

Chatham News + Record

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CCS to require universal masking for 5-day in-person school this fall, BOE decides

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A specially called Chatham County Schools Board of Education meeting last Thursday began with a 15-parent protest to make masks optional and ended less than an hour later with a 4-0 vote to require universal indoor masking on all CCS campuses, as recommended by administration.

Masking in outdoor spaces will be optional, the district said, when classes at CCS

begin Aug. 23.

“We can’t give them normal, but our goal is to give them at least a routine,” Superintendent Anthony Jackson said at the beginning of the meeting regarding the administration’s recommendations. “Just by masking we can go to some level of normalization ... or at least a routine that’s predictable.”

As a part of the same motion, the board voted for schools to operate on an in-person, 5-day week schedule in the fall and to continue working

with the Chatham County Public Health Dept. to publicize and offer vaccination clinics for any unvaccinated people. Board members Gary Leonard and Del Turner attended the meeting in person, while Melissa Hlavac and David Hamm joined in by phone; board member Jane Allen Wilson could not attend.

“In early summer, case trends were trending in the right direction,” CCPHD Director Mike Zelek said to start the

See **CCS**, page A3



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A specially-called Chatham County Schools Board of Education meeting last Thursday began with a 15-parent protest to make masks optional and ended with a 4-0 vote to require universal indoor masking on all campuses.

‘AVENTURAS DE VERANO’

CCS launches its first Dual Language summer camp



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

2nd graders at North Chatham Elementary School’s Dual Language Camp last week.

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON & HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Inside Siler City Elementary School last Wednesday, teacher Shirley Rojas drizzled several drops of purple dye into one of eight bowls of half-baked slime. Around her, a group of rising 1st and 2nd graders eagerly waited their turn.

“It’s purple!” one student shouted in delight.

The scene wasn’t from a school-sponsored mad science

summer camp, as you might think. It was from Chatham County Schools’ first-ever Dual Language camp.

“En español,” Rojas reminded them.

“¡Morado!” the kids enthusiastically answered back.

After more than a year of online Spanish, CCS held the camp last week at Siler City Elementary and North Chatham Elementary schools to help participating students build confidence, acquire more

See **CAMP**, page A6



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Cristina Mateo Varillas enjoys her newly mixed slime last Wednesday inside Siler City Elementary School. She was one of more than 40 students to attend SCE’s Dual Language summer camp last week.

Hispanic Heritage Fiesta postponed until 2022

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — COVID-19 has once again postponed the town’s Hispanic Heritage Fiesta.

After months of planning and preparations, the Fiesta’s primary organizer, the Hispanic Liaison, announced Saturday that the 8th Fiesta would not take place on Sept. 11 as originally planned because of “the rising threat of the COVID-19 Delta variant.”

“We didn’t anticipate this happening, and at the same time, it wasn’t like we didn’t have it in the back of our minds,” the Liaison’s executive director, Ilana Dubester, told the News + Record. “... We were certainly hoping that the turn of events would be better, that more people would have been vaccinated by July and this would be less of a risk, but that’s not the case.”

The Fiesta is a free outdoor festival that the Liaison, community members and other organizations throw each year to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins on Sept. 15. This year, the Fiesta was scheduled for noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11, in front of the Liaison’s downtown Siler City office.

It would have been the first time Siler City hosted the celebration in two

See **FIESTA**, page A7

THE SALVATION ARMY OF CHATHAM COUNTY

New director says ‘whack-a-mole’ method won’t get clients to self-sufficiency

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When it comes to working to tap into the latent resources and volunteer power available within Chatham County, the new director of the Salvation Army Service Center here describes herself as the “quintessential cockeyed optimist.”

But Becky Sommer-Petersen — whose long career in Christian ministry and social work, primarily in Massachusetts, just recently brought her home to North Carolina — is also a realist.

“We just can’t keep playing ‘whack-a-mole’ and throwing money at problems,” she said. “We are working to get our clients to long-term financial stability and self-sufficiency.”

