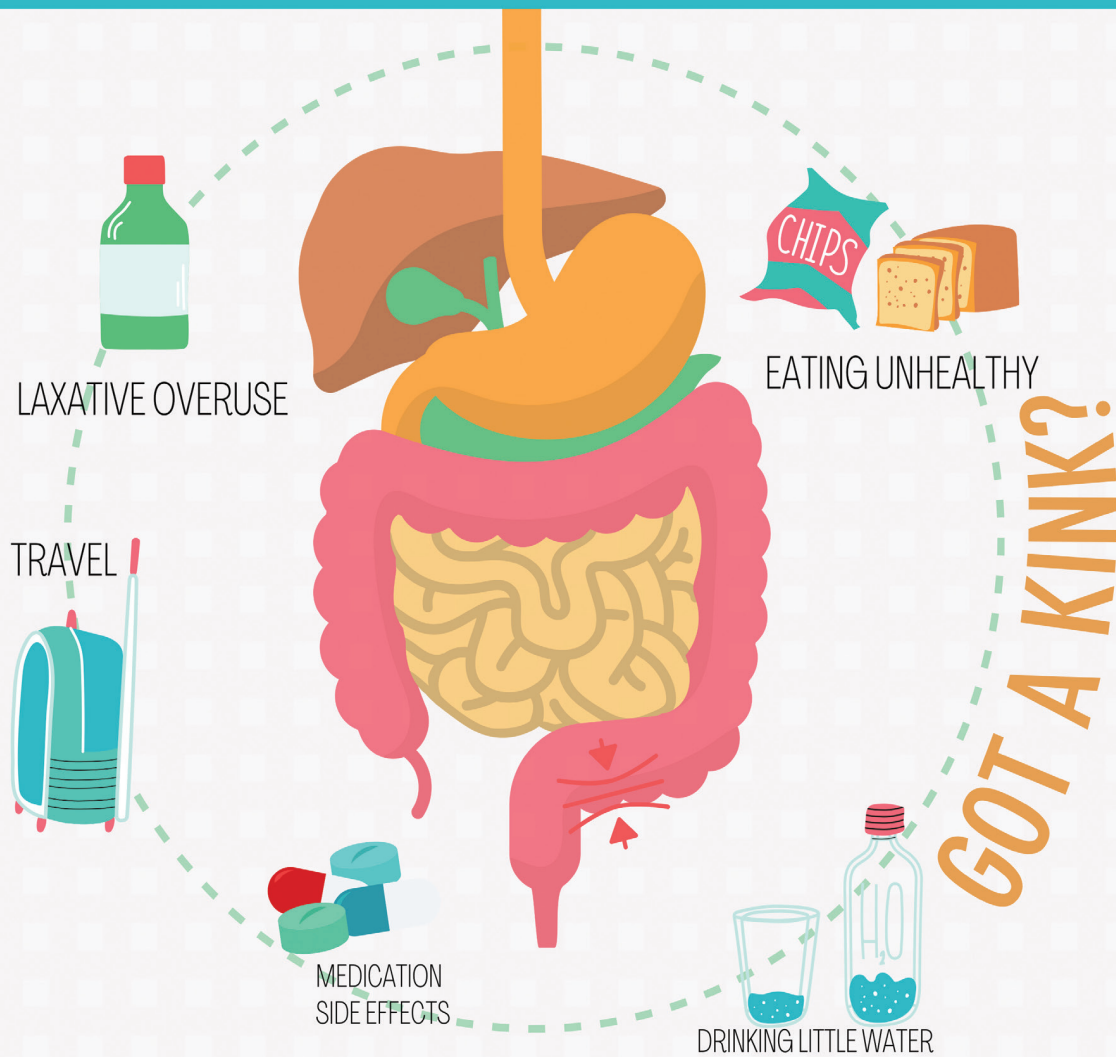
And, he adds, his church family — and all their encouragement — keeps him going, too.

"Whenever I go and play, I've been asked probably hundreds of times, 'Hey, you're gonna keep playing the piano in college, right?'" he says. "'Yes, I'm gonna keep doing that.' Because I don't think they would let me stop if I ever quit. But really, I just enjoy it so much myself that I would not want to quit. It's a big part of my life."

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

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VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL

For Chatham's unvaccinated, it's time for a reality check

It's time for a reality check. That's the message from both a World Health Organization epidemiologist and the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department (see story, page A1) in light of what we're seeing with COVID worldwide and locally: a reversal of spring's positive, encouraging trends and a surge in new coronavirus cases.

The unpleasant truth — in Chatham, across North Carolina, across the U.S. — has become even more evident in the last two weeks.

- In areas where there are low vaccination rates, coronavirus infections are surging at an alarming rate. New cases are up 66% across the U.S. and 77% in North Carolina. Chatham County's rolling 7-day average of new cases increased 255% from June 12 to July 12, and saw a one-week case count jump of 150% last week.
- Nearly all the recent COVID-19 deaths, and all but a sliver of the new cases, are among the unvaccinated.
- The Delta variant is far more transmissible than earlier strains. Not necessarily more dangerous, but more contagious.

- The virus is continuing to mutate.

But the good news most of us already know: vaccines are effective — against COVID-19, against the Delta variant, and in preventing serious illness in “breakthrough” cases among those fully vaccinated. With so many people remaining unvaccinated, however — and in Chatham and the U.S., it's NOT due to availability — we're a long way from being “over” COVID.

We're not at the end of this pandemic.

In the United States, 56.1% of the population is partially vaccinated; 48.6% of the population is fully vaccinated. In Chatham, it's 50% and 47%, respectively. But vaccination rates have slowed to a near-crawl among the half of the population not vaccinated. The most troubling aspect: resistance to the vaccinations is growing. A recent Washington Post-ABC News poll indicated that 29% of Americans said they were unlikely to get vaccinated; 20% said they definitely would not. Both of those numbers are increases from three months ago.

Vaccine “hesitancy” has become outright vaccine “hostility” among at least

one-fifth of the country, a trend which is likely also true in Chatham County. That the vaccines have become political isn't a revelation. COVID-19 as a government “plot” or conspiracy or hoax is what has been described as an “article of faith” among many of the unvaccinated, who cite distrust in science as one reason not to “get jabbed.”

The same poll showing an increase in vaccination resistance indicates that 47% of Republicans said they “likely” or “definitely” wouldn't get vaccinated; among Democrats, that number was just 6%. Conservatives cheer when former President Donald Trump takes credit for developing the vaccines — as he's repeatedly done — and then, inexplicably, turn around and claim the vaccines are killing people. There were more cheers when speakers at a recent conservative rally celebrated the fact that President Joe Biden's goal of having 70% of Americans at least partially vaccinated by July 4th wasn't reached.

Messages of skepticism, distrust and hostility are amplified time and time again on social media platforms

and by some news sources. A recent report traced 65% of the shares of anti-vaccination misinformation to just 12 people — people who have made misleading claims, told lies and promulgated outright fabrications on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. You can find similar claims on a handful of Chatham-based Facebook pages and local chatrooms, which claim, among other things, that the pandemic is just a way for the government to spy on you or control you. The words of credible public health officials are poo-hooped and drowned out by never-vaxxers who claim the vaccinations contain microchips or are a part of a massive plot.

Here's where that puts us: coronavirus skeptics, many of whom complained vigorously about mask mandates and restrictions, are contributing to putting us on the path we're on now. The dropping of mandates gives the virus, which by its nature wants to spread, plenty of opportunity to do just that among the unvaccinated — which will lead to fresh rounds of mandates and restrictions as cases rise.

“It's like we've been to this

movie several times in the last year and a half, and it doesn't end well,” said Francis S. Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health. “Somehow, we're running the tape again. It's all predictable.”

Maria Van Kerkhove, the World Health Organization epidemiologist who called for the “reality check,” said “we're in a bad place right now globally.”

“We're getting further away from the end than we should be,” she said.

The vaccines in place can cause side effects. On rare occasions, they can be dangerous. But they've passed intense safety reviews, and as cases surge, one thing is clear: they work, even in preventing serious illness or even symptoms in “breakthrough” cases among the vaccinated.

So it's not the time, as we heard last week, to decide to “double down on making opposition to vaccination a central front” in our endless culture war.

It's time, then, for the unvaccinated to get real — about the vaccine and about the consequences for them, and the rest of us, for hesitancy and hostility.

Right thing may take time but it's worth the effort

Is it just me or is the milk of human kindness in short supply these days?

Or has it always been in short supply and I was — or still am — just too stupid or naïve to notice the volume of the supply is lacking?

I hope I'm wrong. I hope there's more and more of that milk around, more than there used to be. I hope more and more folks take the time, most often just a moment or two, to do the right thing. But the more birthdays I have the more random acts of unkindness I see. So, could it just be that I'm too often in the wrong place then?

Granted, this hurry-up fast-paced “get yours while you can and don't worry about anybody else” world can do that to you. But let me go on record as saying I don't like it and that in my humble opinion it is not a good thing for man or beast.

For instance, why do some folks either just stare at you or not even bother to do that when you step aside and hold the door for them? What ever happened to “Hello” or “Good morning” or even “Thank you” or just “Thanks”?

I know. Maybe they're having a bad day or their grandma just died or something, but does that excuse not acknowledging another human being is in your presence? I put forth that question once in a group discussion and someone berated me with a question of their own, namely: “Why are you holding the door in the first place? Is it so they'll thank you?”

The answer to that is, “No, that's not the reason.” The reason I do that is be-

cause my mama and daddy reared me and my brothers to do that — and other similar things — for another human, regardless of their age, race, sex, beauty, lack of or anything else. It is, they said, the right thing to do.

Now before someone says I must think I'm pretty special or just the greatest thing going or ain't that just grand about my mama, let me go on to say I'm pretty sure many other folks were similarly reared. I'm just not seeing them that much these days.

You knew there had to be something that launched this tirade, didn't you? Actually, there are two.

One has to do with when you're trying to merge into traffic and there are two lanes and all the traffic is in the one closest to you and folks will die at the wheel before they realize all they have to do is pull over to the other lane and you both can travel on.

In a nod to the ancient days when I took driver's training, our instructor told us it was really important to pay attention to the world around you when driving. He told us we shouldn't be combing our hair or applying lipstick or sending text messages ... oh, wait, sorry, no cell phones then. At any rate, he told us to pay attention and to watch what other drivers were doing.

Truthfully, I can live with that one because, in spite of my ramblings, there have been times I have not pulled over myself. Not many because I do pay attention to that but, in the spirit of honesty, I must admit there have been some. I have been so preoccupied with my thoughts or singing along with Levi Stubbs and the Four Tops on “Baby, I Need Your Lovin'” that I wasn't paying attention to other traffic, which our driver training instructor also said was

something we should do.

The other case in point of the absence of kindness or common decency or whatever word(s) you like has to do with drivers who love their horns and can't wait to lean on them for extended periods of time.

Not so long ago, I was parked on the main street of my little hometown. I'd conducted some business and made my way back to my ride. I was parked in the end space of a line, next to a traffic light which I couldn't see because it was hidden from view because of the shape of my vehicle. So, I watched the traffic flow and when the line of cars going the way I wanted to go stopped for a red light I began easing out, watching all around.

Apparently, Richard Petty or A.J. Foyt has moved to Pittsboro because in a nano-second a driver had zoomed up the side street, made a quick turn and wound up on — and almost in — my bumper as I was two-thirds out of the space. I'm pretty sure the back up lights on my ride work and if Mr. NASCAR had been watching he could have seen them go out as I worked the shifter to pull back in since it was obvious he wasn't going to let me out.

I don't know why he was in a hurry. Maybe the doughnut light had just come on at Krispy Kreme. Maybe his wife was in the car about to give birth to triplets. Maybe his wife had just holstered at him because she was in the car. Maybe he loves his horn. Maybe he's just not nice.

What I do know is the horn on his ride works because he let me hear it loud and long, preferring to let the world, or at least that part around us, know how I had insulted him by daring to get into his space — never mind that

he wasn't there just a moment before — rather than take the same amount of time to let me out that was required to sound off his horn.

And in that same spirit of honesty I spoke of earlier, let me tell you two things happened from that brief encounter. Number one is that the entire incident instantly registered about an 8.75 on my 10 scale of anger, mainly because it was unnecessary.

And secondly, noticing as he went by that his passenger window was down, I reverted to another random act of kindness mentioned earlier — I thanked him for his kindness.

Really, I did. I said, “Thank you.”

Now that's as far as it went. I did not question his ancestry or swear at him or invent any new words, use a sailor's vocabulary or show him any hand gestures. I just said, “Thank you” so he could hear it.

But I'm thinking the entire time: why not take just a moment and extend an act of kindness to another human rather than sit down on your vehicle horn for as long as you could hold it? I wonder if he would like it if I laid down on my horn if I'm ever five feet from his ear.

So, be on the lookout, friends: find a random act of kindness somewhere and do it.

Someone may thank you for it.

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.

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What's on your mind?

The Chatham News + Record welcomes letters from its readers on topics of local and public interest, as well as thoughtful and informative guest columns. At our discretion, we may edit letters for clarity. We reserve the right to refuse letters and other submissions that promote a commercial product, contain either libelous material, personal attacks on individuals or vulgar language. Consumer complaints and letters containing unverifiable factual claims are ineligible for publication.

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

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

What makes a home?



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
 Hope Matters

Home. Before your mind jumps to the physical and metaphorical meanings of this loaded word, try saying it slowly out loud. Or, if you are reading this in public, you could whisper quietly.

Home. Do you feel how your lips come together and apart like a kiss? Try it again. Home.

I love the idea that we offer a kiss to the world every time we say this word. Regardless of the physical appearance of where you hang your clothes and lay your head, home should be a place where you are cared for and loved.

I am writing from my home where I have worked during much of the pandemic. My “office” is really just a desk in the bedroom I share with my wife. When I sat down to write this morning, I saw that a toy monster truck was waiting on top of my laptop, a little surprise from my 3-year-old daughter.

On the same desk, I keep a picture of my daughter with her two big brothers. They pose on their scooters, all three sporting big smiles beneath their helmets. This photo was snapped by my wife on the sidewalk in front of our home, the very spot I can look down upon from my desk through the second-floor window. Next to this picture of our kids is a birthday card

from my beloved that reads, “My Heart Has Found Its Home with You.” Every time I look at this message, it makes me smile.

In a few moments, I'll get up from my writing desk and head downstairs. I'll notice the permanent marker scrawled on the wall and the chipped paint in the corner. There will be Legos and Pokémon cards strewn across the floor like paint on a Jackson Pollock canvas. There will be dirty dishes in the sink that are my responsibility to clean.

Downstairs, I will also see my loved ones, the people who fill this house with mad messes and silly songs, energy and elbows and tears and laughter, hugs and kisses. That is home to me.

Many philosophies and religions teach that there is much beyond our control. It is also true that we make decisions about what we value and cherish. As an ancient spiritual teacher put it, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Like slowly saying a word, I want to savor all my treasures — every little surprise, grace note and gift of affection. There are many ways to say “home.”

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

VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | REP. ROBERT REIVES II

Child Tax Credit is one of most pro-family policies enacted by Congress in generations

Last week, many families across our community woke up to a deposit in their bank account via the Child Tax Credit. That money, signed into law by President Biden in the American Rescue Plan, has not received enough attention. It is one of the most pro-family policies enacted by our Congress in generations.

Too often, middle- and low-income families get the short end of the stick. The Child Tax Credit is the first substantial extension of our nation's safety net in years, and it could not come at a better time. As our economy heats up, working families are ready

to get back into the workforce. This money will help ensure that basic necessities are within reach for families across the nation.

Here's how the Child Tax Credit works: Families with children under the age of 6 received \$300 per child and families with children age 6 to 17 received \$250 per child. The payments will be made monthly through January 2022, unless the program is made permanent. Democrats in Congress support extending the program and it would be wise to do so; experts at The Center on Poverty and Social Policy at the Columbia School of Social

Work estimate that child poverty would be nearly halved.

In North Carolina, the effects of the program will be substantial. The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that more than 450,000 rural children in our state would benefit — 94% of all rural children.

The tax credit is immediate and impactful. It can be used to help with child care, a medical bill, or a summer family outing. It is extremely simple and inexpensive to administer. The benefits go beyond the family receiving the credit. Most of the money will be spent locally, helping small

businesses, creating local jobs, and generating local tax revenue that pays for police and schools.

The expanded Child Tax Credit is a welcome addition to the lives of working people across this state and our local communities. As the rollout continues, it is important no one gets left behind who is eligible. If a family has filed recent tax returns or received stimulus checks over the last year, they should get the checks automatically. Those who have not filed a tax return recently can visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to find more information and sign up for the benefits

online.

The expanded Child Tax Credit will help middle class and working families. It will help children living in poverty. Help spread the word about its importance so everyone who is eligible receives their fair share. Finally, contact your member of Congress and United States Senators and ask them to make the Child Tax Credit permanent.

Rep. Robert Reives II represents District 54 (all of Chatham County and a portion of Durham County) in the N.C. House of Representatives. He lives in Goldston.

GUEST COLUMN

REVEREND TROY LESHER-THOMAS

North Carolina can lead on LGBTQ nondiscrimination

As a longtime North Carolina faith leader, I am hoping that Senators Richard Burr and Thom Tillis will help find common ground to ensure fairness and equality for all Americans.

For decades, Congress has neglected its responsibility to protect the LGBTQ community — but with both parties now offering proposals to add nondiscrimination protections to the law, 2021 could finally be the year to change that. I look to Senators Burr and Tillis to join a bipartisan coalition in hammering out the details of this crucial legislation.

Over the years, I've enjoyed the privilege of serving congregations that have been welcoming to LGBTQ members. Now I'm interim pastor at the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill, a More Light congregation that formally invites the full participation of LGBTQ Presbyterians into the life of our faith community. Our congregation embraces everyone as children of God and blessed creatures. Reconciliation made history in 2012 when Reverend Katie Ricks, the first openly lesbian pastor ordained by the Presbyterian Church USA, became Associate Pastor.

There is a refreshing unity at Reconciliation, with no tug-of-war over our inclusive culture. The congregation includes many same-sex couples, some of whom were married here. The recent change in policy at the UNC-Chapel Hill Presbyterian Campus Ministry that all congregations represented on its board be More Light (inclusive), however, reminded me of the vital importance of unity and healing as Presbyterians of varying opinions confront new challenges. As a pastor, my obligation is to serve all of my congregants with love and respect, regardless of any differences in viewpoint.

Chapel Hill has a vibrant LGBTQ community, but in the outlying rural area where my family lives, my volunteering on an anti-bullying task group enabled me to see the extent of the problem in our local school system. Thankfully, school officials here in Chatham County have been responsive on the issue.

Gaining traction against discrimination in the public square, unfortunately, has not been uniform from what I've witnessed of North Carolina communities. I hear stories of workplace discrimination. I've witnessed local social service agencies struggle to deliver equity to LGBTQ residents despite constraints imposed by state law. North Carolina still provides no nondiscrimination protections for its nearly 400,000 LGBTQ residents.

Sadly, North Carolina is not unique on this score. I've learned that discrimination has profoundly damaging consequences for LGBTQ Americans nationwide. One in three, according to a 2020 survey, experienced discrimination — in public spaces, on the job, in schools, and in their own neighborhoods — in just the previous year.

That number rises to 60 percent among transgender people, who experience exceptionally high levels of unemployment, poverty, and homelessness. They are also stalked by violence, with a record 44 hate-motivated murders nationwide last year. Three transgender residents of North Carolina have already been murdered in 2021.

Black and Latino LGBTQ folks face greater poverty rates than communities of color generally. Less than half the states protect the community's youth from bullying in school. Elders must often re-closet themselves, with nearly half of same-sex couples reporting discrimination in seeking senior housing.

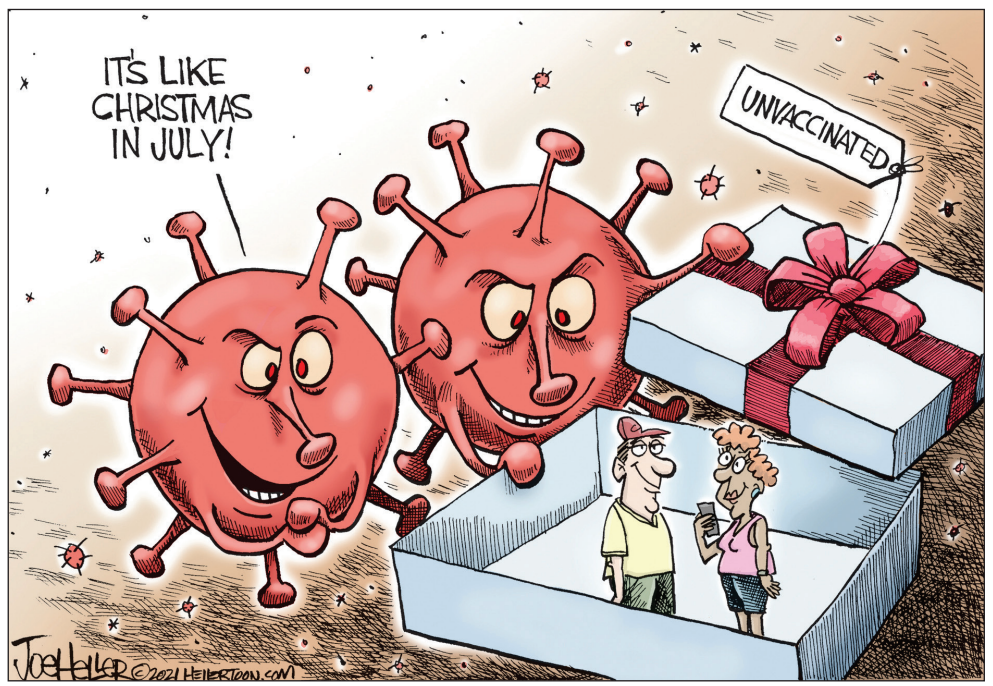
But there is now hope Congress might finally act. For the first time, both Democrats and Republicans have put forward measures that add LGBTQ protections to our nation's civil rights laws. The major disagreement between the two parties involves balancing the urgent need to protect LGBTQ people with the religious freedoms that Americans, including myself, cherish.

Finding a path to getting that job done is what legislators do when committed to solving problems. Senators Burr and Tillis can look to the 21 states — including our neighbor Virginia — with laws that prohibit anti-LGBTQ discrimination without compromising religious freedoms.

Washington can follow suit, with senators reaching across the aisle to end the divisive pattern that pits religious liberties against LGBTQ rights. Every major civil rights advance — from the 1964 Civil Rights Act to the Americans With Disabilities Act — has found the appropriate balance.

Senators Burr and Tillis: LGBTQ North Carolinians and their families and friends are counting on you.

Reverend Troy Lesher-Thomas is an Interim Pastor at the Church of Reconciliation in Chapel Hill.



LETTERS

What happens to the 1,4-Dioxane when it's removed?

TO THE EDITOR:

When Pittsboro flushes its big tank to remove 1,4-Dioxane contaminated water, where does the flushed 1,4-Dioxane go?

John R. Dykers Jr., MD
Siler City

Editor's note: Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy said in response to the question posed that flushed water "was water with 1,4 dioxane and not concentrated 1,4 dioxane." With the town's flusing exercise, he said, "the flushed water is directed onto the ground and into our ditches around the tank."

It's time to talk about why we pay taxes

TO THE EDITOR:

The biggest problem with taxes is our failure to realize what a privilege it is to pay them. Living in the comfort and safety of our democracy is ample reward for filing your 1040.

Yet the common perception is that all taxes are bad and must be avoided. Because of that, the tax structure is complicated and opaque, and often unfair.

When Amazon is promised tax breaks to relocate, it's as good as a tax hike for the rest of us. When taxes are shifted from income to consumption, the burden accrues unfairly to people with lower incomes. Five percent on a new washing machine makes a big difference to a minimum wage earner, not so much to Jeff Bezos.

Because of arcane rules, Jeffie pays less in taxes than your average Mountaire worker. Because of truly bizarre rules, Ron Cameron, Mountaire's owner and 7th-richest Arkansan, gets us to pay for The Wall while he profits from undocumented workers who avoid it.

So don't talk to me about "supply side." Talk to me about responsibility, transparency, thrift, empathy and kindness.

W.C. Reed
Pittsboro

Editor's note: a spokesman for the company told the News + Record that "Mountaire Farms strictly adheres to all federal laws when it comes to hiring practices and uses the E-Verify system for all new hires."

Carbon pricing can help reduce greenhouse gases

TO THE EDITOR:

Climate change is a burning issue out west while back east we experience increased hurricanes and high-tide coastal flooding. Yale's 2020 climate opinion map shows 72% of Americans believe in global warming, including 71% of North Carolinians and 74% of Chatham County residents. (<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>)

The majority of us know that climate change is real, yet many do not know solutions. One free online scientific educational tool is "Climate Interactive En-Roads" (<https://www.climateinteractive.org/tools/en-roads/>). This simulation model allows you to choose a scenario to limit future global warming with immediate feedback on the impacts. Yes, many synergistic solutions will help reverse climate change, yet "En-Roads" demonstrates that carbon pricing is the most effective primary lever to reverse our ever-increasing atmospheric CO2 from burning fossil fuels for our energy needs. In important economic terms, recently, the G20 finance leaders collectively recognized the power of carbon pricing to address climate change, issuing

their first official communique to coordinate economic carbon reduction policies with carbon pricing to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Why put a price on carbon? Read here: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/price-on-carbon/> in H.R.2307 — Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. Call Representative Budd and Senators Burr and Tillis to co-sponsor carbon pricing legislation. Inaction is not a policy.

Minta Phillips
Julian

Public vs. charter schools is not a fair comparison

TO THE EDITOR:

I read John Hood's article titled, "We all want better schools" (Viewpoints, July 15-21). I am all for choice, but when charter schools do not offer transportation or school lunch programs, it gives no choice for the economically disadvantaged. The fairness of choice begins with the choices that are given.

My wife has been in special education in the public school system for many years, and I can tell you that charter schools do not offer the level of services that public schools offer.

The end result is that public school teachers have to deal with a much more demanding population than charter school teachers.

In my opinion, any scholastic comparison between public and charter schools, given the existing disparities, is meaningless.

I do not understand why John Hood seems to get prominent positioning in your paper. Is there no author with a more progressive voice in Chatham County?

Mike Izquierdo
Pittsboro

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to bhorne3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

MURDER

Continued from page A1

- Anthony Tyrone Seymore, 30, of 1677 Lower Moncure Rd., Sanford
- Arsenio Lawon Smith, 33, of 205 South Tenth Street, Apartment D7, Siler City
- Timothy Lashon Eubanks, 42, of 405 East Sixth St., Siler City

All three are in jail at the Chatham County Detention Center with no bond allowed.

Police did not immediately identify Brown as the victim after news of his murder came out last month, nor did they make early arrests after identifying suspects. Wagner cited the unusually sensitive nature of the investigation for his decision to withhold details.

“It was so intertwined in our community that literally releasing information

would have cost people their lives,” Wagner told the News + Record. “There was a real danger to our community.”

Wagner declined to elaborate further.

Besides the Siler City Police Department and NCSBI, the Chatham County District Attorney’s Office, Pittsboro Police Department and Chatham County Sheriff’s Office were integral in carrying out the murder investigation, Wagner said, which is Siler City’s second in the last six months.

Last 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.



Seymore

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 was scheduled to appear in court last month, but his court date was moved to September 13. Court representatives did not respond to News + Record requests for an explanation of the postponement.

Siler City’s crime rate exceeds the state and national average, according



Smith

to Wagner. 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.

Since coming to Siler City two years ago — after spending most of his career in Virginia — Wagner has sought to bolster his department’s staff and improve the department’s relationship with residents, which he says has been strained in recent years.

“Without that relationship,” he said, “this department will fail its community. We can’t do it alone.”



Eubanks

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

IMMIGRANT

Continued from page A1

that works closely with the town in an official capacity.”

According to the town’s resolution, the seven-member committee will provide the bridge between the board and immigrant residents, offer strategies to promote civic participation among immigrant residents and serve as a forum to both discuss and address the immigrant community’s concerns.

And, perhaps most importantly, committee members will take the lead on implementing any and all recommendations BIC identified to better serve the town’s immigrant residents.

“The Advisory Committee really was started as a key next step, but also a group of people that can shepherd this action plan in collaboration with the town,” Dubester said. “Other organizations might be involved, but in particular, (they’ll be) looking at things that are related to either action by the town manager or action by the chief or action by the town commissioners, and move that ball forward ... aside from performing other functions.”

According to the town’s resolution, eligible committee members come from “historically underrepresented communities” with recent immigrant ancestry — be that from Latin America or other parts of the world. Though Siler City’s immigrant population is overwhelmingly Latino, the committee’s not just for Hispanic immigrants, Dubester said.

“It was called the Latino Advisory Committee, but then another group honed it in more and changed it to Immigrant Advisory Committee,” she said. “We wanted it



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
The Hispanic Liaison’s staff, plus board vice chair Dennis Duke (third from right), pose in front of its new Sanford satellite office. The Liaison partnered with the Town of Siler City and the Building Integrated Communities project to survey the needs of Siler City’s immigrant community in 2017.

to be representative of the other kinds of waves that come through, and there are other immigrants in town. So, we wanted to be inclusive of all immigrant communities, and of all new immigrant communities — not people that have been here for generations.”

As part of that, committee members must either be foreign-born or the children and/or grandchildren of immigrants. That’s crucial, said Hannah Gill, the UNC Latino Migration Project’s program director, especially since knowledge of the immigrant experience is the committee’s “primary qualification.”

According to the resolution, members must have a “vested interest in immigrant communities,” plus the necessary skills or knowledge to serve that interest.

“It’s the close knowledge of immigrating to the United States and I

think living in this area — those are key forms of knowledge and expertise,” she said. “... This is a committee for people who are immigrants, or people who are recently descended from immigrants who would have that knowledge. This is a group that will hopefully support the advancement of a lot of the recommendations of residents who are immigrants.”

Per the resolution, committee members don’t have to live in Siler City to participate, but when it comes to choosing among the pool of candidates, the town will be looking for those with the strongest connections to Siler City.

“To me, if you want to build a town or a

community, you have to have people that want to be here, and they want to stay here,” Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray told the News + Record, adding, “You have to be a member of the community. People know who you are, and they

can trust you and say, ‘Oh, yeah, I know so-and-so. ... That’s what a vested interest to me is — someone that wants to stay and help the town in the community to grow in a good, positive way.’”

Lynch added: “You know, work, recreate, be a part of the community here, be involved whether it’s programming for Parks & Recreation or have a business here. Just to have their focus on Siler City.”

To apply, interested applicants can submit letters of interest to the town clerk, Jenifer Johnson, at jjohnson@silercity.org by Aug. 9. The letters should include applicants’ home addresses, contact information, educational background and current jobs. Applicants should also add in their level of civic involvement, why they wish to serve on the committee and anything else they deem necessary.

“People can submit anything that they would like to,” Lynch said. “You know, on other various committees, people submit their resumes and all their work history and things like that that may help them decide.”

All positions are unpaid. Appointed committee members will serve in three-year staggered terms. Not all inaugural committee members will serve for the full three years. Members may stay on for a second

term if reappointed, but must rotate off the committee for at least a year before serving a third term.

Once formed, the committee will determine its own meeting schedule, but must meet at least once a month, if not more. Documentation status doesn’t matter, according to Dubester.

“None of the town committees have immigration status requirements of any kind,” she said, adding, “It wouldn’t serve the purpose. We know, everybody knows, that proportion of our community is undocumented and needs representation as well. And this is a volunteer service to the town of Siler City, so it’s not an issue.”

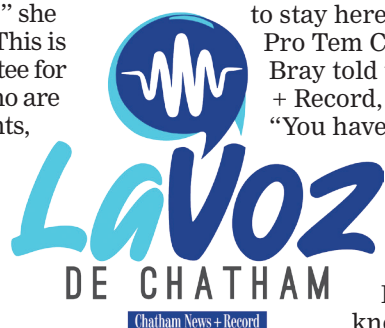
The application process officially opened June 9, when Johnson sent out the notice in English and Spanish, and will close on Aug. 9.

“There’s a 30-day window that we have to allow for submissions, and then, at that point, she’ll (Johnson) compile those,” Lynch said. “Our next meeting will be the 16th of August. I’m not sure if we will have time to get everything together for that meeting. It may be September 6th when they are submitted to the board for their review.”

Once the board receives the letters, Lynch added, commissioners may choose first to review the letters and then bring them back to another meeting to ask questions or offer “different guidance about what they would like to see.”

“It’s all new,” he said. “It’s probably just going to develop as it comes together as we move forward with the process.”

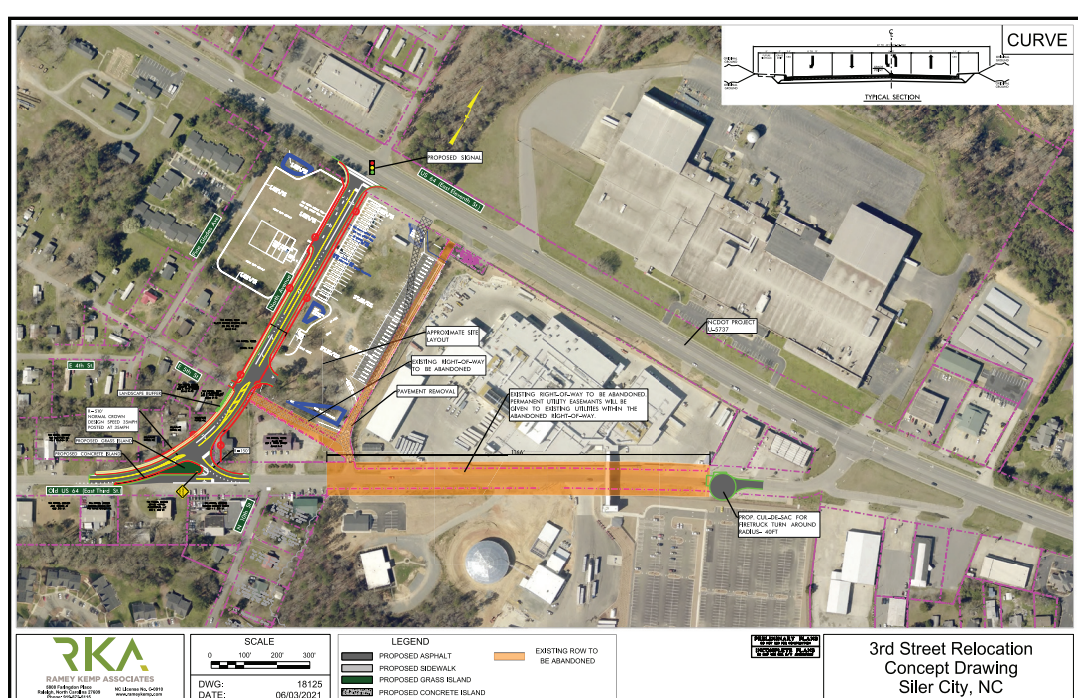
Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at victoria@chathamnr.com.



Chatham News + Record
 CHATHAM HOSPITAL UNC HEALTH CARE
 Mountaire

The Siler City Board of Commissioners received a request from Mountaire Farms to close a portion of East Third Street and East Fifth Street and all of Johnson Avenue. The Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 6:30pm in the auditorium at Jordan-Matthews High School located at 910 E Cardinal Street in Siler City. Input from the public is encouraged. Due to the technology constraints of the location, this meeting will not be available by zoom. Interpretation for Spanish speaking residents will be available.

The proposed portions to be closed are in orange on the map below, along with the proposed new road improvements.



La Junta de Comisionados de Siler City recibió una solicitud de Mountaire Farms para cerrar una parte de East Third Street y East Fifth Street y toda Johnson Avenue. La Junta de Comisionados llevará a cabo una audiencia pública el lunes, 2 de agosto de 2021 a las 6:30 pm en el auditorio de la escuela secundaria Jordan-Matthews, ubicada en 910 E Cardinal Street en Siler City. Se fomenta la aportación del público. Debido a las limitaciones tecnológicas de la ubicación, esta reunión no estará disponible mediante zoom. Habrá interpretación disponible para residentes de habla hispana.

Las partes propuestas que se cerrarán están en naranja en el mapa a continuación, junto con las nuevas mejoras viales propuestas.

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 Worth reading.

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MINIMUM NONRESIDENTIAL CODE

New ordinance could be major step toward Siler City's revitalization

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For the first time ever, Siler City has created a minimum non-residential building code, and it could be the deciding factor in elevating the town's sometimes-glum aesthetic.

When homes go unmaintained and fall into disrepair, most towns have ordinances permitting local officials to oversee restorative measures, or in extreme cases, to authorize demolition. But few municipalities of Siler City's size have similar laws for nonresidential buildings.

"A lot of the smaller towns, they have very few commercial properties, and so they really don't have a need for this code," said Dennis Pinnix, president and CEO of Greensboro-based State Code Enforcement Inc. Pinnix has served as a frequent advisor to town representatives as they developed Siler City's nonresidential code, and the town contracts his company to assist with enforcement.

"What triggered it for Siler City is you do have commercial property and if the owner lets it just sit and deteriorate and deteriorate, it becomes a real eyesore for the citizens of town," he told the News + Record. "And then it

'Done properly, code enforcement is definitely an economic development tool.'

JACK MEADOWS, *Siler City Planning Director*

also becomes a safety and life hazard for the community."

Most Siler City residents will recognize the problem Pinnix describes. For years, several prominent buildings downtown and elsewhere have wasted away. But until now, the town was largely unable to address the issue.

"We would get complaints about buildings and didn't know how to address it," said Siler City Planning Director Jack Meadows, whose department manages the town's code enforcement. "And so that's a good point because we already have some of these buildings on our list, because there were all those complaints. So we know some of the buildings we need to start working on immediately, and now we finally can."

Besides combating life-threatening building degeneration, the code will afford town staff the chance to enhance overall aesthetic.

"You know, it's one thing if a building is falling over and is going to kill

someone," Meadows said. "We would've found a way to fix that even before. But what about paint peeling off a building? Or tattered awnings and window fixtures? We couldn't fix that, but now we can."

In a public meeting last Wednesday, Meadows and Pinnix introduced the new code — which the board of commissioners adopted in April — to a group of building owners and other interested residents.

"I think it went well," Meadows said. "I'd say about 20 came, mostly building owners and business owners. When Dennis asked if folks liked the new code, almost everyone raised their hands."

The minimum nonresidential code was one of the Siler City Downtown Advisory Committee's highest priorities over the past two years. Other town-sponsored groups, such as the Siler City Economic Development Strategic Five-Year Plan Steering Committee, similarly isolated building improvement as an important step toward the town's revitalization.

Some property owners have expressed apprehension, though, fearing they will not have enough time to bring their buildings into compliance. For such building owners, Meadows emphasized the town will not demand

major improvements overnight.

"You get several weeks before we even have a hearing and then you get 180 days to do the work," he said. "And then if you've got an active plan, you're working on specific items, and you've done some work, you can get extensions from our staff. So it can be longer than 180 days. We purposefully built in mechanisms for long-term circumstances — this is not like you got to turn it around in three or four weeks. You get a lot of time."

It will be challenging, Meadows admits, working through the years-long backlog of building issues which the town can only now address. But he expects the return on investment will dramatically improve Siler City's economic positioning.

"Done properly," he said, "code enforcement is definitely an economic development tool."

Pinnix agrees. "This is new for Siler City," he said. "But we want to create an environment where people come to Siler City to shop and hang out, and this code will help it get there."

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

CASES

Continued from page A1

"So you have half the population, essentially, with some really good protection through vaccines," Zelek told the News + Record in an exclusive interview. "Yet the cases are rising, and we see this across the state. So, are the numbers what they were in January? No, but that doesn't mean they're not getting worse. And what it looks like two weeks from now, if these trends continue, we'll be worse than we are today — which is what our fear is."

Cases, hospitalizations increasing

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, in pure numbers, remain low in the U.S. But outbreaks in regions — and clusters in small geographic areas — are driving up rolling 7-day averages and other statistical indicators after months of positive trends.

Across the U.S., new cases of the coronavirus increased nearly 70% in the last week compared to the week prior, based on data from the CDC released Friday, with hospitalizations up 35.8% as mask and gathering restrictions loosened and the Delta variant of COVID-19 continued its spread. North Carolina saw a 77% increase in new cases in the past week, including four straight days — last Wednesday through Saturday — with more than 1,000 new cases. On Saturday alone, 1,163 cases were reported, the highest single-day figure since May 20, according to the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

More than 600 people were hospitalized across the state as a result of COVID-19 early this week — the highest number in seven weeks — with nearly a third admitted to intensive



Courtesy of CCPHD

CCPHD staff prepare vaccine doses for administering during a mass vaccination event at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro in this file photo.

care units.

Back in mid-June, Chatham County's rolling 7-day average of new cases was just 1.1. Exactly one month later, that number had risen to 3.9. Only 33 total new cases were reported in all of June in Chatham, a number surpassed in July before the month's first two weeks had passed.

Globally, there have been 190 million cases and more than 4 million deaths attributed to COVID-19. Chatham County has seen 4,802 cases and 89 deaths.

Among recent deaths across the country, though, more than 99% have occurred among the unvaccinated, according to the CDC. The unvaccinated also account for more than 97% of recent cases and hospitalizations — prompting President Joe Biden to declare on Friday that "the only pandemic we have is among the unvaccinated."

Experts say the Delta variant of coronavirus — a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain, first identified in December in India — is also a factor in driving the increased number of cases. Its higher transmissibility rate — two-thirds more contagious than previous strains, according to Zelek — makes

"hyperlocal" outbreaks more likely, particularly in poorly vaccinated areas. Zelek said he and his team at the public health department have been "keeping an eye on" the upward curve and fretting over whether it was "a blip" or a significant trend — particularly with vaccination rates going up as well.

"But we know about Delta," he said. "And so I think that's the key factor. We know how infectious it is. So to me, yes, it is a cause for concern. Not just because of what we're seeing in Chatham, but what we're seeing in the state, and what we're seeing around the country. It mirrors those trends."

There are enough factors, Zelek said, to make the increases "more than a blip."

The importance of vaccines

In a press release produced by the health department late last week, Zelek said that 94% of the new cases in Chatham County were among those not fully vaccinated.

He reiterated then, as he did in an interview with the News + Record, the importance of the vaccines.

"...(W)e're concerned," he said. "And that's why

we're continuing to hammer home the message — the best thing you can do right now is get vaccinated."

When asked about the 6% of new cases not coming from the unvaccinated or partially vaccinated population, Zelek described that number as "really just a handful of people." These "breakthrough" cases — fully vaccinated who have tested positive for COVID-19 — aren't a surprise, he said, because of the tested efficacy of the vaccines.

"They're not 100% effective all the time," he said, "so it's not a surprise that we'd be getting (positive cases among the unvaccinated) somewhere in the 90s."

When it comes to vaccination outreach, Zelek said the department's efforts have been focused on "census blocks" that have been more affected by case rates, based on available data and by disparities noted within Chatham's population.

"And so we've done a lot of targeted outreach," he said. "We made sure there were options out in some more rural areas of the county — for example, Goldston."

Zelek also said he was disappointed to see "ideology or political mindset" create disparities in

'From my vantage point, frankly, that's really disheartening. Because this is a global problem, we should all be coming together at the local level, then the state level, the national level, and the global level against a common enemy, which is COVID.'

MIKE ZELEK, *Chatham County Public Health Department, speaking about COVID-19 misinformation and vaccine skepticism*

how people in Chatham County see coronavirus, and particularly the vaccines.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've seen how politics has played into this," he said in a discussion about stark differences between the numbers of those who identify as Republican (47%) and those who identify as Democrats (6%) who responded, in a recent national poll, by saying they "likely" or "definitely" wouldn't get vaccinated.

"From my vantage point, frankly, that's really disheartening," Zelek said. "Because this is a global problem, we should all be coming together at the local level, then the state level, the national level, and the global level against a common enemy, which is COVID."

Misinformation about COVID and about the vaccines has frustrated him, he said.

"Ultimately, why I care about it is because people get sick and die," he said. "And right now, those deaths are preventable. If you're fully vaccinated, you're very unlikely to die from COVID and you're very unlikely to go to the hospital."

His department's work has mirrored work done by other local public health agencies and those across the state and country, he said, adding: "Everybody's trying to get the word out there."

But because many of the unvaccinated are believing misinformation about the virus and about vaccines, they are opting instead for vaccine hesitancy and even vaccine

hostility.

As hospitalizations increase sharply among the unvaccinated in Chatham County, Zelek says that's a hard fact to accept.

"We have these preventable illnesses and deaths," he said. "We could avoid these. We have the resources, we have the vaccine in most places in the world. You look around, you look at the rates ... it's not because the vaccine's not there. We've had great access to vaccines pretty much throughout our county, throughout the state, throughout the country, for several months now ..."

"But we're obviously not going to force people to get it," he said. "We try to make it as easy as possible. We're sharing all the information we can to build confidence in the vaccine ..."

The tools are in place, Zelek said, to stop COVID-19. But it won't happen until more of the unvaccinated get vaccinated. For "ideologies, or misinformation, or whatever you want to call it," he said, to stop someone from considering the vaccine hurts the entire county.

"It does nobody any good," he said. "And for us in the health department, I don't care who you are, where you live, what your background is ... we have equity-focused efforts. We want you to get vaccinated when you're eligible because it does you good, it does your loved ones good. And it does the community good. And it will allow us to get back to normal — to not live in fear of risk of illness and death."