Back in April, Sommer-Petersen assumed what is essentially a new position created with Chatham County’s

See **DIRECTOR**, page A11



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Becky Sommer-Petersen, right, is the new director of the Salvation Army of Chatham County Service Center. She joins long-time staff member Jane Wrenn (left) and Donna Smith (not shown) in the nonprofit, a social service agency which assists individuals and families in various capacities to prevent homelessness and address basic needs that lead to self-sufficiency.

Controversial quarry comes under new ownership

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

GOLDSTON — A rock quarry in southern Chatham County shrouded in controversy sold last week for more than \$20 million to the Raleigh-based Fred Smith Company, which will continue mining for aggregates.

The property, located off State Road 2333, is just outside Goldston town limits, about 15 minutes northwest of Sanford. Between the quarry and two adjacent properties, about 250 acres changed hands in the \$20.51 million transaction, according to county records.

The rock quarry’s previous owner, Daurity Springs Quarry, LLC, mined the land despite years-long opposition from Goldston residents and some Chatham leaders. The crushed stone and aggregates facility opened in late 2018, four years after DSQ acquired the land. The property sits beyond Goldston’s jurisdiction and a zoning technicality prevented Chatham County’s government from dictating what sort

of industrial activity could take place.

Still, nearby residents expressed frequent rancor.

“There was a terrible explosion that rattled and shook my house sending me out the back porch thinking Goldston was experiencing an earthquake,” Marian Norton, a Goldston property owner, said in a public meeting when blasting first began. “Once outside, I could see a cloud of dust just behind the tree line.”

Several Chatham leaders, including Goldston resident and N.C. House Representative Robert Reives II and Goldston Mayor Tim Cunnup, expressed similar concerns over the years. They and others took umbrage at violent ground-shaking and questioned whether the mining operation might compromise nearby water quality. At least one military veteran experienced post traumatic stress symptoms from the explosions.

“It was very controversial when the rock quarry went in,” Cunnup told the

See **QUARRY**, page A6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

• COVID-19 has once again postponed the **Town's Hispanic Heritage Fiesta**. After months of planning and preparations, the Fiesta's primary organizer, the Hispanic Liaison, announced the 8th Fiesta would not take place on September 11 as originally planned because of "the rising threat of the COVID-19 Delta variant."

ON THE AGENDA

• The **Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 16, at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro. For more information, go to www.chathamcountync.gov.

• The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 16, at a location to be announced. For more information, go to www.silercity.org.

• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will host a special session at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18, via Zoom to discuss the town's ongoing water contamination issues. For more information, go to www.pittsboronc.gov.

OTHER

• The **Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, in the west side Conference Room of the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center (CCACC).

• The **Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees** meeting will be held virtually at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17. The public is invited to attend. If interested, please contact Angela Hurt in advance at 919-799-4012 for the access information.

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

• **Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual screening of the documentary **SISTERS RISING** (2020), Thursday, August 12 through Thursday, August 19. This

is the story of six Native American women fighting to restore personal and tribal sovereignty in the face of ongoing sexual violence against Indigenous women in the United States. The program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning August 12, by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/sisters-rising-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information.

• **Siler City Parks and Recreation Summer Open Gym Program:** Children are invited to visit the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium — located at 512 East Sixth Street in Siler City — each Week-day (Monday-Friday) until Friday, August 13 (excluding holidays). Weekdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the gym is available for children ages 12 and under. Children must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. Weekdays from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., participants ages 13 and older can access the gym. There is no cost to participate; however, all participants must have a waiver signed by an adult. Waivers will be available at Ernest Ramsey Gym when signing in or available online at www.silercity.org. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons and when not able to socially distance of at least 6-feet from others. Please be advised, operations are subject to change in accordance to Executive Orders and guidelines.

• **Siler City Parks and Recreation** invites you to start your days off right with a few laps at the Indoor Walking Program each weekday morning, from 7 to 9 a.m., at the Ernest Ramsey Gymnasium Indoor Walking Track, 512 East 6th St. The program is free and no pre-registration is required. Operations are subject to COVID-19 guidelines and mask requirement indoors. For more information, visit www.silercity.org or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email recreation@silercity.org.