2021 ELECTIONS

Pittsboro residents, here are your candidates for office

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Following state-authorized elections delays for many of North Carolina's municipalities and cities, Pittsboro and Goldston will be the only of Chatham's towns to host major elections in 2021.

Municipal elections — including mayoral and commissioner races — occur biennially in odd-numbered years. This year should have seen elections for all of Chatham's towns: Pittsboro, Siler City, Cary and Goldston. Instead, Pittsboro and Goldston residents alone will have the chance to reevaluate their representatives.

Every 10 years, municipalities, cities and states must assess their voting districts and amend them to ensure fair and equal representation for all members of the electorate. Districts need not change if the population has been largely inert over the previous decade, but that scenario is unlikely for Chatham towns, which have evolved considerably in recent years.

Redistricting is due in 2021, but to draw new maps municipalities need up-to-date census data, the arrival of which pandemic disruptions have delayed by several months.

To permit municipalities time to evaluate their districts, the General Assembly ratified

a bill last month, Senate Bill 722, that will postpone many 2021 municipal elections until March 2022. Thirty-five municipalities originally scheduled for 2021 elections organize and elect officials according to districts or wards. Siler City and Cary are among them.

Goldston uses wards for organizational purposes, but officials are elected at large. Goldston's filing period will end at noon on Friday, August 13, at which point the board of elections will release the town's candidates.

For now then, only Pittsboro — which does not use districts or wards for any purposes and closed filing last Friday — has finalized its roster of candidates.

Three seats are up for grabs, each of them contested.

Mayor

Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass is concluding his first term, which he won by default in 2019 after then-Mayor Cindy Perry chose not to run for reelection. But after a two-year hiatus, Perry is back and looking to reclaim her seat.

"(I) was pleased to have governed with respect and civility with the Board, broadened the voice of the electorate, supported local business and dealt with governance in a balanced and fair manner," Perry said of her previous terms in a statement released after the filing

period closed Friday.

In her four years as mayor, Perry worked with the board and staff to establish many of the town's policies with respect to the infant Chatham Park development. She also presided over the board as it drafted early renditions of the Unified Development Ordinance, fostered a relationship with Sanford to build a new force main and navigated the town's enduring water quality struggles.

If she wins another term, Perry says she will emphasize continued water quality improvement per recommendations from the town's water quality advisory group. She also plans to sponsor a "Community Cabinet" to review and recommend policies for the Board to consider," she said in a press release.

"Our town has many people who have expertise in science and government," she said, "and we need to give them a voice and utilize their knowledge. The town board and administration cannot be an expert in every field facing the town, and this cabinet could assist the town in a profound way."

Perry, a retired real estate attorney, is a Pittsboro resident of more than 40 years. She volunteers with the Chatham County Historical Museum and with Second Bloom, a local domestic violence agency.

"The community needs and deserves proven leadership and unity," Perry said in her release, "now that the town is emerging from the pandemic ... There are many wonderful things about our town and our citizens, and I intend to be a good listener and an able ambassador for our citizens."

Nass, however, hopes to retain the mayor's seat. Since moving to Pittsboro in 2007, he has served the town in several capacities. As chairman of the Pittsboro ABC Board, Nass oversaw several organizational adjustments which added more than \$100,000 in annual town revenue. He also served as chairman for the Chatham Park Additional Elements Committee, he was a founding member of Main Street Pittsboro, former chairman of the town's Affordable Housing Task Force and interim chairman of the Pittsboro Affordable Housing Committee.

Calls to Nass' office were not returned by press time Tuesday.

Commissioners

Two commissioner seats are up for reelection this year. Incumbents Pamela Baldwin (who is also Mayor Pro Tem) and Michael Fiocco have each served many years on the board and hope to retain their positions.

A third candidate, James Vose Jr., will look to unseat one

of them.

Goldston Gulf Sanitary District board members

The filing period for Goldston Gulf Sanitary District board members should have closed last week. Final candidates have not been confirmed, however. On Friday, the Chatham County Board of Elections held an emergency meeting to extend the GGSD's filing period.

"The sanitary district has two seats open and only one person came in to file," BOE Director Pandora Paschal told the News + Record. "N.C. election law allows the board to extend the filing period."

Persons interested in filing for candidacy to serve on the Goldston Gulf Sanitary District board who live within the sanitary district may file until noon on Friday, July 23. As of last Friday, when the regular filing period concluded, only Adam Pickett — a current board member and Pittsboro water plant superintendent — had filed for candidacy.

The 2021 election will be on Nov. 2. Early voting is scheduled to begin on Oct. 14 and absentee ballots will be available by Oct. 3.

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

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Tracey Dinkens Schoolcraft
Sales Associate



Adrian Smith
Master Jeweler

OBITUARIES

MRS. GEORGIA BERNICE SILER



Mrs. Georgia Bernice Siler, 89, of Siler City, passed away on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at her home.

Mrs. Siler was born in Chatham County on September 1, 1931, to the late Web and Mary Taylor.

Bernice was a faithful member of the First Missionary Baptist Church until her health declined. She loved her family and proudly spent her years taking care of them. Bernice is preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Junior Siler, three brothers,

and one sister.

She is survived by her daughters, Melinda Walden of Siler City, Deborah Alston and husband Jerry of Siler City, Minister Cheryl Siler-Jones of Siler City, Evangelist Pamela Moffitt of Siler City, Anita Dickson and husband Norman of Greensboro, and Dr. Demetria Siler of South Carolina; son, Barney Siler and wife Robin of Siler City; brother, Bobby A. Taylor and wife Gerlene of Pittsboro; four sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law, 13 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

The family received friends Monday, July 19, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m., and Tuesday, July 20, 2021 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church, 914 Martin Luther King Blvd., Siler City, N.C. The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at First Missionary Baptist Church, with Rev. Barry Gray officiating and eulogy by daughter, Evangelist Pamela Moffitt. Burial was in First Missionary Baptist Church cemetery. The family requested that you wear a mask.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Siler Family.

KENNETH LEE TROGDON SR.



Kenneth Lee Trogdon Sr., 78, of Chapel Hill passed away on Friday, July 16, 2021, at his home.

Mr. Trogdon was born in Chatham County on April 19, 1943, the son of the late Luva B. and the late Fleta Perry Trogdon. Kenneth was a Veteran serving in the National Guard. He was an avid golfer and a die-hard Duke fan. Kenneth spent his working years self-employed as a carpenter.

He is survived by his daughters, Amy Reddick of Asheboro, and

Wendy L. Tamplin and husband Chris of Asheboro; son, Kenneth Lee Trogdon, Jr. and wife Cressida Lamy of Chapel Hill; sister, Barbara Rachel of Siler City; grandchildren, Natalie Leonhardt and husband Dalton of Hamlet, and Autumn Beane and husband Luke of Asheboro; great-grandchildren, Dayton and Henry Beane, and Delany Leonhardt.

The family will receive friends Saturday, July 24, 2021, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 North Second Avenue, Siler City, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Liberty Hospice Services, 3414 N. Duke Street, Suite 201, Durham, N.C. 27704.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Trogdon family.

DOUGLAS GUNTER JOHNSON

Douglas Gunter Johnson, 93, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church with the committal service following at Buffalo Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church in the McDowell Hall from 2:30 - 4 p.m., also on Thursday.

Doug Johnson was born on September 5, 1927, in Lee County and was the son of the late Jefferson D. and Rose Ella Gunter Johnson. He was the former owner/operator of the Palomino Motel and restaurant. He was a member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church where he served in many roles from Sunday School Teacher to Chairman of the Deacons. He coached little league baseball for 25 years.

Survivors include his wife of 68 years, Virginia; children: Tanya McDowell, Belinda Bond and Duran Johnson; seven grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

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

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Inc.

CLIFTON LEE KING

Clifton Lee King, 31, of Chapel Hill passed away on Saturday, July 3, 2021, at his home.

Funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, July 17, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Chapel Hill.

ADRIAN DEJESUS ROMERO

Mr. Adrian DeJesus Romeo, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, July 1, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral mass was held at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 17, 2021, at St. Stephens Catholic Church. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden.

DOMINGO TADEO HERNANDEZ

Domingo Tadeo Hernandez, 77, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, July 18, 2021, at his residence.

Arrangements are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

THOMAS LEONARD BRANCH

Thomas Leonard Branch, 70, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at his home.

Arrangements are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

TAKINA PATRICE BRISTOW

Takina Patrice Bristow, 44, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, July 17, 2021, at her residence.

Arrangements by Knotts Funeral Home.

MARIE BRAKER MARSH STUBITS

Marie Braker Marsh Stubits, 94, of Sanford formerly of Bath, Pennsylvania, passed away on July 12, 2021, at Hospice Care of UNC Health in Pittsboro.

The family received friends on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. at Schisler Funeral Home, 2119 Washington Avenue, Northampton, Pennsylvania. The graveside service followed at 11 a.m. at St. Peters UCC Church Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, July 24, 2021, at 10 a.m. at New Hope, Sanford Church with Pastor Josh Conklin and Deacon Mark Westrick officiating.

Marie was born April 8, 1927, to the late Harry J. and Florence Marsh in Seemsville, Pennsylvania. She was preceded in death by husband, Stephen L. Stubits, and her parents and sisters, Lillian Saylor and Marion Coleman. She was a seamstress for many years at Mary Fashions in Pennsylvania. She was a devout Catholic.

She is survived by her son, Glenn D. Stubits of Sanford; daughter, Jacqueline S. Parker of Jefferson Township, Pennsylvania; three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to Sanford Lions Club, PO Box 892, Sanford, N.C. 27330 or a charity of one's choice.

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

Local arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

ANTHONY FOSTER RICHARDSON

Mr. Anthony Foster Richardson, 74, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at the Church of God, with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

MARGARET BREWER MILLER

Margaret Brewer Miller, 96, of New Hill, passed away on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

A graveside service was held on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 11 a.m. at New Elam Christian Church Cemetery with Pastor Val Chadwick officiating.

She was born in Lee County on May 18, 1925, to the late William Thomas Brewer and Carrie Hughes Brewer. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husbands Floyd Stamey Olinger, E.J. Miller and eight brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her daughters, Ruth Ellis and Linda Page, both of New Hill; sister, Thelma Medlin of Carthage; four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

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

RICKY DEAN GRAHAM

Ricky Dean Graham, 60, of Sanford, died Saturday, July 17, 2021, at Liberty Commons.

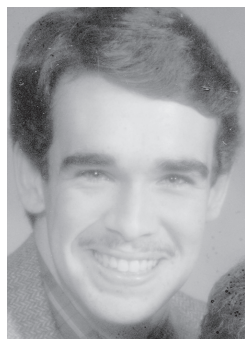
The funeral was held at Olivia Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, July 2, 2021, at 2 p.m. with Rev. George Walton and Rev. Bob Johnson presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Ricky was born in Lee County on December 2, 1960, to Barbara Gilmore and Alford Autry Graham. He worked in telecommunications for Alltel.

Survivors include his parents, Alford and Barbara G. Graham, both of Sanford; sons, Ricky Graham Jr. and Steven Michael Graham, both of Broadway; a stepson, Barry Matthews Jr. of Cameron; daughters, Rachel Graham of Sanford; step-daughter, Dee Graham of Whispering Pines; brother, Alfred Graham of Broadway; sisters, Denise Schreckengost and Crystal Copas, both of Sanford; six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

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

ANDREW BRENT ELMORE SR.



Andrew Brent Elmore Sr., 52, of Bear Creek passed away on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at his home.

Mr. Elmore was born in Chatham County on July 1, 1969, the son of Bobby Lee Elmore and Joan Brewer Webster.

Andy was a member of Emmaus Baptist Church. He was a 1988 graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School. He was a 25-year employee of the N.C. Dept. of Transportation.

Andy is preceded in death by his father, Bobby Lee Elmore; step-father, Ralph Louis Faulkner; brother and sister-in-law, Monte and Janice Asa Faulkner; godfather, Linuel Efird; maternal grandparents, Robert and Bessie Jessup Brewer; and paternal grandparents, Hoyt and Johnsie Brooks Elmore.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Emily Caldwell Elmore; daughter, Kaylee Elmore; and son, Andrew "Drew" Brent Elmore Jr., all of the home; and mother, Joan Brewer Webster and husband, Russell of Siler City; brothers, Rod Faulkner (Becky) of Nebraska; Brantley Webster (Pam), Dan Webster (Georgia), all of Siler City; sister, Julie Webster Dunn (Charlie) of Iowa; and godmother, Dorothy Gilbert Efird of Siler City. Also, the extended families of the Brewers, Faulkners and Websters.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, July 10, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, with Pastor Steve Moore officiating. Burial was at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Emmaus Baptist Church, 2430 Silk Hope-Gum Springs Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or Hickory Mountain Baptist Church, 1094 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

ROY NEIL CRENSHAW JR.

Roy Neil Crenshaw Jr., 78, of Pittsboro, died Monday, July 19, 2021, at home.

There are no services planned at this time.

Roy was born in Cumberland County, on August 24, 1942, to the late Roy Neil Crenshaw Sr. and Irma Paschall Crenshaw. He was also preceded in death by one sister, Ann Crenshaw Harris.

Survivors include his wife, Penny Crenshaw of Pittsboro; sons, Gordon Crenshaw of Walnut Creek, California, Neil

Crenshaw and Andrew Crenshaw, both of Durham, N.C.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Roy's memory to a charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

CONRANGE VICTOR FLACK JR.

Mr. Conrange Victor Flack Jr., 89, of Salisbury passed away on Friday, July 16, 2021.

Arrangements are entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

SILER CITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners initiate road improvements

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City will spend almost \$370,000 over the next year to repave sections of 10 major roads — about 23% more than originally allocated in the budget for fiscal year 2021-22 — following approval by the town's board of commissioners in its regular meeting Monday.

Repair work will include complete resurfacing at several locations plus isolated crack fills where necessary.

"Chris (McCorquodale) has been trying to receive bids now for a number of months," Town Manager Roy Lynch said of the town's public works and utilities director. "They've been slowly coming in, but we only received two."

The lower bid, from Waugh Asphalt Inc., was \$367,961.56.

"So that's about \$67,000 higher than we budgeted," Lynch said, "which is why we're bringing it back to the board to for a budget amendment."

Despite some early apprehension, the commissioners voted unanimously to approve the budget amendment and to contract Waugh Asphalt.

The roads to be repaired are South Sears Avenue, East Ninth Street, North Third Street, East Tenth Street, West Dolphin Street, West Elk Street, North Glenn Avenue, North Dogwood Avenue, West Raleigh Street and Cemetery Drive.

Third Street road hearing

Siler City's board will host a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on August 2 in the Jordan-Matthews High School auditorium for town residents to discuss potential road closures and re-routing near Mountaire Farms.

The board scheduled the hearing last month in its first major move toward approving the poultry processor's proposal to close and reroute portions of East Third Street, East Fifth Street and all of Johnson Avenue. Mountaire had previously approached the board with its request at least eight times, as reported by the News + Record. A timeline submitted by the company lists more than 40 total interactions between company representatives, the Town of Siler City and the N.C. Dept. of Transportation concerning the potential road closures.

Unless convinced at next month's public hearing that road closures are contrary to the public's best interest or the rights of nearby property owners, the commissioners will likely adopt an order to permanently re-route the streets, after which the decision will be

submitted to NCDOT, which can affirm or overturn the board's decision.

Other action

The commissioners approved replacement of the town's travel policy for Siler City staff. A revised policy took effect on July 20.

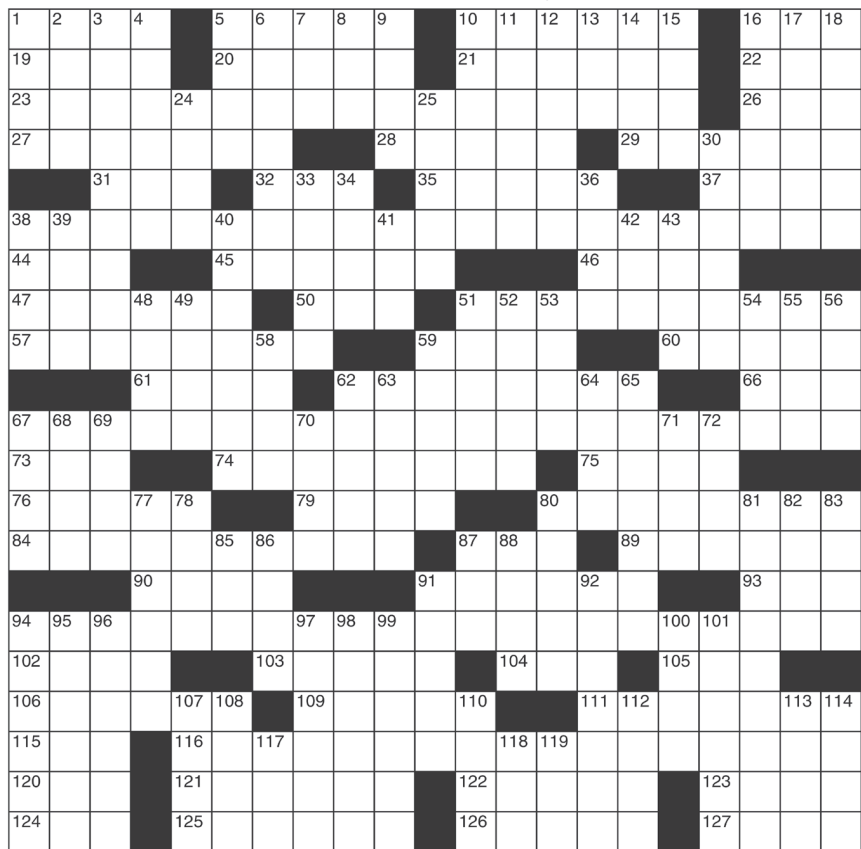
Updated items include procedures, reimbursements and allowable expenses. Staff recommended the adjustment to standardize and simplify the process by which employees request reimbursement, Town Finance Director Tina Stroupe said. The updated policy is also designed to minimize personal liability for Siler City employees when they travel for work.

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

TOTALLY OUT OF IT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Four-string guitar
 - 5 Bits of land in el agua
 - 10 Luca Brasi in "The Godfather," e.g.
 - 16 Soft infant food
 - 19 Life — know it
 - 20 New Mexico or Colorado county
 - 21 Useless
 - 22 Division of history
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 26 Mantra syllables
 - 27 Old-time cleaning cake
 - 28 Tennis' Safin
 - 29 Not skilled in at all
 - 31 Heavy weight
 - 32 All — sudden
 - 35 Spoken
 - 37 French movie theater
 - 38 Riddle, part 2
 - 44 President Biden
 - 45 Speaks
 - 46 Singer Turner
 - 47 Tell el — (Nile excavation site)
 - 50 It fills la mer
 - 51 Riddle, part 3
 - 57 Becomes familiar with anew
 - 59 Per-unit price
 - 60 Mortise insertion
 - 61 Ambulance VIPs
 - 62 Decorative dashboard finish
 - 66 Chain in biology
 - 67 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 China's Chou En —
 - 74 Like many soda bottles, volume-wise
 - 75 Purposely ignore
 - 76 Book of charts
 - 79 IRS form IDs
 - 80 "— is a virtue"
 - 84 Riddle, part 5
 - 87 In honor of
 - 89 Small river
 - 90 —mutuel betting
 - 91 Oxygen-requiring bacterium
 - 93 Start for center or Pen
 - 94 End of the riddle
 - 102 Square yardage, e.g.
 - 103 Instant replay option
 - 104 Expressive rock genre
 - 105 — Leppard (rock band)
 - 106 Mythical man-goats
 - 109 "In the red," e.g.
 - 111 Division of history
 - 115 Concorde, e.g., in brief
 - 116 Riddle's answer
 - 120 Grassland
 - 121 Henner of "Taxi"
 - 122 — Island (Providence's state)
 - 123 Old TV's — May Clampett
 - 124 Work unit
 - 125 Workout wear
 - 126 Planted
 - 127 Some deli loaves
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Cry noisily
 - 2 Ghostly pale
 - 3 Real bargain
 - 4 Electric eye, e.g.
 - 5 "The Tall Corn State"
 - 6 Leave for a short time
 - 7 Spy novelist
 - 8 Exhibit works
 - 9 "... or — told"
 - 10 Drag racer
 - 11 New York home of Cornell
 - 12 Relative of a stickpin
 - 13 Raging crowd
 - 14 PDQ's cousin
 - 15 Emperor after Claudius I
 - 16 City on the Illinois River
 - 17 Ralph Lauren competitor
 - 18 Pale hue
 - 24 Actress Skye
 - 25 Main parts of churches
 - 30 Fuel rating
 - 33 Galas
 - 34 On the Red, e.g.
 - 36 Former senator Trent
 - 38 Open slightly
 - 39 City in Alaska
 - 40 Four-piece band
 - 41 Writer Capote, to pals
 - 42 Org. in many spy novels
 - 43 Make a ski mask, maybe
 - 48 Lagoon surrounder
 - 49 Christen
 - 51 Core group
 - 52 Frisky swimmer
 - 53 Uncool sort
 - 54 About
 - 55 Lower-class, to Brits
 - 56 Growl threateningly
 - 58 Warning initials above an internet link
 - 59 Hair bases
 - 62 Actress Kate of "Grey's Anatomy"
 - 63 Of sheep
 - 64 "Casablanca" woman
 - 65 Prized buy for a coin collector
 - 67 Nail on a paw
 - 68 Pledge
 - 69 Brand of sneakers
 - 70 Didn't win
 - 71 Hang it up
 - 72 App that asks "Where to?"
 - 77 Frolicking
 - 78 Move back and forth
 - 80 Open tourney, often
 - 81 Necessarily
 - 82 Sleeveless cloak
 - 83 Arabian chief
 - 85 Pooch noise
 - 86 Misters
 - 87 Agent's cut
 - 88 "... there — square"
 - 91 Something hilarious
 - 92 Fabric with raised designs
 - 94 Grapple with, slangily
 - 95 Slate clearer
 - 96 Attachment to a dog or cat collar
 - 97 "House"
 - 101 — regions (Hades)
 - 107 Crater edges
 - 108 Novelist Irwin
 - 110 Corp. VIPs
 - 112 Squeezed (out)
 - 113 Be in power
 - 114 Jubilant cries
 - 117 Exist
 - 118 "So that's your trick!"
 - 119 Wrecker's job



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



CHURCH NEWS

BROWN'S CHAPEL U.M.C.

Hear your favorite hymns, classical music, and original compositions at Brown's Chapel United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 25, as we share "An Evening of Music with Oliver Mitchum." A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

A radio broadcast will be available in the church

parking lot at FM 87.9. Masks are optional for the fully vaccinated. The church is located at 355 Chicken Bridge Rd. in Pittsboro.

CAMERON GROVE AME ZION CHURCH

The 145th homecoming celebration will be held at 10 a.m., at Cameron Grove AME Zion Church, in-person on Sunday, July 25. Pastor Kenneth

Swann will serve as the messenger.

The annual revival service will be held in-person on Monday, July 26, at 7:30 p.m. The evangelist will be Pastor Charles Mathews of Union Grove AME Zion Church of Bear Creek. Musical guests will include Restored Worship of Linden.

The church is located at 309 Vernon St., Broadway.

HORNER - TABOR EXCHANGE VOWS

Cathy Leigh Horner and John Wheeler Tabor, both of Chapel Hill, were united in marriage on Saturday, May 1, 2021, at the Forest Theatre at UNC-Chapel Hill, with Selina Troesch Munster officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Charles and Chung Horner of Fayetteville, formerly of Goldston. She attended Chatham Central High School, UNC-Chapel Hill and graduate school at the University of South Florida. She is currently employed as a Digital Health Research Project Manager at the University of California in San Francisco.

The groom is the son of Anna Tabor of Chapel Hill and the late Stan Tabor. He attended Durham Academy, UNC-Chapel Hill and graduate school at the University of Southern California. He is employed as Video Game Brand Manager at Ubisoft.

Candice Horner, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Suzanne Landers, Autumn Keifer, and Tess Tabor and Julianna Rozycki, both sisters of the groom.

Serving as the flower girl was Nina Rozycki, niece of the groom. Jack Day, Liam Day, Troy Rozycki and Owen Rozycki all serving as ringbearer.

Nick Gallo and Garrett Manis, cousin of the groom, served as best men. Groomsmen were Brett Mun-



ster, Greg Woodburn, Hamilton Engram and John Horner, brother of the bride.

Following the ceremony, dinner was held at La Residence Restaurant.

The couple had a mini-moon at the Biltmore Estate.

They are currently making their home in Chapel Hill.

Honor students

CHATHAM COUNTY FARM BUREAU HONORS GRADUATES

Chatham County Farm Bureau President Charles Lutterloh and Phil Gowins, board member presented the following scholarships.

Bailey Jones, \$2,000 scholarship; she will be attending NCSU.

Morgan Lineberry, \$2,000 scholarship; she will be attending NCSU.

Caleb Webster, \$2,000 scholarship; she will be attending NCSU.

Hunter Batchelor, \$1,000 scholarship; he will be attending Wake Tech.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ACADEMIC HONOREE

Tyler Romel has been named to the Middle Atlantic Conference Academic Honor Roll. He is a member of the Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Northwood High School in Pittsboro.

COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ANNOUNCED

Coastal Carolina University recognized Jimmy Godwin, as a graduate. He is an Intelligence & National Security Studies major from Moncure. CCU is located in Conway, S.C.

AUTRY OFFERED SCHOLARSHIP

Austin Peay State University of Clarksville, Tennessee, has announced that Brandon Autry of Siler City has been offered the Provost Out-of-State Scholarship for high-achieving freshmen for the fall 2021 semester.

EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE GRADUATE

Emery Laethem has been awarded a BA from Emory & Henry College in Emory, Virginia.



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Pet of the Week: CHIPMUNK

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office would like you to meet Chipmunk, a spayed female who is approximately ten months old and as cute as can be! She earned her name for her chubby cheeks and squeaky meows and quickly solidified herself as a staff favorite at the Animal Resource Center (ARC). Chipmunk loves attention and even enjoys being held and cuddled by humans! Her favorite spot is snuggled into the cozy base of your neck where she can purr enthusiastically and nuzzle you with her nose. If you are sitting on a couch or recliner, she will likely curl up on your lap or claim a perch on your shoulder where she can "knead biscuits" on your achy trapezius muscles. If working from home has you feeling bored or stiff, Chipmunk will make an ideal roommate/companion! Chipmunk's adoption fee is only \$20 and covers her spay, microchipping, vaccines and more! For more information about how to meet or adopt Chipmunk or another pet, please contact the Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center (ARC) at 919-542-7203 to schedule an appointment for a visit at 725 Renaissance Dr., Pittsboro.



LIONS CLUB TRUCKLOAD CHICKEN SALE! TRUCKLOAD SALE!

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- FRESH TENDERS 10 LB. CASES \$25 Each (\$2.50/LB)
- FRESH PARTY WINGS 10 LB. CASES \$25 Each (\$2.50/LB)
- FRESH LEG QUARTERS 40 LB. CASES \$25 Each (\$.625/LB)
- FRESH BONELESS THIGHS 10 LB. CASES \$18 Each (\$1.80/LB)



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Senate releases new version of bill which could limit how schools teach American history

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

A state Senate education committee took up revised legislation last week that prohibits public schools from “promoting certain concepts,” including that the United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.

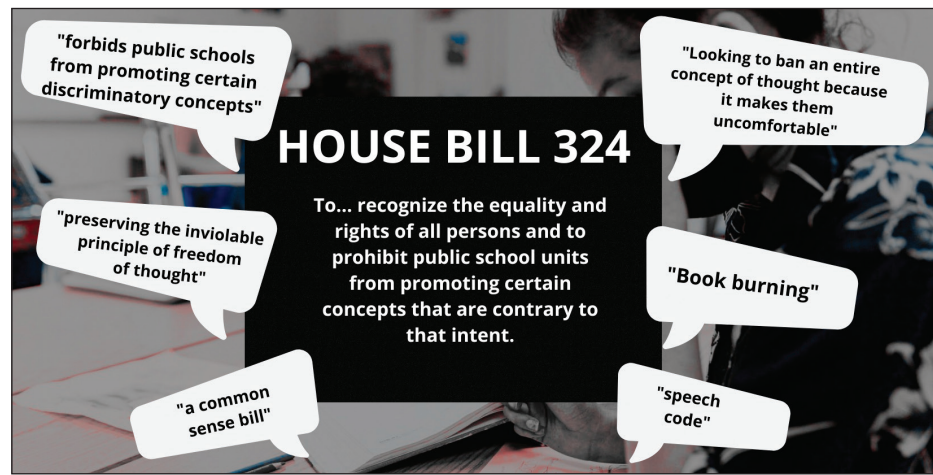
That legislation, House Bill 324, was first filed in March under the name, “Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination/Schools.” The revised bill, which Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Dist. 30) announced would be taken up last Wednesday, has yet to be named.

Democrats, joined by many educators, worry the legislation would prevent schools from having accurate discussions about the country’s history as it pertains to race and sex. Still, Republicans warn such measures are necessary to guard against the indoctrination of students.

“Children must learn about our state’s racial past and all of its ugliness, including the cruelty of slavery to the 1898 Wilmington massacre to Jim Crow,” Berger wrote in a statement last week. “But students must not be forced to adopt an ideology that is separate and distinct from history; an ideology that attacks ‘the very foundations of the liberal order,’ and that promotes ‘present discrimination’ — so long as it’s against the right people — as ‘antiracist.’”

The original bill prohibited the “promotion” of seven concepts, including: “one race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex,” “an individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously” and that “any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.” (For a full list of concepts, see sidebar to the right.)

The bill defined promoting such concepts as: compelling school community members to affirm or profess belief in such concepts, including such concepts in curriculum, reading lists, workshops or trainings or “contracting with, hiring, or otherwise engaging speakers, consultants, di-



Graphic by Staff Reporter Hannah McClellan

versity trainers, and other persons for the purpose of advocating” them.

The new version of the bill adds six new concepts that can’t be promoted, including that the U.S. government should be overturned and that the rule of law does not exist. It also changed that definition to mean “compelling students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to affirm or profess belief in the concepts described in subsection (c) of this section.”

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

Though the bill doesn’t specifically mention critical race theory, it joins legislation across the country proposed by Republicans to limit discussion of CRT — an academic framework widely criticized and incorrectly or vaguely defined by some vocal conservatives, according to those who teach about critical race theory. The concept, more than 40 years old, is wide-spanning, but essentially views racism as systemic and therefore woven into legal systems and policies — including America’s.

Still, the vast majority of teachers do not use the term “critical race theory” with students, or teach from the work of scholars who specifically use that framework.

Even so, the debate over critical race theory has driven the passage of laws restricting how school’s teach about America’s history. Only eight of the 26 bills introduced actually refer to critical race

theory, according to an Education Week analysis published last month.

In the case of bills such as the one proposed in North Carolina, the language is vague, clouding specific desired outcomes, but likely still having a chilling effect on teachers, education experts say.

“This bill is founded on the unfounded fear of Critical Race Theory,” Raleigh Democrat Jay Chaudhuri said during Wednesday’s Senate Education Committee meeting. “This bill, I believe, attempts to do away with so-called Critical Race Theory. But what I fear it really does away with is critical thinking in our classroom.”

State and national debates on how to teach history

At the CCS Board of Education meeting Monday night, CRT was discussed at a meeting for the first time, with two parents expressing opposition to critical race theory.

“I encourage everybody to teach our children how to think, not what to think,” one parent, Neil Giles, said, likening discussion of CRT to public health initiatives encouraging masking. “Our children have been exposed to misleading information as we all as citizens have been.”

“I am all for equality. But I think it’s almost in some cases creating more division,” another speaker, Rose Kinkaid, said. “I think schools should get back to being the basics of what education is, and some moral issues could be left to the parents and the children.”

The introduction of this bill follows a statewide debate on how to teach history, including the passage of new social study standards — controversial among some conservatives — which include lan-

guage to discuss racism, discrimination and the perspectives of marginalized groups. Prior to this year, most public discussion surrounding history lessons in schools emphasized the shortcomings in curriculum accurately teaching about topics such as slavery, genocide of Native Americans and other instances of racial violence in the U.S., if such subjects were taught at all.

The introduction of the original bill also followed Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson’s creation of a task force in March to collect complaints from parents, students and teachers in public schools across the state about “indoctrination” in the classroom, first reported by the News & Observer of Raleigh.

On Wednesday, Berger also filed for legislation calling for a state constitutional amendment to ban affirmative action, which refers to the practice of proactively admitting or hiring applicants from underrepresented backgrounds or historically disadvantaged groups. It is different from racial quotas, which was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1978.

The bill also bans promoting concepts such as that particular privileges should be ascribed to a race or sex or that people solely due to their race or sex should feel guilt, anguish or discomfort. The language comes amid complaints from conservatives about schools teaching about white privilege.

‘We’ll continue to watch closely’

In his remarks Wednesday, Berger said that the bill “forbids public schools from promoting certain discriminatory concepts.”

The revised bill also requires schools to make information regarding the

What’s in the revised House Bill 324?

Here’s are the 13 concepts public schools are prohibited from promoting:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex
- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex
- An individual’s moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex
- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex
- Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress
- A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist

New to the revised bill:

- The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex
- The United States government should be violently overthrown
- Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex, or to an individual because of the individual’s race or sex
- The rule of law does not exist, but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups
- All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- Governments should deny to any person within the government’s jurisdiction the equal protection of the law

Definition of “promoting:”

“Compelling students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to affirm or profess belief in the concepts described.”

following actions available to the public at least 30 days in advance: teaching instruction regarding the prohibited concepts, contracting with or hiring speakers or diversity consultants for the purpose of discussing the prohibited concepts or who have “previously advocated for the concepts...”

If passed, Chatham County School’s Amanda Hartness previously told the News + Record that the bill could potentially pose challenges in discussing “hard history.” And while she doesn’t think the bill would prevent the district from moving forward with its current equity work, it could make it more difficult.

“On the surface, when anyone reads the title of the bill, ‘Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination in Schools,’ I think we would all agree that is something

we would all strive to do,” said Hartness, who is the district’s assistant superintendent of academic services and instructional support, in May.

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

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

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Board discusses greenhouse emissions, moves back to courthouse for meetings

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners met at the Historic Courthouse for its regular meeting Monday night, marking the second session back in the building since before COVID-19 restrictions forced the board to the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center for its meetings.

The move back to the courthouse also marked a move back to live-streaming via courthouse cameras, a system the county started using to broadcast its meetings in 2013.

Last spring, the board joined governing bodies across the country in moving online to meet public meeting requirements while also meeting public health guidelines and gathering limits meant to slow the spread of COVID-19. During the majority of the meetings hosted at the Agriculture and Conference Center, all attendees watched meetings via video platform GoToWebinar — either remotely or in overflow rooms at the Agriculture and Conference Center.

“This allowed staff to meet social distancing and public meeting guidelines set forth by the Governor as well as legislation approved by the N.C. General Assembly to allow for remote meetings during a state of emergency,” a Sunday

email message from Chatham County said regarding the previous meeting logistics. “This meeting format proved quite difficult and was met with many complaints from remote participants.”

Months of poor online audio quality of board meetings culminated with glitches that hindered the May 17 public hearing on the county’s proposed budget. The email notice from the county said the commissioners made the decision in May — after Gov. Roy Cooper started lifting COVID-19 restrictions — to resume meetings at the Courthouse beginning June 21.

Audio at Monday’s meeting was markedly clearer than those streamed using GoToWebinar.

To watch board meetings, people can attend in person, or watch a live stream of meetings at <https://chathamnc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>, which can be viewed during the meeting or the following morning once the video is finalized. Before the meeting starts, the column labeled, “Video,” will read “Not available.” Once it begins, that column will say, “In Progress,” which you can click on to see the live-stream.

“The recording of the video will be uploaded to the same spot within 24 hours of the meeting adjourning,” the county’s email said. “The live streaming software is not able to show presentations on the screen for residents watching from home but instead shows the

meeting chambers so that commissioners are seen and heard throughout the entire meeting.”

Presentations are accessible on the meeting agenda documents. Residents can click on specific sections of the agenda, listed under the video, to view certain parts of the meeting without watching the entire meeting.

Meeting business

Monday’s meeting was relatively short, featuring presentations from the Chatham County Family and Consumer Sciences Program and the 2019-2020 Chatham County Greenhouse Gas Inventory Results. The board also designated Commissioner Karen Howard as a voting delegate and Commissioner Mike Crawford as an alternate voting delegate to attend the NCACC 114th Annual Conference Business Session in New Hanover County on Aug. 14.

The Family and Consumer Sciences Program is a partnership with N.C. State, housed under the Chatham County Cooperative Extension. Tara Gregory, extension agent, said she is working on home food preservation, building an advisory team and food safety programming and resources. Gregory said in the future, she hopes to partner with CORA and continue farmers market and SNAP efforts, as well as to continue offering trainings in home food preservation and food safety.

Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores suggested Gregory also present to the county’s Board of Health, which Gregory said she’d look into.

Chatham Environmental Quality Director Kevin Lindley and Emily Apadula, environmental sustainability intern, then presented findings from the 2019-20 Chatham greenhouse gas inventory. Two previous inventories have been conducted, Lindley said, in 2010 and 2015.

“But unfortunately, the data sets that were available then, we had a hard time finding,” Lindley told the board. “I think this is the most comprehensive inventory that’s been done to date.”

Apadula presented the study’s results, starting with a definition of a greenhouse gas inventory: “A report consisting of GHG emission sources and the associated emissions quantified using standardized methods. This data can then be used by the community to understand and identify opportunities for action with the goal of reducing emissions.”

The study showed an increase in CO2 equivalent emissions from 2019 to 2020 in transportation (40.4% to 42.7%) and decreases in the following categories: commercial (9.2% to 8.8%), residential (20.2% to 19.5%) and industrial (21.7% to 20.5%).

Apadula said greenhouse gas inventories are important tools in

the fight against climate change, as they help keep track of progress.

Commissioners asked how they could use this data moving forward.

“I would focus locally, because as much as Chatham County is amazing, the state is usually what determines the larger energy grid,” Apadula said, “And so I would focus locally on what you can change, like the carbon sinks,” which are natural environments that absorb more carbon than they release.

Approximately 65% of the county (456 square miles) contained some form of carbon sink, the presentation said, most commonly forest areas. The commissioners proposed meeting again to further discuss potential policies the local government could enact to reduce emissions.

“Obviously the internal government is not this giant contributor to it, but I think on issues like this, it’s very easy to kind of put everything to the state and to the feds and to the UN and everybody else,” Chairperson Mike Dasher said, “and that there’s not anything we can do. I think we can set a really good example, and I guess I just I’d like to see us doing as much as we could internally.”

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BURGERS

Continued from page A1

restaurant at the corner of U.S. Hwy. 64 and Raleigh Street celebrated its semisecular anniversary, and Routh knows exactly why the humble highway drive-in has survived so long.

“We never based our business just on burgers,” she said. “It’s based on quality; top quality meat cut and ground every day. When you order your burger, you know it’s getting fixed right then.”

Claxton Johnson, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, was a little boy when his father, Leonard Johnson, took up restaurant ownership. At the time, Johnson’s was the only eatery between Raleigh and Asheboro for travelers along U.S. Hwy. 64, and it became a fast favorite for passersby.

Leonard’s entrepreneurial spirit has endured through each subsequent generation. Under Claxton’s oversight, the restaurant grew from a local secret to one of North Carolina’s best-loved burger joints. Visitors still make their way to Johnson’s from hundreds of miles around the state, craving the carefully refined burger.

Routh, who, like her father, spent her earliest memories in Johnson’s kitchen, continues the family tradition as restaurant manager.

When she’s not working orders alongside her boys, Tristan and Caemon, she and her husband Daniel tour the world as lead bass player and guitarist in the internationally-acclaimed bluegrass group Nu-Blu. The couple has five Billboard top 10 albums and was recently named host of TV’s Bluegrass Ridge, a syndicated talk show which appears in more than 160 million homes each week, according to Nu-Blu’s agent.

But despite the band’s success, Routh always makes her way back to work at Johnson’s.

“I mean, I grew up back here,” she said. “It’s definitely always home.”

‘Made-with-the-most-care burgers 75 years later’

As it did for all service industry businesses, 2020 took a hard toll on Johnson’s. The



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A group of customers waits for their orders to be completed outside Johnson’s Drive-In last Friday. The renowned burger restaurant celebrated its 75th anniversary Monday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Tristan Routh, a 4th-generation family employee, sets out an order at Johnson’s. He’s been working there since he was 14 years old.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Johnson’s has been a staple in Siler City for 75 years.

small, roadside dining room fits only 36 at maximum capacity, and dense queues have always formed around the building as visitors swarmed for the lunch rush. The space was about as poorly suited to pandemic restrictions as can be, Routh said.

“There was just no way possible to social distance in here,” she said. “So we decided to air on the side of caution.”

Following the declara-

tion of global pandemic in March 2020, Johnson’s suspended operations for about three months. Even when mandated closures expired and Johnson’s was permitted to reopen, Routh kept the doors shut.

“I know restrictions have been lifted, but I still want to be prudent,” she said.

Even now, almost a year and a half later, seating remains closed. But lunchtime lines

‘We never based our business just on burgers. It’s based on quality; top quality meat cut and ground every day. When you order your burger, you know it’s getting fixed right then.’

CAROLYN ROUTH, Johnson’s Drive-In manager

have again started to wrap around the building with loyal customers enduring the summer’s heat to grab lunch at Johnson’s updated pickup window.

“We took the opportunity when things were shut down to make some big changes,” Tristan, 28, said. “We had never taken credit cards before, but now we’ve got a way to do that from our website that we set up through Square.”

Patrons can still place



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The counter inside Johnson’s, which is closed to customers now. The restaurant hopes to welcome customers back inside soon.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Anita Hammer prepares a food order this past Friday at Johnson’s restaurant. She’s been working at Johnson’s for 14 years.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Carolyn Routh speaks with a visitor about Johnson’s long and storied history in serving Siler City’s hungry.

orders in person and pay with cash, but many prefer the new online platform, he added. The website facilitates easy payment and an automated text message alerts guests when their meals are ready for pickup.

“We’ve had only a very few complain about

wanting seating back and prices going up a little because meat and supplies costs are just through the roof now,” Routh said. “But most have just been happy that despite it all, our burgers still haven’t changed. They’re still the highest quality, made-with-the-most-care burgers 75 years later.”

For now, the anniversary celebration is limited to commemorative T-shirts and a new graphic along the building’s wall chronicling the family’s history. But as pandemic conditions continue to recede, Routh hopes the restaurant can host bigger anniversary events later in the year.

“We didn’t want to do much quite yet on the day of, but this is just a kick-start to a celebration for the year,” she said. “You can’t be 75 years old and just give it one day anyway.”

Claxton is proud of what his family has accomplished over three-quarters of a century, and pleased to see his legacy endure. But — always the visionary — his sites are fixed on the next big milestone.

“We’re just getting started,” he said, laughing. “They’ve got 25 years to go until they can quit.”

To place an online lunch order, visit Johnsons1946.com. The kitchen is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or until supplies run out), Tuesday through Saturday. 75th anniversary T-shirts are also available for purchase for \$20.

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

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DIXIE YOUTH SOFTBALL

'You don't realize what you've done': West Chatham 10U Angels win state title, head to World Series this weekend



Submitted photo

The West Chatham 10U Angels, including manager Preston Parks (arms raised), celebrates after winning the 10U Dixie Youth Softball state title last week. With the win, the Angels became the second-ever West Chatham girls' softball team in any age group to advance to a Dixie Youth World Series.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

CHERRYVILLE — Preston Parks didn't have many expectations for his first season as a Dixie Youth softball manager, much less championship aspirations.

But as his team — the West Chatham 10U Angels, the reigning N.C. state champions as of last week — prepares for the 2021 Dixie Angels X-play Softball World Series in Prince George, Virginia, this weekend, Parks is settling into that same expectation level with hopes that it'll continue their good fortune.

"I thought we were going to go down to states and get it handed to us, but I guess being so scared of losing made us work even harder," Parks, who also coaches the Silk Hope team in the West Chatham's Dixie softball league, said with a laugh. "So, to tell you the truth, I'm just going to go up there [to the World Series] with

the same kind of mindset, that they're just going to beat the crap out of us and we'll just do everything we can to fight and claw and be as surprised as we were at the state tournament."

Parks' Angels — a group of 12 all-star players from around West Chatham — went undefeated (5-0) during their state title run in Cherryville, culminating in an 11-1 mercy-rule win in the championship game against South Brunswick in just three innings on July 13.

West Chatham won five games en route to the title by a combined score of 63-22, including a thrilling 19-14 barn-burner in its third game in what would be the first of two contests against South Brunswick.

West Chatham seized its moment on the state's biggest stage, winning every game by at least five runs and consistently proving why it deserved to be the champion.

Parks credits his team's championship performance

to three major keys: pitching, hitting and base-running. All of which they excelled at, game after game.

With one of the team's best pitchers, Ella Parks — Parks' daughter — going down with a broken ankle on a slide attempt two weeks before the tournament, Parks grew concerned about the depth of his pitching staff before making the trip to Cherryville.