THURSDAY

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

• **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We

provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

OTHER UPCOMING:

• Siler City Parks and Recreation announces the fifth season of Friday Night Flicks, the popular movie in the park series held at Bray Park on the fourth Friday night of August, September, and October. The series will kick-off Friday, August 27, at dusk (approximately 8:20 p.m.) The community is invited to come early for fun activities, free inflatable attractions, music, and movie-themed activities regarding pet care and education. Concessions will be available for purchase by Customized Dogs and Catering. In case of inclement weather, the rain date is Saturday, August 28.

• **Pittsboro's Carolina Brewery** is helping the Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) organization by offering Dine & Donate, Monday, August 16. Five percent of the day's sales, including dining in or take out, will go to CARE to help dogs and cats in Chatham County get the veterinarian care, food and supplies they need while looking for their forever homes.

• **Okra lovers** will unite on Sunday, August 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. for **Okra Fest**. The event will highlight the intersection of culture, history, and food with a panel discussion, tastings, and featured farmers of okra. Ticket proceeds will go to both Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity and WEBB-Squared. The event is hosted by Abundance NC, Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity, Kindred Seedlings Farm, Sweeties Southern & Vegan Catering, The Plant, and The Utopian Seed Project. It will be held at Plant NC, 213 Lorax Lane, Pittsboro. Contact: CORE at info@corenc.org.

• The **Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET)** program will soon begin training at the CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro. Tuition is free for students who have a sponsorship from a N.C. law enforcement agency. Learn more about the CCCC BLET program at www.cccc.edu/blet/. For more information, contact Neil Ambrose at 919-777-7774 or email to lambr287@ccc.edu.

• Train for a career in Biotechnology at **Central Carolina Community College!** An 8-week hybrid BioWork course begins Sept. 7 at the CCCC Chatham Health Sciences Center. Generous funding provided by the

N.C. Biotechnology Center. Learn more about BioWork at ncbionetwork.org/biowork. For more information, contact Zack Ledwell at 919-777-7711 or email zledwell@ccc.edu.

• The **Siler City Parks and Recreation Department** announces the Bray Park Aquatic Facility has opened for the 2021 season with modified operations. The pool will operate through Labor Day weekend during the summer months, and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 - 6 p.m. General admission includes a \$5 entry fee for ages 3 and over. Children ages 2 and under receive free entry. Senior citizens age 50 or older receive a 50% discount. Siler City is offering "Two-Fifty Tuesdays" again where patrons may enjoy the pool each Tuesday when the entry fee is only \$2.50. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons when in the bathhouse and not able to socially distance at least 6-feet from others. Pool furniture will be available with sanitation stations located on the pool deck for patrons to utilize. Outside furniture is not permitted. To schedule swim times for daycares and camps, to register for swim lessons, purchase season passes, or to rent the pool for a pool party, contact Carolina Pool Management at 336-854-8884.

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** invite families with young children to enjoy the great outdoors while experiencing the joy of reading this summer with Outdoor Story Time. These programs will be offered through August 31, with the following weekly schedule: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. – Natural Chef Café seating area on the Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, 197 N.C. Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro; Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. – Washington Avenue Park picnic shelter, 1305 Washington Ave., Siler City; and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. at Goldston Public Library Lawn, 9235 Pittsboro-Goldston Rd., Goldston. Story time is geared toward children who have not yet entered kindergarten (ages 2-5),

but anyone is welcome to join in on the fun. Children will hear stories, sing songs and enjoy more activities. Story times will be offered rain or shine. Chatham County Public Libraries are pleased to partner with Central Carolina Community College and the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department to offer these programs.

• The **Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Don't miss our new exhibit of the paintings of Annie Lutterloh Bynum. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the circle. More info: <https://chathamhistory.org>

• **Second Bloom Thrift Store** is open at the Food Lion Shopping Center. Store hours are Tuesday until Saturday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County.

• The **Chatham Arts Council** has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org.

• JMArts hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @

JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

• **Foster and/or adoptive** information: Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

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

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

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

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

Scout News

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

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

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

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: Which of Edison's inventions was created on this day in 1877?