"I told [West Chatham Softball President] Aaron Garner, 'The whole county has been struggling to pitch all year, I don't want to go up there and just walk girls around the bases,'" Parks said. "We knew what we were going to get out of [Ellie Lambert, the team's ace] and she did phenomenal, but it was Lily Poe and Madison Brown that really got us through the tournament with how far they've come along."

Due to required inning limits for pitchers — including one

See ANGELS, page B2

TOKYO 2020

A few things to know about the upcoming Olympics

It's taken five years, a worldwide pandemic and countless trials and tribulations to get here, but this week, the Summer Games are officially back.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

This is the season of staying up late to watch live broadcasts, re-runs and highlights of events you might not otherwise go out of your way to see. (My personal favorite is handball, the thrilling sport that resembles a drier version of water polo. And then there's actual water polo, which is just as awesome — like handball, only wetter.)

Plus, it's the only time in the United States when non-traditional sports (gymnastics, swimming, track & field) seem to garner more attention than traditional ones (basketball, soccer, now baseball). When you think about recent Olympic greats, your mind likely drifts to Simone Biles, Michael Phelps, Usain Bolt or Katie Ledecky, not Kevin Durant or LeBron James, despite each of the latter two having won two gold medals for the U.S.

The world's greatest international athletic spectacle is coming your way on Friday, July 23 — lasting until Aug. 8 — and as expected, Tokyo 2020 is going to be packed full of stars, storylines and controversies.

Here are some of the most important/intriguing storylines you should know before you sit down to watch the opening ceremony on Friday evening.

1. COVID-19 strikes again

Last year, the Tokyo Olympics were pushed back to 2021 after COVID-19 ravaged the globe and shut down international travel and sports of all kind in plenty of countries for most of 2020 (and part of 2021).

Now, as vaccination numbers rise across the world, COVID is still finding ways to sneak into even the most exclusive events.

So far, more than 70 people connected to the Games — a mix of event/team staffers, officials and athletes — have tested positive for the virus just days before the

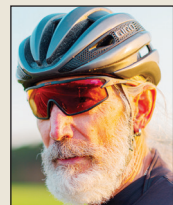
See OLYMPICS, page B4

THRILL OF THE RACE

At 70, Pittsboro's Chuck Gillis continues cycling journey in 15th NCCX season

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It began with a race for a \$100 prize in Greensboro, circa 1973.



Gillis

Pittsboro's Chuck Gillis, who was in school at Guilford College in Greensboro at the time, slipped on his makeshift cycling shoes — cleverly crafted by slicing off the rubber studs on the bottom of a pair of soccer cleats — and geared up for his first race on a racing bike he borrowed from his buddy.

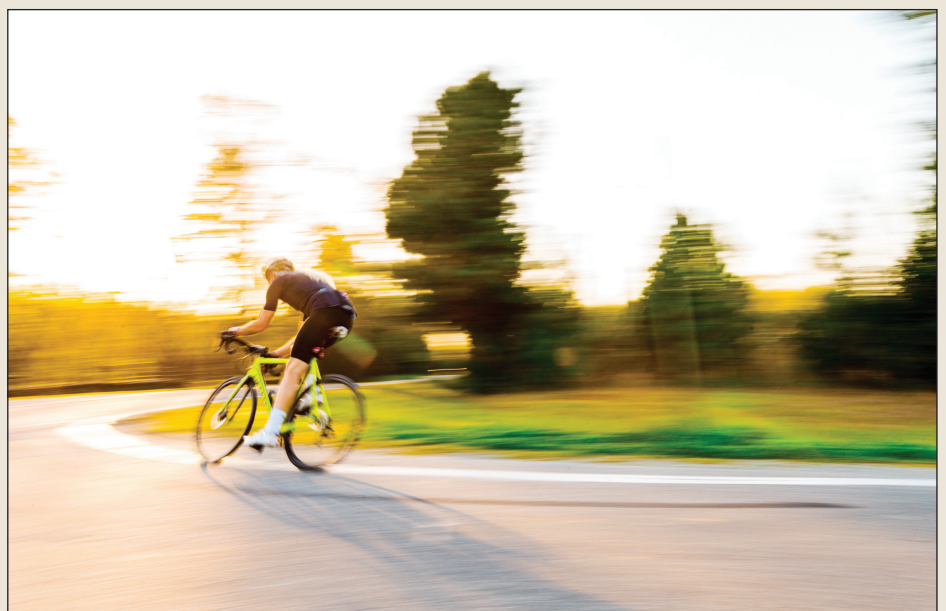
He didn't win the \$100 prize. He didn't even come close.

But from that point forward, he was hooked.

A career, as well as a lifetime hobby, was born.

"I showed up on the starting line and everybody's legs looked really smooth and I was like, 'These guys look pretty fast, but they're going to go up this hill and I'll hang with them,'" Gillis said. "And so the race starts and I just couldn't believe that I was as slow as I was, but I just fell in love with the sport at that point."

Gillis, now 70 years old, has been cycling for almost half a century. If you were born during or after the Gerald Ford administration, then he's



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chuck Gillis, lifelong cyclist, leans into a sharp right turn along the back roads of NC 902 with immaculate form in April.

been on a bike longer than you've been alive.

He's come a long way since his first race.

The ascent

After the wake-up call during his introduction to bike racing, Gillis got to work learning the basics of road racing and training to become as fast as his smooth-legged opponents.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s — with

a four-year break wedged in to account for he and his wife starting their family — Gillis competed in state, regional and even national competitions, where he'd often finish in second or third place. He became very familiar with the podium in road racing and time trialing events.

During his "elite" peak, he was a time trial champion in both North Carolina and Virginia.

See GILLIS, page B2

Stephen A. Smith's comments about Ohtani reveal wider problem of sports talk shows

If you've ever watched ESPN's "First Take," you know it's full of wild opinions, heated debates and a discussion table for trending topics in the world of sports. I'm not a regular viewer of the show itself anymore, but clips of it often appear on my social media timeline.



MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

However, before the MLB All-Star break, Stephen A. Smith made headlines after comments he made about Los Angeles Angels star Shohei Ohtani.

"I understand that baseball is an international sport itself in terms of participation, but when you talk about an audience gravitating to the tube or to the ballpark, to actually watch you, I don't think it helps that the No. 1 face is a dude that needs an interpreter, so you can understand what the hell he's saying in this country," Smith said.

He added that Ohtani could not be the face of the game and that could actually be harming the sport. Smith faced loads of backlash on social media and later

apologized on the show and online. His comments were insensitive and they were completely disproved during All-Star week.

Ohtani merchandise accounted for 28% of all All-Star merchandise revenue and he starred in the Home Run Derby and in the game itself. Since July 1, Ohtani has been the top-selling athlete on Fanatics across all sports, ESPN reported on July 20. People are going to the ballpark to watch Ohtani play. Although Smith's comments deserved to be ridiculed, there's another issue at play.

ESPN prides itself on serving sports fans anytime, anywhere, but the reality is that they focus their attention heavily on the NBA and NFL. Yes, they show regular baseball and sometimes soccer games on their networks, but odds are that if you flip on a talk-show during the morning or afternoon, the conversation is about those two sports. And while that may seem annoying to sports fans, it's what drives their ratings.

First Take is a prime example of this. Much of their content focuses on the NBA and NFL, so when they decided to speak about Ohtani on Monday, July 12, in the midst of the 2021 NBA Finals, it

came as a surprise to me.

Smith had just returned for the show Monday after a flight from Milwaukee after Game 3 on Sunday, one day after attending UFC 264 in Las Vegas on Saturday. It seems unlikely that with that schedule, Smith had any time to be catching a late-night Angels-Mariners game or many Angels games, for that matter.

And while his comments were pretty unexplainable and had nothing to do with his busy schedule, maybe ESPN television personalities shouldn't debate sports topics they aren't as familiar with. Smith is an expert in many areas and deserves credit for his knowledge and work ethic, but given the lack of coverage ESPN gives baseball on "First Take," his large platform should be used to discuss topics he does know something about. Let's leave topics like Ohtani's place in the game for experts who are fully immersed within the sport, and next time around avoid that kind of embarrassment.

Reporter Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Maxbaker_15.

GILLIS

Continued from page B1

As he got more involved in the sport, cycling shifted from one of his free-time activities to his full-blown career.

He started by getting hired at local bike shops in both Raleigh and Durham, which eventually grew into a sales representative position at Schwinn, one of the oldest bike manufacturers in the U.S.

"I made cycling kind of my career choice, as well," Gillis said. "I moved a bunch, but ended up settling down in the Washington, D.C., area and continued my job with Schwinn. But then I decided, with my two young kids at home, that I really wanted to be off the road and ride my bike some more."

That decision led him to take a job with a local bike shop that was expanding, allowing him to spend more time riding — and racing — than he could as a full-time Schwinn salesperson.

But in 1990, Gillis and his family moved again, this time to Chicago, where he worked at the Schwinn corporate headquarters and rode his bike casually. He stopped racing until his journey brought him back to North Carolina a few years later, where he took a position with Performance Bicycle as a product manager.

"There was a lot of riding going on with folks in the building," Gillis said, "so I got back into it and started competing in age group [40-plus] racing on the road a little bit."

Origin story

No matter where Gillis' journey took him, cycling was always present. He made sure of it.

While his love for racing began at the 1973 competition in Greensboro, his interest in biking began much earlier.

He grew up in Pompton Plains, N.J., located in Morris County, a little less than an hour's drive from New York City.

"Like a whole bunch of us, I rode my bike everywhere as a kid," he

said. "That's kind of how I was able to get some freedom."

In college, he cited a "boom" in 10-speed bikes as one of the primary reasons why he took the sport further. The surge in demand caused him to join in.

"I bought a so-called 'department store bike' between my junior and senior years," Gillis said. "It was my only way of getting around."

From there, he rode around with a friend of his that was a college professor, which led to him getting into road racing as he was graduating from college.

Road races consist of any cycling race with a mass start, where all competitors take off from the same starting line simultaneously, which often results in massive clusters of racers traveling together. They can vary from being intense to fairly comfortable, depending on the race.

"Sometimes it's comfortable to just sit in a group, a smaller group of 15-20 riders and just kind of hang in there," Gillis said. "But it's stressful, mentally, to be in a race condition where there's fighting or struggling for position. And it requires a lot of concentration because you're maintaining close distances. ... It's just a skill you learn by doing it."

Switching it up

Road racing is infamous for its crashes, resulting in large pileups of cyclists which can cause injury and derail an entire race. Gillis said it typically happens when someone makes even the tiniest of mistakes, such as lightly tapping the person's wheel in front of them, bringing a group down in the process.

He's been involved in one major pileup in his career, which he recalls was in either 2008 or 2009.

"[Mass pileups were] the part of road racing that I think caused me to stop because it was so random," he said. "You could be moving at 30 miles per hour and a whole bunch of riders would fall in front of you and there's just nothing

you can do. I experienced one of those kinds of races ... and I said, 'Well, that's enough of that kind of stuff. Road racing, I don't want to do that anymore.'"

So he pivoted.

For the last 15 years — including the last couple of his competitive road racing career — he's competed in events in his age group hosted by North Carolina Cyclo-Cross (NCCX), a series lasting from October to December where the races are on a closed course, typically about a mile and a half in distance and timed in intervals of 30, 45 and 60 minutes.

One of cyclo-cross's claims to fame is its requirement that riders either get off of their bikes to navigate around obstacles or jump over them while still on their bikes (if possible). It usually includes "a little bit of everything," says Gillis, including gravel, sand, pavement, wooded trails and grass.

Usually, races are held regardless of the weather, often making for some interesting — and challenging — conditions.

"One time in Hendersonville, a couple of different times, there was like a foot of snow on the course the morning of the event," Gillis said with a laugh. "They still held it, it was just very difficult."

Just as he did when he was competing in road races and time trials, Gillis has seen success in cyclo-cross, where he's often placed either first, second or third for his age group — 50-, 55- and now 60-plus — for the entire series, which consists of 10-13 events. Standings are created based on overall performance among the different events.

Age is just a number

Despite being 70 years old, there's no sign of Gillis stopping anytime soon.

His training has slowed down a bit since he retired from full-time work in recent years, but he still finds time to go out on hour-long rides a few times per week, averaging anywhere from 55 to 75 miles in a single week, using a cyclo-

Bike safety with Chuck Gillis

BY PEYTON SICKLES

News + Record Staff

The other weekend while riding my bike through the beautiful backroads of Chatham, I had the unfortunate encounter not once, not twice, but three near hits by vehicles. In general, cyclist's safety can be a toss-up, even when the proper steps are taken. Here's a few things to get both drivers and cyclists on the same page.

Turn Signals: Yes, even cyclists can utilize turn signals. There are two directions you'll find out in the wild, left and right — all are done by the left arm. For a left turn, properly extend your left arm out towards the left side of the road, indicating your intent to turn that direction by pointing. For a right turn, it's proper to keep the upper left arm horizontal while extending your forearm and finger upwards. Both turn signals require 100 feet of pre-indication — notifying drivers and other vehicles with ample time to react/slow down.

Stopping: This will again be using the left hand to indicate; to do so, keep your upper arm horizontal with your forearm and hand pointed downward. It's pretty simple, but can be forgotten or missed if a driver of a vehicle is not paying attention. For this you'll want to indicate 100 feet in advance in order to allow vehicles ample time to react properly.

Gear: Turn signals are the icing on the cake, but the best thing any cyclist can do before riding is making sure their gear is safe and ready for a ride. This includes checks on proper helmet fitting, eyewear, cycling shoes, pedals, seat ride-height, lights and mirrors, if you use them. There are several resources online for sizing a helmet, bike frame and cycling shoes properly.

Lastly, here are a few of Chuck's favorite tips:

1. Keep your bike clean and the drive train lubricated.
2. Check your bike's tire pressure



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chuck Gillis signals for a left turn while riding along the backroads of Pittsboro in April. The main way to signal left is by extending the left arm toward the target location.

and brakes each time you plan to ride.

3. On country/suburban roads, ride about a foot from the white line on your right and practice riding a very straight and predictable (to motorists) line.

4. When approaching a car at an intersection, try to establish eye contact with the driver. If this is not possible, assume the motorist does not see you and proceed cautiously.

5. Stop at all traffic signals.

6. In city traffic, claim your space by riding about six feet out from parked cars. Allow room for passengers opening their doors.

7. When making a left turn, plan ahead of your turn and move over into the left side of the lane so you can execute your turn.

8. Use a flashing red light mounted on the back of your bike whenever you ride.

For state DOT cycling laws, refer to G.S. 20-154, 20-129(e) and 20-146.

puter and the Strava app to track his mileage and speed.

In a single year, he still rides anywhere from 3,000 to 4,000 miles.

"It's still an interesting challenge to see how my body responds to training," Gillis said. "It's just a rewarding experience and it's a good way to stay healthy because, cycling, you can do it well into your later years because it treats your body well. ... It's good on your joints, helps you stay healthy by increasing your circulation and not causing as much wear-and-tear to your connective tissue."

Gillis plans to compete in this fall's NCCX series for his 15th season and is already slated to ride in the 102-mile Blue Ridge Brutal race along the Blue Ridge Parkway on Aug. 21, but thinks he'll switch to one of the lower tiers (56 or 72 miles) because "I'd just suffer (if I did 102 miles), so I'd rather have fun and go a little shorter."

When asked when he thinks he'll stop racing, Gillis said he's no stranger to the question.

"I don't know, I think about that ... you know, I'll probably do it until it's not fun anymore," Gillis said. "And 'not fun'

would mean that I'm not competitive or that I feel like I'm putting my body at too much risk."

But by the sound of it, cycling still hasn't lost its luster in his eyes.

"It's almost like a meditation, it's a mind-clearing process," he said. "It just makes me feel healthy and connected to the natural world. I like to not have in earplugs and just take in what's around me. It's just a way to experience the outdoors."

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

ANGELS

Continued from page B1

rule that states a pitcher can only throw eight total innings during a double-header — Parks turned to Brown and Poe for games three and four, where they shined as a duo, getting the job done and staving off elimination.

In the third game against South Brunswick, after Brown handled the first two innings, Poe struck out seven batters in the final three innings — including a 1-2-3 scoreless third — to propel her team to the win.

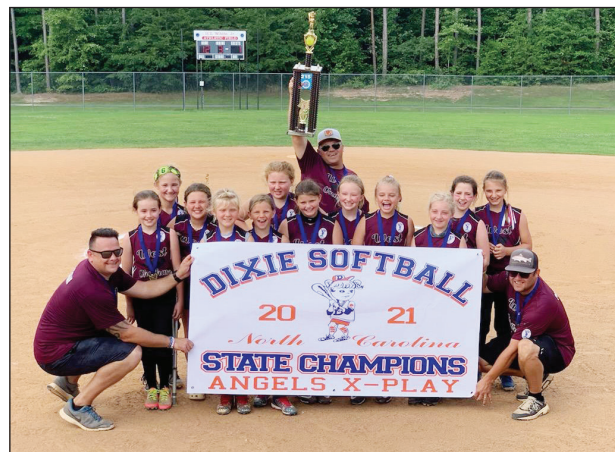
The tandem struck again in the fourth game against Boger City, holding their opponents to three runs and downing five on strikes in a 12-3 victory that solidified their spot in the championship bout.

Thanks to West Chatham's pitching depth, Lambert had the opportunity to return fresh and well-rested for the title game, where she faced 12 South Brunswick batters in the 11-1 three-inning win, striking out eight and allowing just one runner to cross home plate.

With her on the mound, there was never a doubt.

And as great as the pitching was for most of the tournament, the West Chatham offense was off the charts.

The team was on a tear at the plate, scoring 63 runs in five games, aver-



Submitted photo

The West Chatham 10U Angels (from left to right: Blake Oldham (coach), Aubrey Covington, Blair Hill, Ella Parks, Ellie Lambert, Ruby Parks, Lily Poe, Ally Rae Rogers, Jeff Lambert (coach), Sadie Luther, Molly Oldham, Presley Walters, Madison Brown, Allison Lineberry, Preston Parks (manager)) pose holding the banner and trophy after their undefeated title run in the 2021 Dixie Softball 10U state tournament. West Chatham (representing N.C.) will face Alabama in the first game of the 2021 Dixie Angels X-play World Series.

aging out to a little over 12 runs per game.

The title game against South Brunswick was evidence of that, where West Chatham scored 12 runs in three innings off of the backs of hitters like Ally Rae Rogers (double and triple) and Poe (double), each of whom knocked extra-base hits to add to their team's lead.

The star of the championship game, however, was Sadie Luther — batting last in the lineup — who powerfully sliced a three-run homer toward the fence in what Parks called one of his favorite moments of the tournament.

"Our girls could hit

and we had some in the bottom of the lineup, in particular Sadie Luther from Goldston, she absolutely crushed the ball to the fence in the championship game," Parks said. "I've never seen her hit like that. ... I had a parent tell me just today that she got to the dugout and said, 'Where in the world did that come from?'"

West Chatham's aggressive base-running — including "a lot" of stolen bases, according to Parks — put pressure on teams throughout the tournament. Not all of their stolen bases were easy passes to second base, though. That wouldn't have been aggressive



Submitted photo

West Chatham 10U Angels' manager Preston Parks (center, in gray hat) has a bucket of water dumped on him in celebration by coach Jeff Lambert after his team won the Dixie Youth 10U state title last week.

enough.

"We did what we had to do to get on base to win the tournament and we told them to get on base at all costs," Parks said. "We took chances stealing base all week. ... We stole home about 8-10 times and got out at home twice, I think," Parks said.

As instrumental as their talent and skill was to winning the championship, Parks said the players' ability to handle the moment — laughing and cutting up in the dugout during games, rarely feeling pressure — was the biggest key of them all.

West Chatham's state tournament run was one that came as a pleasant surprise to both Parks and the rest of the team, but by the time the players were holding up the banner and posing for photos with their gold medals around their

necks, Parks' original fear of losing was an afterthought.

With their showing in Cherryville, this year's team is officially the first-ever West Chatham 10U softball team to clinch a state title and only the second girls team from any age group to do it.

But their journey is far from over.

The 2021 Dixie Angels X-play World Series begins on this Saturday, July 24, when North Carolina (represented by West Chatham) faces Alabama at 10 a.m. at JEJ Middle School in Prince George County, Virginia.

West Chatham could play as many as six games in four days en route to the World Series title during the double-elimination tournament.

In a bit of good news, Ella Parks is slated to return from her ankle in-

jury for the World Series, while the rest of the team — a successful concoction of players from Bennett, Silk Hope, Pittsboro, North Chatham, Bonlee and Goldston — looks to continue playing with confidence and refusing to shy away from the big moment.

"I don't know if they've realized what they've accomplished yet, they're just such great friends with each other," Parks said, chuckling. "They think this is just what everybody does. I told them, 'I'm 37 and I ain't never won anything in my life,' and here they are with a state championship. There are people that have fought and tried to do everything in the world to win one and come close and not won one. I said, 'Y'all did it at 9-10 years old, you don't realize what you've done.'"

West Chatham's success doesn't end with the 10U team, however, as the 12U Ponytails finished as the runner-up in the 12U state tournament after a 3-2 performance, with both losses coming to the eventual state champion Hope Mills.

In addition, the West Chatham 8U Darlings won the sportsmanship award at the 8U state tournament, rounding out the three Chatham-based teams that competed last week.

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

School's in session



Submitted photo

A group of campers and camp counselors (front row, from left to right: Jenna Burwell, Sophia Grimes, Corrine Wood, Avery Oldham, Lilly Pike, Taniya Snipes-Graham, Abigail Branson, Lily Bay Philips, Madison Cook, Natalie Ellefson, Riley Maynor (counselor); second row, from left to right: Judy Shreef, Allie Cheek, Dakota Livermon, Brooke LaVelle, Abby McPherson, Remas Shreef, Kara Culberson, Aubrey Blankenship, Delaney Fuquay, Leah Smith, Summer Blanton, Delana Loflin (counselor); third row, from left to right: Georgia Schmidt, Autum Pate, Aaliyah Walden, Avery Blankenship, Lauren Jones, Madison Cook, Eliza Hayes, Emerson Clark (counselor), Tamaya Walden (counselor), Alexis Baldwin (counselor), Olivia Cheek (counselor), Taylor Brewer (counselor), Johnny Alston (camp director)) pose for a group photo with their camp certificates during Chatham Charter's youth volleyball camp, hosted from June 28-30.



Submitted photo

Chatham Charter senior Jayden Snipes (left, with ball) and junior Jamir Wright (center, in purple) take camper Leah Kidd through defensive drills during the Knights' youth basketball summer camp from June 21-24. Throughout the county, high schools are hosting three-day summer camps for elementary and middle schoolers in a variety of sports, including cheerleading, baseball/softball, basketball, football, soccer, tennis and volleyball.



Submitted photo

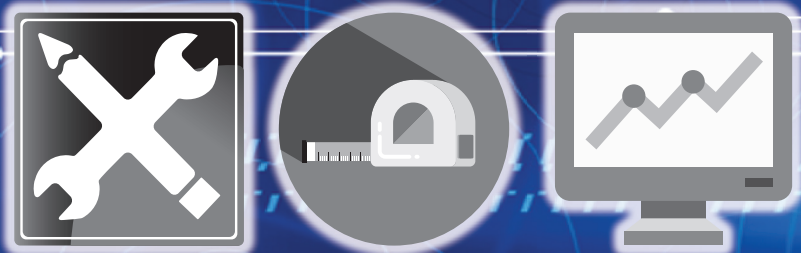
Campers and counselors pose for photos in the gym at Jordan-Matthews during the school's summer youth basketball camp from July 19-22. It's one of five youth camps the Jets are hosting this summer.



Submitted photo

Northwood sophomores and volunteer camp counselors Drake Powell (in white) and Ashton Elliott (in green) take campers through dribbling drills during the Chargers' youth basketball camp in June.

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NEWS BRIEFS

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will include one Aunt Rachel tree — a rare local variety of apple tree that originated in Chatham County and is deeply tied to the legacy of heirloom old southern apple trees expert and late Chatham County resident Lee Calhoun — and one heirloom old southern pollinator apple tree of the purchasers choice (subject to availability). About the Chatham 250 Heirloom Old Southern Apple Tree bundle:

- Each bundle costs \$42 (no tax).
- Orders must be placed through THIS Chatham 250 Order Form by Friday, Sept. 10.
- Payments will be made directly to Century Farm Orchards. Confirmed orders will receive an invoice in late-September. Payments can be made by Check or by Zelle (on-line payment system offered through most major banks).
- Order will be picked up in Chatham

County in November 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Hilary Pollan, Chatham 250 Project Manager, at hilary.pollan@chathamcountync.gov. If you would like more information about Century Farm Orchard and/or the Aunt Rachel apple tree, see below and/or visit www.centuryfarmorchards.com.

— CN +R staff reports

OLYMPICS

Continued from page B1

torch is set to be lit on Friday.

The list includes notable U.S. athletes like rising tennis star Coco Gauff, Washington Wizards' guard Bradley Beal and the Seattle Storm forward Katie Lou Samuelson, who was scheduled to play in the inaugural women's 3x3 basketball event in Tokyo.

On Tuesday, the chief of the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee, Toshirō Muto, did not rule out the idea of canceling the Games if COVID-19 cases continue to spike.

In recent weeks, protests have popped up in Tokyo calling for the government to cancel the Olympics primarily because of public health concerns. In a June poll taken by The Asahi Shimbun, one of Japan's most notable newspapers, 62% of respondents were in favor of a cancellation.

All of this comes alongside the recent news that a state of emergency had been put into place for Tokyo until Aug. 22 due to a surge in positive coronavirus cases in the city. The IOC and Japanese government decided to ban all spectators from the Games following the announcement.

As of now, there has been no change to the Olympic schedule, but if COVID-19 cases continue to go up, the Games may

actually be in jeopardy.

2. More sports keep coming

If you were getting tired of watching the same 28 Olympic sports each year, then you're in luck.

In 2016, the IOC approved the addition of five sports to the Olympic roster for the 2020 Games, including baseball/softball, karate, skateboarding, sports climbing and surfing, adding an additional 18 events and 474 athletes to the slate.

Team USA has representatives in all five sports, including a makeshift baseball team full of former MLB stars and rising prospects that aim to make noise in the six-team field.

3. Where the U.S. could be a shoe-in for gold ...

In terms of Olympic gold medals, there isn't a country that holds a candle to Team USA.

Over the duration of the Games' history, the U.S. has amassed 1,127 gold medals, a little over 400 more than Russia (726), the second-place nation, and nearly 550 more than Germany (578) in third place.

This year, the U.S. has plenty of opportunities to add to that total, starting with gymnast Simone Biles, who is arguably the gymnastics G.O.A.T. and

already has two moves nicknamed "the Biles" because ... well ... she's the only person who can do them.

There's a shot that Biles, the defending all-around Olympic champion, could win as many as five golds in Tokyo, which would net her a tie with Soviet Larisa Latynina for the most Olympic gold medals by a female gymnast in history.

In addition to Biles, you can't talk about international competition without mentioning the U.S. women's soccer team, the reigning World Cup champion led by Carli Lloyd and Megan Rapinoe. It'd be a shock if Team USA didn't win the gold on the pitch.

And there are plenty more, such as track & field (including Noah Lyles, the reigning world champion in the men's 200-meter dash and Dalilah Muhammad/Sydney McLaughlin, who each have a shot to win gold in the women's 400-meter hurdles in an intense race, among others), swimming (Katie Ledecky has won five golds in the past and could possibly seek a three-peat in the women's 800-meter freestyle, while Simone Manuel won a whopping four golds in the Rio 2016 Games), to name a few.

4. ... and where it might not

OK, the jig is up.

This is just a place for me to write about how badly Team USA men's basketball team has performed in its exhibition games up to this point.

The team, spearheaded by superstars Kevin Durant, Damian Lillard and Jayson Tatum, looked less-than-stellar in its pre-Olympic competition, which included two uncharacteristic exhibition losses — one to Nigeria, 90-87, and another to Australia, 91-83 — and two wins against Argentina and Spain.

We're used to seeing Team USA dominate its competition — like the 83-point, 156-73 win over Nigeria in the 2012 London Olympics — so anytime our stars falter, even by playing close games, it seems like the basketball world is crashing down.

In reality, things are a lot less dramatic.

Team USA is headed to Japan with a short-handed roster, down a few players who are still competing in the NBA Finals (the Milwaukee Bucks' Jrue Holiday and Chris Middleton, the Phoenix Suns' Devin Booker) and one player, the Chicago Bulls' Zach LaVine, who is in health and safety protocols due to a likely COVID-19 exposure.

But once the full roster's together, there's a good chance Durant turns back into his role as one of the greatest

scorers of all-time, Lillard begins playing like he has ice in his veins and the U.S. retains its basketball dominance.

They're the favorites for a reason.

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

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 July 22nd through July 28th

Thursday, July 22nd

- Body Conditioning with Jackie at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 3:00 PM

Friday, July 23rd

- Body Conditioning with Jackie at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)

Monday, July 26th

- Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM
- Tai Chi for Arthritis at 3:00 PM

Tuesday, July 27th

- Body Conditioning with Jackie at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)

Wednesday, July 28th

- Chair Yoga with Liz at 10:00 AM

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‘A CELEBRATION OF OUR COMMUNITY’

Pittsboro’s Cedar Grove church to host ‘summer fiesta’ Saturday

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — For nearly a year, Cedar Grove United Methodist Church and Mexican food truck Ta Contento have worked to provide free monthly meals to the community.

Now, they’ve decided to kick things up a notch: this Saturday, Cedar Grove will host its first “Summer Fiesta” at 2791 Jones Ferry Rd. From 5 - 8 p.m., the Fiesta will offer live music, dancing and — of course — food.

Ta Contento, based in Chapel Hill, will cater while Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA) will also provide the church with some shelf-stable food boxes to distribute during the event for those in need. Much like the church’s monthly meal events, Ta Contento and Cedar Grove will only ask Fiesta attendees to pay what they can for the food.

The Fiesta will also offer live music: musicians Erich Lieth and Sara Vaca will play a mix of Latin and jazz music, while John Chasteen and Dudley Hiller of Box Turtle Rescue will play a set of eclectic folk music.

“We hope the event will benefit our friends and neighbors from across our part of Chatham County,” Cedar Grove UMC’s pastor, Danny Berrier, told the News + Record.

Cedar Grove originally partnered with Ta Contento last August to provide free or discounted monthly meals to the community, especially those laid low financially by the pandemic. Cedar Grove provides the location and funds while Ta Contento — owned by



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The CORA Mobile Market visited Cedar Grove UMC’s monthly ‘Pay What You Can’ event in April. They’ve also provided some food boxes for distribution at Cedar Grove’s ‘Summer Fiesta’ event with Ta Contento this Saturday.

Nora Anaya and her husband Hans — serves up the food.

“We subsidize the meal,” Berrier told the News + Record in January. “So if someone comes in and says they can’t afford a meal, we as the church family will pay for that from some of the gifts that were given to our church.”

Unless there’s bad weather, the church hosts these monthly “Pay What You Can” events every second Thursday of each month between 4 and 7 p.m. — and they don’t plan on stopping any time soon.

“We’re continuing on,” Berrier said. “... I don’t see us dropping (it) — plus, Nora doesn’t want to drop out. I don’t think we’re going to stop the monthly Pay What You Can event. This (Summer Fiesta) is just a supplemental new effort, and we may decide that we do this a couple times a year.”

Part of the idea behind the Summer Fiesta, Anaya said, is to reach more people and spread the word about their monthly Pay What You Can events as well as other feeding initiatives the church leads with the community’s support.

That’s why the Fiesta’s on a Saturday.

“It’s a really good idea I think Nora had, and I agree, you know, do it on a Saturday. Maybe a different group will be able to come,” he said, adding: “It seems like the last few events we did on Thursdays are — and it may be the timing — generally have diminished. We get maybe 30 or 40 total people coming through, and that includes 15 or so from the church.”

But beyond spreading the word, the Fiesta’s also about building community and “getting to know some folks,”



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Nora Anaya and her husband Hans own Ta Contento, a Mexican food truck based in Chapel Hill. They’re catering the ‘Summer Fiesta’ at Cedar Grove UMC in Pittsboro this Saturday.

IF YOU’RE GOING

WHAT: Summer Fiesta

WHEN: 5 - 8 p.m., Saturday, July 24

WHERE: Cedar Grove UMC, 2791 Jones Ferry Rd.

COST: free to everyone

FEATURING: community, dancing, live music and food from the Chapel Hill-based Ta Contento food truck

WHY: ‘We hope the event will benefit our friends and neighbors from across our part of Chatham County.’ — Danny Berrier, Cedar Grove UMC’s pastor

Berrier said. He hopes to see a couple of hundred people turn out.

“That’s why we called it a Summer Fiesta — just a celebration of our community in our part in Chatham County,” he said. “That’s sort of what I’m hoping it will be.”

For more information, visit the event’s Facebook page at fb.me/e/1a01qxtYr or send questions to info@cedargrove-methodist.org.

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

One for the pan

You know those tall, blinding, hats that chefs



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

wear? Not the mushroom-shaped ones, but the tall straight ones with pleats?

They have stories about that hat (called a “toque blanche”) in the food world.

The taller the hat, the higher the rank. The white represents cleanliness of the kitchen.

And the pleats. According to legend, the number of folds in a hat indicated the number of ways the chef underneath it could cook an egg.

The minimum number was 100.

I may be lacking in such depth of dishes, but never in my appreciation of the marvelous little miracle that is an egg.

I love eggs.

Growing up, when we were sick, Mom would make us a soft-boiled egg, with a dot of margarine, and salt and pepper, served in a pastel-colored Tupperware cereal bowl.

I’ve never eaten those marvelous eggs unless it was in my jimmies, cocooned under my covers, home from school, sick.

I don’t know why. Petey and I both love breakfast for dinner. And unless it’s a special night when I take the time to make pancakes or French toast, our quick go-to is scrambled eggs, either on a sandwich or with hash browns.

My version throws much, if not most scrambling protocol right out the window. But they’re fluffy and light, moist, and tasty, every time. And most importantly, I vow there will never, ever be gross white clots (called chalaza) in the eggs, staring back at you over breakfast.

Frittatas, or as they call them in Spain, tortillas (not the things that make tacos and tortillas) are another way to make a meal out of eggs.

Alton Brown, Food Network institution and NECI (New England Culinary Institute) alum, has a term: “refrigerator Velcro.” It means a dish that bit and bobs of this and that from the fridge can be added to it.

Salad, soups and stews, and hash are all edible Velcro.

So are frittatas. The other night I made one

that mimicked our standard scramble-hash brown dinner, plus it had veggies and a touch of dairy. And then, we had the leftovers with a delicious new condiment The Kid has recently introduced to us: garlic toum. Toum is a Lebanese paste made from garlic, lemon juice, and a neutral oil. It is ridiculously delicious on everything I’ve used it on. (I buy it from Trader Joe’s.)

The Kid absolutely loathes eggs, except for a freakish adoration of Waffle House omelets (and flan ... that child can not get enough flan). But a lot of kids love them.

And that’s a good thing.

They cost about 15 cents apiece. Inside that smooth, alabaster vault, the contents contain protein, iron, calcium and vitamins. Even purchased at the farmer’s market, it’s an amazing deal for a protein with which to feed the family. Or to feed a vegetarian.

Everybody could stand adding a few new egg dishes to their bag of tricks.

This time around, I’m giving out homework. At least once a week, learn a new egg dish. If you come upon any marvelous recipes, or truly dreadful ones, send me a note.

Then I’ll share with the



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A hash brown fritatta, fresh out of the oven.

whole class. Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Rebellious Scrambled Eggs

(They can’t follow your rules, man!)

7 eggs
1 1/2-2 tablespoons butter

1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly cracked pepper

Serves two

Blend all the eggs, either with a hand blender (boat motor), or a regular blender. Blend for about 30 seconds, or until the eggs are completely homogenized and frothy, but the volume has not really increased.

Heat large non-stick frying pan with burner set halfway between high and medium-high.

Put in butter and allow to melt. Once it’s melted, but still bubbling pretty vigorously, pour in eggs. Add salt and pepper.

As soon as the eggs are seasoned, start turning down the heat, a bit at a time. When the eggs are ready to plate, the heat should be between medium and medium-low.

With a with a non-stick compatible tool, begin to daintily stir/scrape the eggs. Get the cooked bits up, exposing more raw to the pan surface.

When there is almost all flipping of big hunks, and no real stirring of uncooked, turn down the heat for the last time.

When there is no really runny stuff left, but everything is very moist, and it looks a touch undercooked, plate. The eggs will continue to cook on the plate (it’s called carryover, like for a hunk of cooked meat). If it looks done in the pan, it will be overcooked and dry on the fork.

I’m kind of a purist, but it wouldn’t be awful to sprinkle plated eggs with a little freshly chopped parsley, or snipped chives.

My very favorite way to eat them is on top of a piece of buttered, toasted Ninth St. Bakery’s sourdough French.

Hash Brown Frittata

1 large Russet baking potato shredded
4 tablespoons butter, divided
3 cups of broccoli heads, very lightly steamed
1 1/2 cup mushrooms, cleaned, stemmed and sliced
1 small yellow onion, chopped finely
7 eggs, mixed with a hand blender until frothy and lightened in color

1/3 cup cubes of soft cheese like mozzarella or havarti
Salt and pepper

Heat a skillet, melt 2 tablespoons butter and add onions and mushrooms. Season vegetables. Sauté on medium-high heat until the moisture has been released, then cooked out completely. Cook until there is browning on the vegetables. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 300°.

Heat a large, non-stick skillet and melt 2 tablespoons of butter. Add shredded potatoes, season, toss in butter, and press into pan in an even layer.

Cover and cook the potato on medium for 15 minutes. Uncover and put broccoli, mushrooms and onions on top. Then pour the eggs over in a circular manner to get even distribution. Dot the top with the cheese.

Place pan into oven and cook for 25-30 minutes or until just set through. Remove and let sit 5-8 minutes before slicing and serving.

Makes 4 large servings.

School board approves NCAE resolution to improve learning conditions

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to improve student learning conditions at its meeting Monday night, as requested of local boards across the state by the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE).

Among other items, the resolution — labeled as nonpartisan — calls for an increase in per-student spending, a \$15 minimum base pay for all North Carolina school workers and more funding for districts to hire more school nurses, counselors, social workers, psychologists, and instructional assistants.

The item was presented by Chairperson Gary Leonard, a retired CCS educator who worked in education for 33 years and joined the board in 2010. Board member David Hamm worked at CCS for 28 years as an educator and has served on the board of education since 2008.

“Mr. Hamm and I need to make sure we preface this because we’re both retirees of North Carolina, and one of the things is to increase our retirement formulas,” Leonard said of a stipulation within the resolution. “We like all the other things in there so we just want to make sure that everybody understands what we’re hoping to improve — public education.”

to co-sponsor and vote for legislation that reforms the salary scale to provide a 5% salary increase and subsequent cost of living adjustments for active and retired educators.

“Another point is that this is a resolution from the State Teachers Association that has been in the hands of the legislators for some time. People have supported this and because we didn’t support it publicly didn’t mean that we weren’t supporting our teachers,” Hamm said. “We did not want that to be a perception. And like Gary said, Gary and I are not voting with this to make sure we have a cost of living increase to our retirements — that’s more tongue in cheek than it is seriousness. But yes, everything on that resolution are things that are long, long, long overdue.”

The resolution was sent to legislators several months ago, and board members said Chatham General Assembly representatives Robert Reives II and Valerie Foushee have expressed support for it. School boards across the state have also approved the resolution. In addition to the above items, the resolution also calls for:

- Approval of a statewide K-12 school construction and renovation bond that provides local education agencies with much-needed funds
- Restoring state health care benefits for school workers who retire after “a lifetime of service to our students”
- Expanding funding for broadband, high-speed internet

in the state, with an emphasis on rural, lower-income, and communities of color

• Freezing funding for the North Carolina private school voucher program at current levels until the other resolution policy objectives are achieved

Members of the Chatham County Association of Educators also supported this resolution, Leonard said, noting it would send a “powerful message” to state legislators and to Gov. Roy Cooper.

In North Carolina, starting teacher pay is 47th out of 50 states and 33rd in average teacher pay, according to the National Education Association. Last month, state Senate leaders presented a budget spending proposal that would slash corporate taxes and award public school teachers with a 1.5% raise.

North Carolina spent \$2,866 less per student than the national average for the 2019-2020 school year, the resolution said, citing a NEA report.

“We’ve got to keep our legislators — we’ve gotta stay on their backs,” Hamm said of the resolution.

Other meeting business

The meeting began with Superintendent Anthony Jackson, who started the role July 6, taking an oath of office for superintendent.

“We’ll start right off with our welcoming Dr. Jackson to Chatham County,” Leonard said. “Of course, he’s already hit the ground running.”

The board also approved a

Memorandum of Understanding with the Chatham County Public Health Dept. and a Memorandum of Agreement for a Chatham 250 Los Jets Exhibit.

CCS has a longstanding relationship with the health department, the district said, including the department’s funding of two nurse positions and an Instructional Program Facilitator position. That funding will continue into this school year.

That MOU was updated to add language pertaining to COVID-19 in two places.

The Chatham 250 Los Jets exhibit is a part of the county’s anniversary plans for this year, specifically celebrating the history of Jordan-Matthews High School’s Los Jets soccer team. The county will create a mobile exhibit to share the team’s story; the district will allow the exhibit to be presented as agreed-upon schools next fall.

The board did not explicitly discuss COVID-19 protocol next fall, but it did approve a motion lifting the suspension of field trips, after school activities, facility rentals, and school access for visitors and volunteers. Those suspensions were put in place in spring 2020 in response to COVID-19.

The meeting began with public comments from parents calling on the school board to make mask-wearing optional for CCS students next fall. Currently, universal mask-wearing is still required in schools, though Gov. Cooper said last week he expected to issue an

updated recommendation soon, following CDC guidance saying masks should be optional for fully vaccinated individuals.

On Monday, the American Academy of Pediatrics joined the CDC in calling for in-person learning to fully resume, but departed from the institution in saying that universal masking should be part of a “layered approach to make school safe for all students, teachers and staff.” This guidance comes as the Delta variant spreads and as it remains uncertain when students 12 and under will be able to be vaccinated.

While COVID-19 data suggests young children are less likely to get COVID-19 and to spread it, epidemiologists have long cited mask-wearing as an essential protection against spread of infection among unvaccinated people. Early data also suggests the Delta variant is more contagious than other strains.

“Our children need to get unmasked, OK, if not, if you do not unmask our children, you better come up with some money to help provide for them in the future for their social, emotional and mental stress that they’re going to have in the future,” said one speaker, Edie Jacomet, “because they will — they will, mark my words, so I’m just asking you, please unmask our children.”

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

NEWS BRIEFS

2022 ‘Come to the Table’ conference requesting workshop proposals

PITTSBORO — The Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA (RAFI-USA) issued a request for workshop proposals (RFP) for the upcoming 2022 Come to the Table (CTTT) Conference. With funding support from The Duke Endowment, the conference will be held March 15-16, 2022, in Greenville, N.C., at the Greenville Convention Center.

Plenary speakers Natalie Baszile (We Are Each Other’s Harvest and Queen Sugar) and Dr. Norbert Wilson (Professor of Food, Economics, and Community at Duke Divinity School) were recently announced. This is the eighth Come to the Table Conference and nearly 500 people attended the most recent gathering in 2019.

The 2022 conference theme is “Spirit, Power, and Connection: Owning Our Food Future,” and the conference will explore the role of connection and agency as crucial steps in building a just and sustainable food system. Workshops will share resources, tools and knowledge to support attendees in being effective community advocates for a more just food system, provide space for people to connect and build

relationships and energize attendees to go back to their communities with knowledge to challenge the systemic nature of hunger and the skills and connections to grow structures that are based in justice.

The 2019 CTTT conference featured 55 workshops and 139 speakers on a range of topics, including racial equity, theology, community development, environmental justice and public policy. 97% of interviewed participants ranked the quality of the workshops as “very good” or “good.”

Workshop presenters will be offered an honorarium of \$150 for one presenter, \$100 each for two presenters, \$75 each for three presenters and \$50 each for four or more presenters. All presenters will receive free registration to the conference. Submissions are due Aug. 27 and will be reviewed by a committee. Accepted applicants will be notified by Sept. 30.

To submit a workshop proposal for the 2022 Come to the Table Conference, visit our Request for Proposals (RFP) website here. To receive future announcements regarding the 2022 CTTT conference, join our mailing list at <http://bit.ly/JoinEmailCTTT>.

— CN +R staff reports

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1,4-DIOXANE IN PITTSBORO'S WATER

Contaminant levels still decreasing since Greensboro spill

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Two weeks of samples taken from Pittsboro's water intake show decreasing concentrations of 1,4-Dioxane in the town's drinking supply since a yet unknown Greensboro source discharged at least two "slugs" of the dangerous chemical into the Haw last month.

The latest round of data indicate 1,4-Dioxane — a suspected carcinogen derived from industrial runoff — has been diluted to levels beneath the Environmental Protection Agency's standard of maximally acceptable concentrations for potable water.

On July 14, the most recent sample date as of press time Tuesday, Pittsboro's finished water contained 17.3 parts per billion of 1,4-Dioxane at the Horton water tank, 16.2 ppb at the 1.0M water tank and fewer than 3 ppb elsewhere. The EPA recommends no more than 35 ppb in healthy drinking water based on a one in 10,000 chance of cancer over lifetime exposure.