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Chatham County joins N.C. to promote August as ‘Preparedness Month’

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — With the peak of hurricane season approaching, Chatham County Emergency Management is encouraging residents and businesses to review and discuss their emergency plans and update their emergency supplies kits.

“Emergencies can happen anytime and are often not predictable,” said Steve Newton, Chatham County Emergency Management Director. “Whether it is a man-made emergency or weather event residents can prepare by making a family emergency plan and having an emergency supply kit. Knowing what you are going to do and practicing your plan will help you and your family to respond quickly in an emergency. It will also help you to recover faster should a disaster affect your home.”

N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper has proclaimed August as North Carolina Preparedness Month in advance of the peak weeks of hurricane season.

Newton encourages residents, schools and business owners to make a plan and practice it routinely with other household members, staff or

employees. The plan should include details about where to meet, how to get in touch with one another, evacuation plans, what to do with pets and how to notify employees after an emergency.

“Part of your plan should be where you will evacuate to if needed,” Newton said. “If possible, your plan should include staying with family or friends. Staying at a hotel is also a good plan. Staying at a shelter should be a plan of last resort. The next step is to put together an emergency supplies kit, which contains items needed for survival regardless of the emergency.”

To make an emergency kit

- Water – 1 gallon per person per day for 3 to 7 days
- Food – non-perishable and canned food supply for 3 to 7 days
- Mask or cloth face coverings for each family member
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitizing wipes
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio with extra batteries
- Cell phone with charger
- First aid kit and first aid book

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Manual can opener for food
- Wrench or pliers to turn off water
- Blanket or sleeping bag – 1 per person
- Prescription medications, eyeglasses and hearing aids
- Seasonal change of clothing, including sturdy shoes
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, feminine supplies
- Extra house and car keys
- Important documents – insurance policies, copy of driver’s license, Social Security card, bank account records
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash and change
- Books, games or cards

Emergency shelter plans

Depending on forecasted impact, emergency management officials may recommend Sheltering in Place instead of opening a disaster shelter. Chatham County will not open a pre-landfall shelter, before a storm hits, except under imminent direct threat of an extreme event (forecast of direct, sustained, significant impact less than 24 hours out). If congregate sheltering is required, Chatham County’s strategy will be to open one facility. A second facility will be consid-

ered if the first shelter nears its capacity. Chatham County may pre-position, and possibly deploy equipment and supplies in to one or more designated shelter facilities; however, the facilities would remain closed until impact and demand are known.

Members of the public should exercise additional caution when traveling to a shelter as trees and power lines may have fallen, and roads may be flooded. Residents should obey road closed signs and follow directional signs when checking in to a shelter.

Emergency shelter COVID-19 safety precautions

Shelter(s) open in Chatham County will abide by strict guidelines to reduce the spread of COVID-19. All clients, staff and volunteers are required to wear face coverings and physical distance will be monitored and enforced among individuals not in the same household. Each client will have their temperature checked and must complete a questionnaire related to the coronavirus; those who are confirmed positive or are symptomatic must remain isolated from other shelter clients. The use of cots will be

limited to those clients with medical issues, and six feet of distance must be maintained from individuals not in the same household. Meals and snacks will likely be individually packaged, such as boxed or bag lunches, heater meals, and/or Meals-Ready-To-Eat (MRE). Cleanliness will be key at Chatham County emergency shelters. Facilities will be cleaned often, and staff and clients must wash their hands and use hand sanitizer often.

“As we approach the height of hurricane season, it’s critical that Chatham County residents plan ahead for their families and not wait until a major storm is on its path toward North Carolina with potential impacts on our community,” Newton said.

For more emergency preparedness information visit [ReadyNC.org](https://www.ready-nc.org) or [ready-chatham.org](https://www.ready-chatham.org). Residents are encouraged to register for CodeRed alerts that are specific to Chatham County. Participants will receive a phone call and text message when there is an urgent update regarding severe weather or other emergency. When the Chatham County Emergency Operations Center is activated, residents with questions may call the EOC at 919-545-8181.

NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham Sheriff Mike Roberson elected 3rd VP during N.C. Sheriffs’ Association conference

ATLANTIC BEACH — Sheriffs from across North Carolina gathered in Atlantic Beach in July to fellowship, collaborate, and share ideas at the 99th Annual North Carolina Sheriffs’ Association (NCSA) Business Conference in Atlantic Beach.

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson was elected 3rd vice president of the organization during the conference. The position is considered a high honor and carries significant responsibilities; Roberson’s elevation to this position serves to emphasize the trust and respect he has earned in the eyes of his peers, according to a statement from his office.

“I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity,” Roberson of his new role. “I appreciate the guidance of my fellow sheriffs and the faith they have placed in me and my leadership abilities. I have learned some valuable lessons from this talented group, and feel encouraged by their continued support.”

Roberson said the NCSA Business Conference presents sheriffs with a unique opportunity to learn from experts, develop professional friendships and mentorships, and build bridges across jurisdictional lines.

“The conference energizes leaders by providing an opportunity for all North Carolina sheriffs to join together in one place to discuss common issues

and best practices, review important updates to state law or required training, brainstorm solutions to specific challenges, and show support for one another,” he said. “The ultimate goal is to enhance our level of service and improve safety within our communities.”

Those who attend the conference are intended to return home with fresh inspiration and ideas for improvement within their organizations. Roberson said he was excited for the year ahead and looks forward to implementing some innovative approaches in Chatham County as a result of the session.

“As a leader, it’s important to keep an open mind and be willing to tackle new challenges when given the chance,” he said. “Doing so helps renew focus and sharpen our vision for the future... and as long as we work together, I believe the future of Chatham County and the North Carolina Sheriffs’ Association is brighter and more promising than ever before.”

Free tuition available for Central Carolina Promise/K14 program

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Promise/K14 program encourages local students to complete their Associate Degree, or 14th grade, by providing two years of tuition-free classes after their high school graduation. The program encompasses the Chatham County Promise, Harnett County Promise, and Lee County Promise — and is generously funded by the commissioners in each county.

To qualify, students must:

- Take a minimum of 4 classes (or 12 credit hours) of college classes during high school, generally through the North Carolina Career & College Promise program.
 - Reside in Chatham, Harnett, or Lee County.
 - Graduate from high school and take classes at Central Carolina Community College within their declared major.
 - Complete the enrollment checklist located at www.cccc.edu/promise/.
- Chatham, Harnett, and Lee County students who graduated high school in 2020 or 2021 and meet the criteria above are currently eligible to join the program. Please visit www.cccc.edu/promise/ for more information. Students can also contact CCCC College Access Coordinator Mary Schmid Carter at promisek14@cccc.edu or by calling 919-718-7542.

Chatham Community Library presents virtual screening of ‘Sisters Rising’

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library will host a virtual screening of the documentary “Sisters Rising” (2020), beginning Thursday, Aug. 12, and continuing through Thursday, Aug. 19. Sisters Rising is the story of six Native American women fighting to restore personal and tribal sovereignty in the face of ongoing sexual violence against Indigenous women in the United States. This program is free and open to the public.

According to the filmmakers, Native

American women are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault than all other American women. One in three Native women reports having been raped during her lifetime, and 86% of the offenses are committed by non-Native men. The film also demonstrates that perpetrators exploit gaps in tribal jurisdictional authority and target Native women as “safe victims.”

The film follows six women who refuse to let patterns of violence continue in the shadows: a tribal cop in the midst of the North Dakota oil boom, an attorney fighting to overturn restrictions on tribal sovereignty, a teacher of Indigenous women’s self-defense, grassroots advocates working to influence legislative change, and the author of the first anti-sex trafficking code to be introduced to a reservation’s tribal court. Their stories shine a light on righting injustice on both an individual and systemic level.

Film highlights and awards include Honorable Mention Big Sky Award, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival; Best Film Award, Women’s Voices Now Film Festival; and Best Documentary Feature, American Indian Film Festival.

Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning August 12, by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/sisters-rising-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information

— CN+R staff reports

CCS

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meeting.

Now, Zelek said, cases in Chatham — reflecting cases across the state — have seen an uptick amid the spread of the more contagious Delta variant, with about 9.5% of tests in the county coming back positive. Following national and state guidance for universal masking in schools, Zelek said he reiterated that masking recommendation.