"As expected, as we become further removed from the contamination event, we are seeing levels steadily decrease closer to non-detect, <1.0 (ppb)," Town Manager Chris Kennedy said in a statement. "Despite the improvements, town staff will continue to monitor and sample the water until we achieve consistent non-detect results."

Trouble begins

On July 1, the City of Greensboro and the North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality reported an illegal discharge of 1,4-Dioxane into South Buffalo Creek — a Haw River tributary — in effluent from Greensboro's TZ

Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant. Preliminary samples in Greensboro indicated levels between 543 ppb and 687 ppb, almost 20 times greater than what the EPA's guideline permits. The chemical had not previously appeared in Pittsboro's water at any detectable level for more than a year.

After learning of the pollution, Pittsboro staff began testing the town's water supply, Pittsboro Water Plant Superintendent Adam Pickett told the News + Record, and have taken daily samples since. Results have been processed at Reidsville's Meritech Labs.

In the immediate wake of Greensboro's contamination, 1,4-Dioxane levels at Pittsboro's raw water intake were non-detectable. Two days later a raw water sample included 76.5 ppb, and later samples showed 38.2 ppb and 43.7 ppb over the next few days. Finished water at Pittsboro's water tanks contained much lower concentrations of 1,4-Dioxane, none higher than 5.56 ppb.

A week later, however, 1,4-Dioxane levels spiked again. Pittsboro representatives have publicly inferred there was at least a second illegal discharge of 1,4-Dioxane in Greensboro, though no such incident was formally reported.

Raw water samples from July 6 showed 1,4-Dioxane ranging from 26.5 ppb to 93.6 ppb, a higher ceiling than earlier detected. The chemical's concentration in treated drinking water was also elevated. At the Chatham Forest site, levels reached 66.8 ppb and finished tank water showed 21.7 ppb. Treated water from the Horton tank was much lower, just 1.71 ppb.

"Town staff believes that these numbers indicate a delayed or secondary influx of 1,4-Dioxane reaching the

Pittsboro raw water intake with what appears to be an additional slug of contamination coming from Greensboro on or immediately before July 6, 2021 ..." Kennedy said last week.

Upon seeing the test results, town staff flushed the Chatham Forest tank and refilled it with what they "expect(ed) to be less contaminated finished water" as concentrations trended down.

"From a strategic perspective, the town is continually turning over the stored water in our water tanks more frequently than usual," Kennedy said in a release, "to continually refresh the water with improved and better quality finished water so that 1,4-Dioxane contaminated water exits our public supply as quickly as possible."

The bigger picture

As of press time, the Greensboro party responsible for discharging dangerous levels of 1,4-Dioxane was still unidentified. The City of Greensboro is obligated to limit 1,4-Dioxane discharge per a Special Order of Consent between the city and the North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality signed in February. The SOC stipulates no more than 45 ppb of 1,4-Dioxane may be released into the Haw per day.

The agreement was triggered in 2019 after the discovery that Shamrock Environmental — an environmental and industrial waste management services company — was dumping 705 parts per billion to 1,210 parts per billion of 1,4-Dioxane at the TZ Osborne plant. The Shamrock location in Greensboro is a tanker cleaning facility that also manages wastewater and recycles drilling mud.

Water samples of Shamrock's efflu-

ent showed 98.8 ppb of 1,4-Dioxane on July 6 and July 7 and 466 ppb on July 7 in a "flume grab" — water which had not been mixed with other sources at the wastewater treatment plant. But Greensboro representatives have denied any connection between the company and last month's spill.

Alternative sources had not been presented as of press time. "So that's what Greensboro is working on," Pickett, Pittsboro's water superintendent, previously told the N+R, "trying to figure out where this source is coming from all of a sudden. And we're working with Greensboro, as well, so hopefully we can get this knocked down pretty quick."

What comes next?

Pittsboro representatives, including Kennedy and elected officials, have said they will demand explanation and compensation from Greensboro for its violation of the SOC and negligence in protecting downstream neighbors from the city's dangerous effluent.

The town's board of commissioners hosted a special session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday — immediately after press time for this edition of the News + Record — to "discuss the town's understanding of the issue to date and the town's response moving forward," Kennedy said in the meeting announcement. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

For the latest on Pittsboro's water quality, including highlights of Tuesday's board meeting, check back on chathamnewsrecord.com.

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

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On July 14, Adam Daniel Webster, 35, homeless, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for violation of domestic violence protective order and second degree trespassing. Webster was issued a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 21.

On July 15, James Kirk Morgan, 38, of 104 New Stateside Drive, Chapel

Hill, was arrested by Deputy Jonas Lassiter for failure to appear. Morgan was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 21.

On July 15, Justin Carl Dolinger, 29, of 524 Buck Gunter Road, Siler City was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for assault on a female. Dolinger was issued a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on

August 27.

On July 16, James Kirk Morgan, 38, of 104 New Stateside Drive, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Jonas Lassiter, for failure to appear on charges of driving while license revoked. Morgan was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on July 28.

On July 18, Shana Hilliard McLeod, 34, of 138 Morris Wood Lane, New Hill, was arrested by

Deputy Johnny Griffin, for communicating threats. McLeod was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on July 28. On July 18, James Ronnie Brooks Sr., 71, of 31 Lewis Brown Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for a true bill of indictment related to charges of statutory sex offense with child under the age of 15 and indecent liberties with a

child. Brooks was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 23.

On July 18, Dino Lamont Thompson, 62, of 120 Honeysuckle Drive, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for a true bill of indictment related to charges of being a habitual felon. Thompson was issued a written promise to ap-

pear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 23.

On July 18, Xavier Pierre Walker, 50, of 1818 North Chatham Avenue, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for a true bill of indictment related to charges of being a habitual felon. Walker was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 23.

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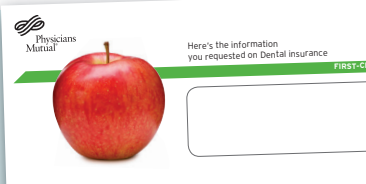
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Chatham Literacy's newest program manager works to ensure equitable access to basic education

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Upon entering North Carolina State University, Asheboro native Joselyn Villaseñor thought she knew how her college experience would end: with a degree in textile marketing.

But as part of her degree requirements, she took a detour — and that detour, a sociology class, helped her find her passion: ensuring everyone can access quality education, regardless of their circumstances. Now, just a few years later, she's putting that passion to work as the Chatham County Literacy Council's newest program coordinator.

"I just want to make sure that everybody is given a fair chance and at least even sees higher education or just literacy in general as a reachable goal, as something that they can do, regardless of their status in the country, regardless of their race, regardless of their gender identity, all those things," said Villaseñor, 24.

She first joined Chatham Literacy's staff as a volunteer coordinator in April, but soon became one of two program coordinators instead. There, her sociology background — understanding context and how it shapes people's lives — has helped provide her the tools to work toward ensuring everyone that fair chance.

"A lot of the folks that we provide our services to come from a very particular background — you know, immigrant families handling multiple jobs sometimes, taking care of their families," she said, "... and so, kind of understanding their background and understanding where they come from is kind of essential to providing services that are going to be effective for them."

Founded in 2008 as a nonprofit, Chatham Literacy offers free basic education to adults living in Chatham County, with the help of volunteer tutors. Among their bundle of services, they offer tutoring in literacy skills for English speakers, adult secondary education, plus ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and a citizenship program.

As program coordinator, Villaseñor helps to manage it all. Besides recruiting students and tutors, she trains and oversees tutors, matches them with students and takes care of the nonprofit's outreach efforts.

Bilingual in English and Spanish, she also acts as the liaison between tutors and students, most of whom speak Spanish as their first language.

"When we're communicating with students, majority, like, 80% of the time or more, it's



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Asheboro native Joselyn Villaseñor is Chatham Literacy's newest program coordinator. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she joined Chatham Literacy in April.

Spanish that we're communicating with them (in)," she said, adding, "We send texts out weekly as well to our students, and those are in Spanish as well."

But among all of her responsibilities, she takes one especially seriously — providing support to both tutors and students and making them feel welcome. She and her coworker hold weekly Zoom sessions on Fridays for tutors, and they're always just a phone call away for anyone — student or tutor — who needs assistance.

"Mostly new tutors, you know, they seem to be the most intimidated by the whole process," she said, "so we just allow them to see that there's community here and if they have any questions, any concerns, that sort of thing, that we're here and we're happy to help them."

'A better fit'

Villaseñor grew up just 30 minutes away from Siler City in Asheboro — but in another world, she might have called Siler City her hometown. Her parents originally immigrated to North Carolina from Escu-

intla, Guatemala in the 1980s and 1990s respectively.

"They actually first came here to live in Siler City," she said, "but then they moved to Asheboro."

Growing up, she said she was "an artsy kid,"

and upon entering college, she'd decided to pursue an artsy career path — a path she thought she'd found in textile marketing.

"I was just like, 'Yeah, you know, textile marketing, that seems kind of artsy, but also business-y,'" she said.

So, her plan? Attend Randolph Community College for two years and then transfer to N.C. State, where she'd major in textile marketing. To lay the groundwork for that path, she'd even earned an associate's degree in science at RCC since the major required a lot of math- and science-focused courses.

Once she transferred to N.C. State and began working toward that degree, however, she began to have second thoughts.

"I realized that it was a very specialized field and I wasn't sure about how I felt about, you know, being in one field

for the rest of my career," Villaseñor said. "So, I decided to transfer to sociology, and that made a lot more sense, and it fit in with my interests, and that was a better fit."

Originally, she'd taken a sociology class just to fulfill her "humanities" general education degree requirements, but she ended up loving it too much to stop. She enjoyed learning about diverse perspectives; it drew her in much more than any of her textile classes.

"You were able to participate and hear what other people were seeing, and that was very different from what I was doing in my textile classes, where I was just learning about textiles and how to make things, how to market things so that people would want to buy them, and that sort of thing," she said. "It was always kind of, like, you're worrying about the bottom line, and less about people. ... Maybe selling products isn't the end all be all. Maybe we should worry about the people first."

Villaseñor graduated from N.C. State with a degree in sociology in December of 2019 as a first-generation college student.

"At first I took a break, because I was like, you know what? I've studied. I think I deserve a break," she said with a laugh. "Then I took the break, but then the break kind of turned into, like, 'Well, a lot of people aren't hiring right now because we're in the middle of a pandemic.'"

She began searching for work, she said, but it was a challenge to even secure a job interview while COVID-19 raged across the U.S.

"So it was a great time to be a grad," Villaseñor joked.

Eventually, though, the job search paid off. Late last year, she finally found a part-time job with Chatham County as a visitation supervisor — something she's still doing. And when she saw the job opening with Chatham Literacy, she didn't hesitate to apply.

"I loved what they were doing," she said. "Education has always been really important, in my life, at least. That was something that my parents really, from a young age, ingrained in us. That should be our number one priority — education should always be that. ... I guess I have a personal attachment to education and providing education that's accessible for everyone."

Villaseñor also got excited about the nonprofit's Latinx outreach, something she'd participated in with several Latinx organizations at State, what she called a "PWI," or Predominantly White Institution.

In collaboration with one such Latinx organization, she

and others brought Latinx high school students and their families to State's campus, giving them tours and providing parents Spanish-language information sessions.

"That was something that was, I guess, it might seem very mundane here," she said. "But it was such a big thing at State, because a lot of the services or a lot of the information regarding pursuing higher education is only in English. We were able to answer a parent's questions, that sort of thing, and so that was really fun."

It was a challenge learning the ropes at first, she said, but three months into the job, she said she's getting there — even as Chatham Literacy's services continue to morph while the pandemic dies down.

During the pandemic, Chatham Literacy switched over to virtual Zoom tutoring. But thanks to rising vaccination rates and lowering case counts in Chatham, they've reopened the main office and have plans to go fully back in person by August 1st.

There are some not-so-glamorous" days, Villaseñor said — usually involving data entry — but so far, it's been a blast.

"I thought I would be a good fit here, and so far, so good," Villaseñor said, smiling. "I love working with students and being able to give them the information on these opportunities they can take."

Seeing Chatham Literacy's students succeed, she added, has been one of the best parts of the job.

"Like, 'Oh, when I first came to the organization, my English was very limited,' but now, with the help of their tutor, they make their own appointments now," she said, "so they don't have to rely on their 6-year-old kid to do those appointments for them, or they're able to kind of have more agency over their lives. That's always so rewarding ... and it's so great to hear that they've been able to make progress."

In the long run, she said she hopes to help the organization broaden its reach to a more diverse coalition of tutors and students. Most of their students are Hispanic, while most of their volunteer tutors are white retirees.

"I just hope that we can have a more diverse pool of tutors as well, so that when students come and use our services, you know, they at least have some representation of themselves in these tutors," Villaseñor said. "And so, I just hope that we're becoming more diverse in our tutors and our students and that we can accurately represent the population in Chatham County."

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



While El Futuro's Durham office reopens to clients, Siler City office stays remote

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — El Futuro will once again allow patients into its Durham office for in-person appointments, according to a Friday press release, but its Siler City location will stay remote for now.

"We hope we can open the Siler City office soon," El Futuro's communications manager, Mary Hondermann, told the News + Record. "In the meantime, we are learning new things during this process in our Durham clinic and still figuring things out to serve our community the best way we can."

El Futuro is a bilingual mental health clinic that serves the Spanish-speaking community with a bundle of bilingual services, including therapy, psychiatry, substance use treatment and case management.

It has two clinics — one in Durham and another in Siler City, located on 401 North Ivey Ave. Its Durham office is located at 2020 Chapel Hill Drive, Suite

23. The Durham clinic reopening follows more than a year of virtual-only services, after COVID-19 forced its offices to shut down in March of 2020.

"After a challenging year offering our services virtually, we are finally able to continue serving our patients face to face, and this fills us with excitement!" the press release said. "This is also a great step to start new connections and pick up what we had left behind because of COVID."

Patients may call 919-688-7101 to make in-person appointments at El Futuro's Durham clinic or to seek more information. According to the clinic's website, staff may require patients to wear masks and socially distance themselves while inside "to keep things safe."

El Futuro will also hold a walk-in clinic beginning Aug. 3rd that new patients may attend. Thereafter, they'll hold the walk-in clinic in Durham every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. Walk-in appointments are first-

come, first-serve. Staff asks that patients bring their Medicaid, Health Choice or Medicare insurance cards if they have them, but will also treat those without insurance.

Several El Futuro therapists, including Courtney Crawford, previously told the News + Record that though telehealth has its limits, it also brought many opportunities — including expanded service hours and reach. Crawford is also El Futuro's director of outpatient clinical services.

"Throughout the pandemic, clients have graciously invited me into their homes via video during our telehealth visits," Crawford said in the press release. "I listened to their life stories and even watched housework finish as we spoke."

Yet, despite the unexpected benefits, Crawford said, telehealth couldn't quite match up to in-person therapy — and that's why she's glad to return.

"As we reopen our clinic, I am particularly excited to see patients in person in an envi-



Submitted photo

El Futuro's staff poses inside the clinic's Durham office during a vaccination drive in early April. The Durham office is once again reopening to in-person appointments, but the Siler City office will remain remote for now.

ronment that is welcoming, friendly, and free of interruptions," she said. "I look forward to giving clients an hour in their week where they can pause, reflect, and move toward greater health and

healing. I have to admit that I feel very good to welcome them to our home, El Futuro."

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham County Public Utilities Implements Increases to Some Fees

PITTSBORO — As of July 1, 2021, residents who have a water tap and/or meter installed on their property in Chatham County will pay more for these services. The fee increases are necessary in order to cover the costs that Chatham County incurs to install taps and set meters. Fees will also be increasing for fire flow testing, hydrostatic pressure testing and bacteriological sampling. It has been more than a decade since Chatham County Public Utilities has increased its fees. The list of increased fees:

- Meter Set (Installation) Fee

- previously \$200, increased to \$250
- Tap Fee (standard ¾ tap) – previously \$1,000, increased to \$1,400
- Fire Flow Testing – previously \$50, increased to \$160
- Hydrostatic Pressure Test on new construction – previously \$70, increased to \$80
- Bacteriological Sampling on new construction – previously \$35, increased to \$160

“The previous fees did not cover the cost Chatham County incurs to conduct these services,” said Chatham County Public Utilities Director Larry Bridges. “The additional fees will cover the cost of materials and labor to perform each service as the county continues to experience increased devel-

opment.” The fee changes can be found on the Chatham County website where Water Fees and Rates are provided. Residents may call 919-542-8270 if they have questions.

More than 8 million pounds of roadside litter collected this year

The N.C. Department of Transportation’s crews, contractors and volunteers have collected more than 8 million pounds of litter from roadsides and are on pace to exceed the state’s record for litter collection set in 2019. “We’re less than two months away from our annual Fall Litter Sweep and we’re count-

ing on everyone to help keep this momentum going,” said state Transportation Secretary Eric Boyette. “Please do your part by securing your loads before traveling, throw away trash in garbage bins, recycle when you can and make sure your friends and family do the same.” NCDOT and its partners have removed 8 million pounds of litter since Jan. 1. At this rate, NCDOT will exceed the 10.5 million pounds of litter collected in 2019. The 2021 Fall Litter Sweep will be held from Sept. 11-25. To learn more about the litter sweep, visit the program’s webpage. NCDOT’s litter management programs are multifaceted. The department makes use of state-owned forces and

contract services statewide. NCDOT’s Sponsor-A-Highway Program allows businesses, organizations and individuals to sponsor litter removal along roadsides. NCDOT is also proud to partner with the more than 120,000 participants in the Adopt-A-Highway Program, where volunteers pledge to clean a section of our highways at least four times a year. If you spot someone littering from their vehicle, report them with NCDOT’s Swat-A-Litterbug app by downloading the app at ncdot.gov/litter. Litter is unsightly, costs millions of dollars to clean up and can hurt the environment, tourism and the state’s quality of life.

— CN +R staff reports

Kid Scoop .COM THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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Meet the Mascots of the Summer Olympic Games

This summer the world turns its eyes to Tokyo, Japan. Why? That’s where the Summer Olympics will be held starting on Friday, July 23.



Olympic Mascots
A mascot is any human, animal, or object used to represent a group such as a school, company or sports team. Each Olympics also has one or more mascots.



Miraïtowa is the official mascot of the 2021 Summer Olympics. Miraïtowa comes from two Japanese words, *mirai* meaning future and *towa* meaning eternity. Miraïtowa has a personality inspired by the Japanese proverb, “learn from the past and develop new ideas.” Miraïtowa is cheerful, athletic, and has a special power.

What is Miraïtowa’s superpower?

Circle every other letter to find out.
B T K C L A G N B T Y E T L A E R P J O
I R S T D A R N F Y H W C H Q E Z
R C E N I J T S W B A V N M T Q S A

I T P
Y N



Someity is the official mascot of the Summer Paralympic Games. Someity is named after someiyoshino, a type of cherry blossom. Its name also sounds like the English phrase, *so mighty*. Someity is calm, quiet, and has enormous mental and physical strength. Someity represents the Paralympic athletes who overcome obstacles and achieve things once thought impossible.

What is Someity’s superpower?

Circle every other letter to find out.
T H U E V A K B M I Y L F I Q T D Y I T P O A
T L A C L J K X T N O H S W T E O I N J E N
S T A G N K D L T N H B E D W G I Y N P D S

T Y
T S T O
H W

Pictograms

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words. At the Olympic Games, a picture is worth a thousand words in hundreds of languages.

Pictograms are simplified pictures or symbols. There is one for each sport to help people from all over the world understand what is happening. For example, this pictogram represents the Olympic sport of judo.

Can you read these pictograms? Do the math to match each pictogram to the name of the Olympic event it represents.

- 12 = Rowing
- 11 = Swimming
- 13 = Triathlon
- 18 = Artistic Gymnastics
- 7 = Table Tennis
- 33 = Surfing
- 28 = Archery
- 30 = Football (Soccer)
- 27 = Equestrian Jumping
- 10 = Athletics
- 32 = Fencing
- 15 = Diving

18 - 3 =	11 + 11 + 11 =	24 + 6 =	41 - 9 =
14 + 14 =	3 + 6 + 2 =	9 + 9 + 9 =	5 + 2 =
8 + 9 + 1 =	3 + 3 + 6 =	17 - 4 =	22 - 12 =

Extra! Extra!
The Great Symbol Search
 Look for five symbols in today’s newspaper. Show them to a friend to see if they can tell what the symbol represents.

Standards Link: Connect artistic representations to meaning.

Explore more at olympics.com

Hometown Mascot

Chosen by Children
 The Tokyo Games organizing committee invited people to submit designs for the mascots. A total of 2,042 mascot designs were sent in. The committee selected three pairs of mascot designs.
 Nearly 206,000 Japanese elementary school students voted for the ones they liked best!

Imagine that the Olympic Games will be held in your town. Draw a mascot to represent where you live.

ATHLETIC WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.

GYMNASTICS
 WATER POLO
 BASEBALL
 SWIMMING
 SURFING
 SAILING
 KARATE
 TENNIS
 SOCCER
 TRACK
 CANOE
 GOLF
 JUDO

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

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

Kid Scoop Together: Olympic Quiz

Read these questions to a family member. How many did they get right?

- What do the five rings of the Olympics mean?
 - Five Cities
 - Five Countries
 - Five Continents
- What does the Olympic Motto “Citius, Altius, Fortius” mean?
 - Smarter, Stronger, Faster
 - Swifter, Higher, Stronger
 - Better, Bigger, Bolder
- According to the Olympic Creed, the most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but ...
 - to play fair.
 - to win big.
 - to take part.
- Where is the Olympic torch first lit?
 - Athens
 - Greece
 - Olympia
- Women were first allowed to compete in the Olympics in what year?
 - 1800
 - 1900
 - 2000
- The 2022, Winter Olympic Games will be held in:
 - Paris
 - Beijing
 - Los Angeles
- Which of the following is NOT a color of one of the Olympic rings?
 - Blue
 - Purple
 - Black
- All the participating countries sent female athletes for the first time in which Olympics?
 - 1976 Montreal
 - 1984 Los Angeles
 - 2012 London

KID SCOOP’S MISSION

Children are born curious. From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further. **Magic happens.**

Kid Scoop opens the doors of discovery for elementary school children by providing interactive, engaging and relevant age-appropriate materials designed to awaken the magic of reading at school, at home, and throughout their lives.

For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit kidscoopnews.org

Write On!

My Favorite Olympic Event
 What is your favorite event in the Summer Olympics and why?