“All of us align in our recommendation for universal masking across all grades,” Zelek said. “If we do that, we’ll have lower risk of transmission and lower risk of quarantine, allowing our in-school classes to function — I believe masking is a key part of that.”

Under the new state guidance, if a student tests positive for COVID-19 but was masked, schools will not have to enforce a two-week quarantine period for students potentially exposed to that student —

so long as those students were also masked.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations Chris Blice said the main difference in that updated guidance is that local school districts are responsible for implementing and requiring recommended protocols, not the state.

“But in doing so, their focus is that we work with the experts,” Blice said, adding that the district had done that, by partnering with CCPHD and research group ABC Science Collaborative. “The toolkit is very clear: it very strongly recommends universal masking, K-12.”

The board also voted to extend the district’s enrollment period for K-12 virtual academies through Aug. 8, as directed by administration. The K-8 academy previously closed July 30; the high school academy closed June 15.

Called last Monday evening, Thursday’s meeting follows Gov. Roy Cooper’s July 29 announcement that the state had updated its

K-12 StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit to reflect the CDC’s July 27 guidance, which urged schools to require universal masking, regardless of vaccination status.

Previously, the state had recommended — but not mandated, as before — that K-8 schools require universal masking while high schools ensure masking for unvaccinated students and staff.

By Thursday’s meeting, the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, N.C. Health Dept., CCPHD and ABC Science Collaborative each recommended universal masking in schools.

In Chatham, Zelek said 10% of the under-18 population is fully vaccinated at this time. Only the Pfizer vaccine is available to people who are 12 or older; Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are only approved for people 18 and older.

The state’s guidance — which the district said it is following — also says all schools should require passengers and staff to wear a mask on buses and other group

school transportation. Additionally, it continues recommendations from last semester to ensure 3-feet of social distancing as an additional mitigation strategy.

At the July meeting, the board unanimously approved 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. On Thursday, Jackson stressed that face masking would allow such activities to continue.

Because Thursday’s meeting was specially called, it did not include public comments. At the board’s July meeting, several parents asked the school board to make mask-wearing optional for CCS students next fall.

“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.”

On Facebook, multiple community members commented on the News + Record’s update following the meeting, including both gratitude for and anger at the decision — demonstrating just how polarizing the conversation on masking has become, despite unified messaging regarding masking from public health officials.

At the time of the meeting Thursday, at least 48 school districts defied state masking guidance, opting instead to make masking optional in schools. That number has since climbed to about half of the state’s 115 districts, with at least 54 districts deciding to require masking as of Tuesday afternoon. Earlier last week, Wake County Schools and Chapel-Hill Carrboro City Schools voted to require universal

masking.

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. Data also suggests the Delta variant is more contagious than other strains, for all age groups.

“We believe this is prudent, we believe this is defensible, we believe that this makes sense right now for our kids, and could help us have as close to a normal school year as we possibly can,” Jackson said of the district’s recommendation. “... We’re confident that we can at least get school started — support our staff, give our teachers a safe place, give our kids as normal a place as possible, with the exception of one thing: they will have to wear a face covering.”

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

VIEWPOINTS

Universal masking is not shameful

Just a few hours after publishing a story on Chatham County Schools’ decision last Thursday to require universal indoor masking this fall, I decided to do what everyone should think long and hard about before doing.

I checked Facebook. Under the News + Record’s post sharing the story, a number of community members

and parents expressed their opinions about the decision. Many thanked the board of education for listening to health experts, particularly as coronavirus cases rise across the state — including in Chatham.

Others lamented the decision. “Yet another government overreach and removal of freedom,” one commenter wrote. “Parents don’t co-parent with the government.”

“That’s a shame,” said another. I am a reporter. Most specifically, I am an education reporter in Chatham County, paid to cover and report on decisions like those made Thursday. While of course, like any other person, I have my own opinions, I am not paid to have them. I am paid to observe intently, ask incessantly and then ask again, until I can sum up the truth of what happened in a succinct and (hopefully) compelling way.

I say all that to say that it’s not my job to have opinions about COVID-19, school reopenings or policies. Still, as someone who has followed the science, interviewed the experts and read entirely too many coronavirus articles over the last year, I feel firm in my

integrity as a journalist in my disagreement with that last commenter.

The decision approving universal masking is not a shame. As Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said at that meeting, the decision is prudent, defensible and just makes sense, based on what we know at this point in time. What is a shame, rather, is that we live in a world and cultural moment in which an action proven to keep us safe is forsaken by some for the sake of personal convenience, or worse, stubbornness for stubbornness’ sake.

Encouraging masking is not shameful. Allowing for misinformation, false equivalencies and politicized manipulations to cause any of us — but especially our children — to get sick, is.

Some of you will read this and think to yourself, “This seems very much like an opinion.”

To your credit, this column does appear in the opinion page of this newspaper. My argument, however, is that we cannot afford to continue treating the mask debate as if it is a difference in opinions. It is not. It is, rather, the difference between preventing unnecessary viral spread and inviting it to continue. And, sometimes, it is unfortunately the difference between life and death.

Though I love journalism, I blame much of the news coverage I’ve read about masking policies for our society’s failure to talk about these things well. In stories detailing a mask policy or updated health guidance, whose opinion holds more weight — a trained epidemiologist, or an angry parent? And which of these two opinions is given more room in the body of an article?

To be clear, I have gotten to know lots

of parents over the last year of reporting on Chatham schools, many with varying opinions on school safety protocol and all its nuances. I can’t imagine being a parent right now; I do not enjoy criticizing behavior and rhetoric that I truly believe, in most cases, stems from parents being worried about the health and happiness of their kids. But for parents passionately disavowing masking in schools, this worry is being misdirected.

Masking is the number one way apart from vaccines to defend against the spread of COVID-19, and health officials, regardless of personal party affiliation, are unified in saying so. Masking is especially important in areas where there are low vaccination rates — particularly important in many schools, where the majority of students aren’t yet eligible to be vaccinated.

After more than a year of challenges wrought by remote learning, students (and teachers) are ready to be back in school. As many experts and health organizations have opined, masking is the number one way to ensure they stay there — that is, until vaccinations are available to kids of all ages. (And I’ll add that last fall, many of the same people now opposing masks used data from these same sources to argue for a safe return to school.)

As an education reporter, I’ve talked with countless students about the challenges of Zoom school. Many struggled to pay attention, and others stopped attending altogether — either out of boredom, to watch siblings or to work. Some students couldn’t regularly access their online courses because of slow and unreliable internet. All students missed seeing their teachers and

their friends.

In my own life, I watched my now-12th-grade brother, Jacob, struggle to turn in any work after a school career of mostly straight A’s. He, along with many other students, is annoyed by masks — they make it harder to hear each other, they get sweaty easily and they can be uncomfortable at times. But he and many other students are happy to keep wearing them if it means continuing to go to in-person school.

Now, not all students (or teachers for that matter) can or should wear masks. I’ve heard that argument, and I agree with it. For most of those students however — those with sensory sensitivities or other relevant disabilities — exceptions to masking have long been made, at least in Chatham. For the majority of students and staff, though, the worst this masking mandate can cause is a minor inconvenience, and it’s disingenuous to suggest otherwise while co-opting the experience of disabled students.

On the other hand, at best, masking offers protection against a sickness with many potential unknown long-term complications, as well as a means of remaining in the school building.

Universal masking is not shameful; it is the best way we currently have to serve students and staff by keeping them safe while we wait for expanded vaccines.

(And, from the bottom of my heart, please do not share any of the Facebook comments about this column with me.)

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

Sharing the gold

When I played baseball as a youth and young adult, I heard that a tie was like “kissing your sister.” I didn’t have a sister, but the same male coaches and fathers made sure to tell me that “running like a girl” and “throwing like a girl” were the worst insults.

This ignored the fact that, even if their games occasionally ended in a tie, the athletes on the women’s soccer team ran longer and harder than the baseball players!