Chatham YMCA

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

287 East Street, Suite 412,
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 More Info: 919-545-9622

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

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

OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

RENTAL APARTMENTS

WINDSOR ARMS APARTMENTS - Has 2 bdrm units available NOW! Accepting apps for the wait list for 1 bdrm units. Rental Assistance available; \$25 application fee; Credit/Criminal check required. Visit us Mon-Wed 9am-1pm & Thurs 9am-12pm at 1409 E. 11th Street, Apt 2-B in Siler City, NC 27344, or call to schedule an appointment (919) 663-2473. This institution is professionally managed by Partnership Property Management, an equal opportunity provider and employer. Jy15,22,29,Au5,4tc

SILER SCHOOL SQUARE APTS - Has 2 bdrm units available

NOW for \$675.00/mo! Accepting apps for wait list for 1 bdrm units. Amenities include: playground, fitness center, computer room, and much more! Affordable housing, must meet income requirements. Call (919) 799-7557 for more info, or stop by 511 West Fourth St A-10 in Siler City Mon-Thurs 9am-2pm. Credit & criminal background check required. Handicap accessible units subject to availability. Equal Housing Opportunity. Professionally managed by Partnership Property Management. Jy15,22,29,Au5,4tc

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

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton

Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

FOR SALE

1998 OLDSMOBILE AURORA, 67,000 miles, new A/C Compressor. Always garage kept, never wrecked or damaged. Pearl white with tan leather interior. \$4,500., 919-742-2394 or 919-548-3761. Jy22,1tp

2011 FORD 13-PASSENGER VAN - 161,125 miles, white with tan interior. New tires and battery. Very good condition. Call William @ 919-663-0426 or Phyllis at 919-200-1810. Price \$13,000. Jy22,1tp

YARD SALES

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE - Saturday, July 24, 7:30 until... 104 N Tenth Avenue, Siler City. A bit of everything. Clothes, shoes, household items. Items for back-to-school and lots more. Jy22,1tp

AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, My6,tfnc

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, My6,tfnc

SERVICES

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

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

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

LAND SURVEYOR - Experience preferred but will consider entry level application. Chatham County area. No travel involved. Full time outside work. Benefits. Valid NC driver's license is required and be able to drive company vehicle. Need to have good driving record. Background / drug check. Bonus if hired. 919-812-3592 or email finchsurvey2507@gmail.com. Jy22,1tc

DRYWALL SUB CREW NEEDED: Hanging, Finishing, Repair, Popcorn Texture Removal. Must do the highest quality work. No druggies, alcoholics or criminal backgrounds. At

least one of crew must speak English. J22,29,2tp

EL SUBCONTRATISTA de paneles de yeso necesitaba reparación de acabado colgante Eliminación de textura de palomitas de maíz. Debes hacer un trabajo de la más alta calidad. Sin adictos a las drogas alcohólicas ni antecedentes penales. Al menos un miembro de la tripulación debe hablar inglés. Jy22,29,2tp

MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the life of a child. Part-time or full-time help wanted at Ebenezer's Attic. Please send resume to info@egcch.org, call Karen at 919-663-2770, or go by the store located at 218 East 11th Street, Siler City. Jy22,1tc

JOIN THE MINISTRY TEAM at First UMC Siler City! FUMC is looking for an Administrative Assistant. This position needs to be very familiar with the computer, including but not limited to Publisher, Excel, and all Google Workplaces. The position is part-time, working Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Send a resume and cover letter to Pastor William at william.sabiston@ncumc.org or P.O. Box 212, Siler City, NC 27344. Jy22,29,2tc

TOWN OF PITTSBORO invites applications for the position of: Water Treatment Plant Superintendent/ORC. An equal opportunity employer. Hiring Salary: \$ 53,314 - 76,844; Closing Date: July 31st, 2021 @ 5pm; Position Type: Full-Time (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm); Department: Water Plant; Summary Performs administrative and technical work overseeing the operation,

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.

maintenance, and repair of the Water Treatment Plant. -- Essential Job Functions: Performs administrative and technical work overseeing the operation, maintenance, and repair of the Water Treatment Plant. Serves as Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for the Water Treatment Plant. Responsibilities include: ensures compliance with regulatory agencies as well as state and federal laws; prepares and maintains records, reports and files; supervises staff in the daily operation and maintenance of the plant and related facilities; reviews plant compliance, control data, and lab results; implements changes in operation to maintain compliance; researches and implements corrective actions for plant non-compliance; helps develop preventive maintenance programs; schedules maintenance and calibration of equipment; schedules and logs daily staff assignments; monitors and maintains pumps and equipment; monitors the plant SCADA system; analyzes lab results and records data; assists with the recruitment and selection of personnel; ensures proper training and certification of employees; develops operational procedures; inspects work for completeness and compliance; assists with department budget; monitors expenditures; maintains inventory of supplies, services, and equipment; responds to residents inquiries. On call 24/7 and may be required to work outside of normal working hours in stand-by, on-call or other emergency situations. Works under limited supervision and guidance of the Public Utilities Director -- Knowledge and Qualifications: Must have a thorough knowledge of methods, practices, procedures, tools, and equipment used in the operation, maintenance, and repair of the water treatment plant and related facilities. Demonstrates communication and leadership skills with the ability to operate personal computers including some knowledge of applicable software packages. Completion of High School Diploma or GED required. - Valid North Carolina driver's license

TAKING APPLICATIONS
for Siler City Country Club
seasonal golf maintenance
position. Applications at
clubhouse.
919-742-3721

Join the News + Record's Team

HELP WANTED

Delivery Drivers

The Chatham News + Record is seeking part-time drivers to assist in the delivery of newspapers on Wednesday or Thursday mornings. Ability to lift 25lbs, work in various weather conditions and a valid NC drivers license is required.

Please email resume and references to Jason Justice at jjustice@chathamnr.com

Chatham News + Record

EOE

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS
Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.
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TDD 1-800-735-2962
Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com
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RogersAuction.com
NCFL7360

NOW HIRING



APPLY - IN - PERSON

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required. Possession of North Carolina (Grade A - Surface) water treatment certification and a (Grade 1 Physical/Chemical) certification required or the ability to obtain within 12 months of employment. At least (5) years of supervisory or lead experience in water treatment. Excellent organizational and problem-solving skills. Excellent interpersonal skills with co-workers and residents (via phone, email, and in-person). Must have the ability to comply with applicable department policies, procedures, rules, and regulations. -- Education, Experience, and other requirements: • Equivalent combination of education and experience • Valid North Carolina driver's license -- Physical Demands and Work Environment • Work is performed primarily in a standard office environment and occasionally outdoor. May be required to lift and carry items weighing up to 10 pounds. A qualified applicant or employee with a disability may be afforded reasonable modifications to perform the essential job functions of a position in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. -- Additional Information: Interested applicants must submit a completed online application to be considered. • This is a continuous recruitment; review of applications will begin immediately. Prompt application is highly encouraged. Recruitment will close without notice when a sufficient number of qualified applications are received or all hiring decisions have been made. • Successful candidates will be subject to a background check and drug screening. • Applications are available on the Town's website at <https://pittsboronc.gov> • Mail applications and resumes to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or email to cbullcock@pittsboronc.gov. Jy22,1tc

dirección de nuestra oficina es 612 W. Lane St. Raleigh, NC. Jy22,1tc

SOUTHERN SUPREME FRUIT-CAKE CO. has openings for full time, temporary positions in all areas of production from August 2021 - December 2021. Interested applicants may apply between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday - Thursday at 1699 Hoyt Scott Rd, Bear Creek NC 27207. Jy15,22,2tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY - PLANNER I: Performs planning and design work to interpret and administer town codes, regulations, standards, and plans. Assists customers as needed. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in Planning, Engineering, Geography, Historic Preservation, Business, Public Administration, or related field; work-related Planning experience; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Extensive customer service experience utilizing oral and written communication skills. Moderate computer skills including MS Word, Excel, Outlook, GIS, and Adobe Acrobat. Possession of a valid NC Driver's License. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Two years of Planning experience. Completion of UNC School of Government E-Learning Library Training Modules. Possession of Zoning Official Certification (CZO) from the UNC School of Government. Possession of American Institute of Certified Planners Certification (AICP) Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: Must complete all planning and development related UNC School of Government E-Learning Library Training Modules within six months of hire. Obtain Zoning Official Certification (CZO) from the UNC School of Government within one year of hire. All required certifications and licenses must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. - Annual Hiring Salary \$45,004. -- **TELECOMMUNICATOR (PART-TIME):** Performs intermediate technical work receiving and dispatching law enforcement calls, receives and processes emergency and non-emergency service calls, assists the public with informational requests, prepares and maintains records and files. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: High school diploma or high school equivalency. Moderate experience in communications, dispatching, or clerical work. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: DCI certification Modules, I, II, and III upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain DCI certification Modules, I, II, and III within one year of hire and maintain certification with no lapse during the course of employment. - Hiring Salary \$15.38 per hour. Please refer to our website for full job descriptions. **TO APPLY:** These postings are open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required for all positions. The application may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall.

The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. - Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro

idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jy22,1tc

LAND SURVEYOR - Instrument Operator. Experienced only. Total Station, data collector, GPS equipment. No travel. Chatham County area. Must have valid driver's license and be able to drive a company vehicle. Good driving record. Full time work and benefits. \$58,000. 919-812-3592. finchsurvey2507@gmail.com. Jy22,1tc

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

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 &

VAN DRIVERS NEEDED!
Piedmont Health Seniorcare - Pittsboro
 Full-Time with Benefits (40 hours per week)
 Apply online at piedmonthhealth.org

JOB SUMMARY
 The primary responsibility of the Driver is to transport the physically limited passengers to and from their destinations. This position requires constant interaction with caregivers and community agencies; this position also performs patient care activities and assistance with personal care needs as needed.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Education/Experience: High school degree or equivalent. 1 year experience transporting or caring for individuals with special mobility needs or impaired adults.
- Must be able to work effectively in a team environment
- Must have Valid NC Driver's License and an acceptable three-year motor vehicle record as defined by the Acceptable Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Chart.
- Must be able to operate handicap-accessible vehicles
- Must meet a standardized set of competencies for the specific position description established by PHSC and approved by CMS before working independently.

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FTCC. Fayetteville Technical Community College is now accepting applications for the following position: Senior Media Production Specialist. For detailed information and to apply, please visit our employment portal at: <https://faytechcc.peopleadmin.com/> Human Resources Office/ Phone: (910) 678-7342 Internet: <http://www.faytechcc.edu> An Equal Opportunity Employer

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$84.99/mo for 12months. Stream on 20 devices at once in your home. HBO Max FREE for 1 yr (w/ CHOICE Package or higher.) Call for more details today! (some restrictions apply) Call IVS 1-855-548-9839

Denial Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Stappacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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GENERAC Standby Generators provide backup power during utility power outages, so your home and family stay safe and comfortable. Prepare now. Free 7-year extended warranty (\$695 value!). Request a free quote today! Call for additional terms and conditions. 1-844-938-0700

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 833-987-0207

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Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 877-544-1736

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

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

Attention OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 866-579-0885

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-888-618-0918

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

Credit Card Debt Relief! Reduce payment by up to 50%! Get one LOW affordable payment/month. Reduce interest. Stop calls. FREE no-obligation consultation Call 888-841-0674

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Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-649-1190

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

Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-213-6711



Hiring Diesel Mechanics Full & Part Time Available

- Automotive or Diesel Technician Certificate
- Two Years Experience (preferred but not required)
- Class A CDL License (preferred but not required)
- Must have own tools
- Must pass drug and alcohol test
- Competitive Pay & Benefits Package

Includes: Medical, Dental, Life, STD and LTD Insurance, 401K Plan, Holiday & Vacation Pay

\$5,000 Sign-On Bonus ...come grow with us!
Immediate Openings!

Please Inquire At: Wilson Brothers Main Office
 20412 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek, NC 27207
 Applications Also Available Online:
www.wilsonbrotherstrucking.com
 EOE/M/F/V

HIRING CNA's 3RD SHIFT
CALL: 919-542-3151
 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm
 for appointment to complete application and interview
 Pittsboro Christian Village
 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC



Job Title:
 Maintenance Technician - Chatham County

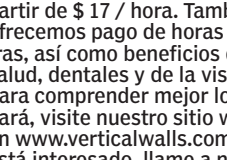
Job Description:
 The Maintenance Technician will troubleshoot problems reported and make repairs to facilities and equipment. Technician will assist with HVAC repairs and preventive maintenance, as well as furniture and equipment moving and surplus. Also, employee will make minor renovations and alterations to facilities. This position will work on the Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro.

Minimum Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent with basic skills in electrical, HVAC, mechanical, plumbing required
- At least two years experience in general facilities maintenance or equivalent combination of training and experience
- Valid NC Driver's License
- Equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered

For a complete listing of employment opportunities, visit us online at www.cccc.edu/employment.

Diversity Policy: Central Carolina Community College believes the college experience is greatly enriched through diversity; therefore, the college encourages diversity of thought within the student body and staff. Furthermore, the college seeks to promote awareness of diversity and the respect for all individuals, and the college pledges to adhere to this mission in its relationship with the community.



Career Opportunities Available
 Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.



Thank You!



The support of our entire community makes a real difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in Chatham County!

- 1.2 million meals distributed
- 100% client requests fulfilled
- 866,000 pounds of food donated

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the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. James Jeffrey Butcher, Executor
8 Piedmont Lane
Palmyra, VA 22963
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 207
All persons having claims against **THERESA JULIUS FONTENOT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. Leon A. Alston, Jr., Administrator
209 S. Fir Ave.
Siler City, NC 27344
c/o Lewis Fadely, Atty.
119 N Fir Avenue
Siler City, NC 27344
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 421
All persons having claims against **ALICE MARIE NUNN FOUSHEE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. Co-Executors:
1. Wayne R. Foushee
791 Carl Foushee Road
Moncure, NC 27559
2. Donna F. Turner
2237 Deer Run Road
Ridgeway, SC 29130
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au4tp

PUBLIC NOTICE North Carolina Environmental Management Commission/ NPDES Unit 1617 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1617
Notice of Intent to Issue a NPDES Wastewater Permit NC0080896 Town of Pittsboro, and NC0035866 Bynum WWTP The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission proposes to issue a NPDES wastewater discharge permit to the person(s) listed below. Written comments regarding the proposed permit will be accepted until 30 days after the publish date of this notice. The Director of the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) may hold a public hearing should there be a significant degree of public interest. Please mail comments and/or information requests to DWR at the above address. Interested persons may visit

the DWR at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604 to review information on file. Additional information on NPDES permits and this notice may be found on our website: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/public-notices>, or by calling (919) 707-3601. The Town of Pittsboro (P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312) has applied for renewal of NPDES permit number NC0080896 for the Pittsboro WTP in Chatham County. This permitted facility discharges filter-backwash wastewater to in the Haw River in the Cape Fear River Basin. Currently total residual chlorine and total suspended solids are water quality limited. This discharge may affect future allocations in this portion of the Cape Fear River Basin. Chatham County (P.O. Box 910, Pittsboro, NC, 27312-0910) has requested renewal of permit NC0035866 for its Bynum WWTP. This permitted facility discharges treated domestic wastewater to the Haw River in the Cape Fear River Basin. Currently total residual chlorine and fecal coliform are water-quality limited. This discharge may affect future allocations in this portion of the Cape Fear River Basin. Jy22,1tc

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS
July 22, 2021, Town of Siler City, 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344, (919) 742-4731
TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:
On or about August 3, 2021, the above-named Town will request the NC Department of Commerce to release Federal Funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the following project: Siler City 2020 CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization (CDBG-NR) Program. Project activities include clearance/reconstruction or rehabilitation of eight low-income occupied severely deteriorated dwellings (all stick-built) in scattered site locations in Siler City, NC. Proposed treatment will provide standard dwelling units for those households. Associated service delivery and administrative services necessary to accomplish the housing activities are included in the project scope. The properties are located at 819 N. Fir Avenue; 911 N. Chatham Avenue; 307 and 312 Trinity Street; 1104 Shepherd Avenue, 610 Womble Street; 1109 12th Street; and 701 E. 3rd Street, all in Siler City, NC. Total Project Cost=\$750,000; Total CDBG Cost=\$750,000; CDBG/Total Cost Percent=100%
Location: See paragraph above for specific addresses in Siler City, Chatham County, North Carolina; Census Tract 204.
An Environmental Review Record applicable to the above project has been made by the

above-named Town which documents the environmental review of the project. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Siler City Planning and Community Development Department, 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC, and is available weekdays from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. for public examination and copying, upon request and payment of any authorized copying charges. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the Environmental Review Record to Jack Meadows, Director of Planning and Community Development, 311 N. Second Avenue, PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344. All comments received by July 30, 2021, will be considered by the Town prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. RELEASE OF FUNDS: The Town of Siler City will undertake the project described above with Community Development Block Grant funds from the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Division (REDD), under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Siler City is certifying to REDD that Cindy B. Bray, in her official capacity as Mayor Pro Tem, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Town may use the Block Grant funds, and REDD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities. OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS: REDD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following bases: (A) That the certification was not in fact executed by the chief elected official or other officer of the applicant approved by REDD; or (B) The Town has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (C) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred cost not authorized by 24CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by REDD; or (D) another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and shall be addressed to REDD at 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-4346. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by REDD. No objection received after August

19, 2021, will be considered by REDD. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Jack Meadows, Director of Planning and Community Development, at (919) 742-2323, or at Siler City Planning and Community Development Department, 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC, for accommodations for this request. Esta informacion está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Jack Meadows, Director of Planning and Community Development, al (919) 742-2323, o en Siler City Planning and Community Development Department, 311 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, NC, de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Jy22,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **KATHRYN J. O'CONNOR**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to Neil MacIntyre, Executor, 3920 Wentworth Drive, Durham, North Carolina 27707, on or before the 22 day of October, 2021 or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 22 day of July, 2021. Neil MacIntyre, Executor of the Estate of Kathryn J. O'Connor
3920 Wentworth Drive
Durham, North Carolina 27707
Keith E. Hartley, Esquire
Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P. A.
Post Office Box 52396
Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396
Telephone: (919) 493-6464
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 427
All persons having claims against **PATRICIA B. MARKS AKA PATRICIA BECKWITH GALES MARKS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. Donnie Lane Gales, Executor
800 Hawkins Road
Sweetwater, TN 37874
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims

against **NANCY YVONNE LITTLE**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before October 22, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. Debbie Ann McClary, Administrator
c/o Hopler, Wilms & Hanna, PLLC
2314 S. Miami Blvd., Suite 151
Durham, NC 27703
Jy22,J29,Au5Au12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 401
All persons having claims against **ELIZABETH BYAM SHER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 22nd day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. Vickie McNeill Crocker, Executor
641 Fearington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au4tp

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING SILK HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.
To each member of the Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department (all adults of age 18 years or more residing in Hope Fire District). Take notice that the annual meeting of the membership of the Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. will be held on August 3, 2021 at 8 p.m. at the office of the Corporation, being the fire station located at the intersection of SR 1003 (Silk Hope Rd.) and SR 1346 (Silk Hope-Gum Springs Rd.) The business to be conducted will be (1) The election of four (4) directors, (2) Any other business which may lawfully come before it. This the 20th day of July, 2021. Tony Bristow, Secretary
Jy22,Jy29,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **KAREN KAY ATKINS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 21st day of October, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 19th day of July, 2021. Kathryn Atkins Johnson, Executor of The Estate of Karen Kay Atkins
3405 White Smith Road
Siler City, North Carolina 27344
Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee
PO Box 1806

Pittsboro, NC 27812
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tc

ESTATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **ANNABEL COLVARD HARRILL**, deceased on 5/14/2021 of the Carolina Meadows community in Chapel Hill, Chatham County, NC, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of **ANNABEL COLVARD HARRILL**, to present them to the undersigned on or before November 1, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in the bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 22nd day of June, 2021. Jeffrey Neal Hunter, Executor
c/o Miller & Johnson, PLLC
PO Box 49
Boone, NC 28607
828-264-1125
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 16-CVD-550 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM
Plaintiff, vs
The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVEISEES of ERNEST N. LEE, et al
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS and DEVEISEES of ERNEST N. LEE and spouse, if any, which may include ANTHONY POWELL and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder
A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on July 22, 2021.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after July 22, 2021, or by August 31, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought. This the 22nd day of July, 2021. Zacchaeus Legal Services
By: /s/Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill
Attorney for Plaintiff
NC Bar #12852/56782
P. O. Jones St.
310 W. Jones St.
Trenton, North Carolina 28585
Telephone: (252) 448-4541
Jy22,Jy29,Au5,3tc

The case for a 4-day work week

Work fills the time allotted for it.



D. LARS DOLDER
Enterprising Chatham

we find ways to work for 40 hours."

That's not to say we accomplish more, though.

The notion of work filling time was formalized in 1955 by Cyril Northcote Parkinson, writing for the Economist.

"It is a commonplace observation that work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion," he said. "Thus, an elderly lady of leisure can spend the entire day in writing and despatching [sic] a postcard to her niece at Bognor Regis. An hour will be spent in finding the postcard, another in hunting for spectacles, half-an-hour in a search for the address, an hour and a quarter in

composition, and twenty minutes in deciding whether or not to take an umbrella when going to the pillar-box in the next street."

The eponymous Parkinson's Law is hardly revelatory; to its accuracy I can personally attest.

The News + Record is a weekly print paper with a loose conviction to post daily online. That means breaking news on a Wednesday goes online Wednesday. We can't hold it for print a week later. When I get word of a murder that morning, I've usually interviewed the police, pulled as much background as I could find and written a story within a couple of hours.

But ask me to throw together a feature story five days ahead of deadline and you'll find a decidedly less capable reporter.

A recent Autonomy study of 2,500 Icelanders proves my dilemma might be universal. After shortening their work week to 35 or 36 hours spread over four days, employees across several industries consistently achieved similar productivity as they had with a

traditional schedule.

"Based on the analysis of a wide range of data, we can see that workers experienced significant increases in wellbeing and work-life balance," the researchers concluded, "all while existing levels of service provision and productivity were at the very least maintained, and in some instances improved."

Other countries are following suit. At least Spain and Japan have ambitious plans to wean work to 32 hours, and several U.S. companies

are piloting four-day weeks. But for widespread change to stick, we'll need a fundamental change of attitude.

"We live in a society in which overwork is treated as a badge of honor," Alex Soojung-Kim Pang, an author and consultant who helps companies try out shorter workweeks, told Pinsker. "The idea that you can succeed as a company by working fewer hours sounds like you're reading druidic runes or something."

If ever the traditional mold were to break, it'd be now. Work practices

were turned on their head during the last year in pandemic, and employees discovered a work-life balance was achievable without expending productivity.

And recent months have seen record numbers of job openings. Millennial workers — long known to have eschewed the company loyalty boomers heralded — are leaving their employers in droves. For the first time in more than a decade, employees hold all the cards.

"The erosion of employer power began

during the low-unemployment years leading up to the pandemic and, given demographic trends, could persist for years," a New York Times report said.

Employers, you've lost your leverage. The people are making their wishes known, and your best candidates want a four-day work week. It's time the little guy gets his way.

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



This Community ROCKS!

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



To DONATE:



For help or to help:



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

Thank YOU!

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