I remembered this example of sexism from my childhood after reading “The Men We Long To Be” by Stephen B. Boyd of Wake Forest University. He says American society socializes a boy into becoming a “lonely warrior.” Our society’s “masculine conditioning” is characterized by “toughness, dominance, repression of empathy and extreme competitiveness.” A “real man” wins at all costs, even at the expense of the well-being of others. This attitude is not a game. It can mean life and death.

Masculine conditioning can lead to violence like domestic abuse. More often, a lonely warrior feels restlessness and longing, isolation and unfulfillment. Some men cope through addictive behaviors; many more push themselves until they break down physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Boyd cites the story of a man named Ralph. He was a highly successful corporate attorney who fought his way to the top of his profession only to find that he was alienated from his loved ones, especially his wife and sons. Ralph tearfully confessed, “I feel like I spent 40 years of my life working as hard as I can to become somebody I don’t even like.”

I’ve reflected on my own masculine conditioning as I’ve followed the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo. Mutaz Essa Barshim and Gianmarco Tamberi are the best high jumpers in the world. In this year’s Olympics, these men immediately vaulted to the top of the competition. But once they were tied, Barshim and Tamberi failed for several rounds to out-jump the other for the Olympic record. Journalist Bill Chappell of NPR wrote that “this duel ... seemed destined to end in tears.” That is the narrative arc of the struggle between lonely warriors. But a different story is possible.

Boyd’s book is subtitled, “beyond domination to a new Christian understanding of manhood.” The Apostle Paul used athletic metaphors for the spiritual quest, such as “running the race” (1 Corinthians 9:24; 2 Timothy 4:7) and “pushing on toward the goal ... striving forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:12-14). There is value in competition as well as working hard to achieve your personal best.

But Paul’s theology does not support the idea of a lonely warrior. His goal was not to dominate others or win at all costs. He articulated a metaphor for a supportive community as “one body” (see 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12). When one member of the body suffers, then all suffer; when one member rejoices, all rejoice together (1 Corinthians 12:26). This summer, the two Olympic high jumpers exemplified this life-giving idea.

After several failed attempts to best his opponent, Barshim said to the official, “Can we have two golds?” According to the rules of high jumping, the answer is yes! Even before the official announcement of their first-place tie, these two men fell into each other’s arms for a huge hug.

Those who claim that a tie is like kissing your sister may also see Barshim’s question as a sign of weakness. But we would all be much healthier and happier if mutuality and respect were the gold standards in our society.

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.”



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
 Hope Matters

People are like A/C and water: we miss ‘em when we don’t have ‘em

The current spell of hot weather has convinced me of something: I am a weenie.

Simply put, without air conditioning I tend to lose — and quickly — my sweet and gentle nature. Genteel people “perspire,” I read somewhere.

Ladies “glisten,” I’ve been told. I sweat.

Even thinking about work does that to me.

And not having air conditioning makes it all worse.

Fortunately, most places in my life today have such a creature comfort, although I’m keenly aware not everyone does. But the point of this is to note the great truth that until we have something, and then don’t have it, is when we miss it, like water when the well runs dry.

I’m fairly certain that if I did not have access to air conditioning, then I wouldn’t know the difference and I wouldn’t miss it. And the foundation for all that information and awareness rests with my parents.

Up to a certain age when I was but a mere boy we didn’t have A/C. We’d fling up the windows — fortunately, there were screens — and set a “box” fan in one of them on the end of the house and fire that thing up. Even the hot breezes that often were there weren’t all that unpleasant, only because I didn’t know better.

Plus, Mama had an old cast iron or some similarly-heavy metal fan that would turn from side to side as it fanned the breeze. It might have weighed



BOB WACHS
 Movin’ Around

a ton but it moved some air. It was one of those what you call “oscillating” fans, but I couldn’t spell that or come close to pronouncing it then — so we just called it “the fan.”

If you were lucky enough to find yourself caught between those two fans, you had all you needed.

At a certain point, however — and I don’t know for sure when that was because when you’re eight years old you usually don’t get a vote in family decisions — my folks decided they’d had enough.

I still remember the day the A/C came to live with us. Big as a truck, it was, and sitting in a front window ... but, boy, was it cool.

In more ways than one. With it in place I didn’t mind doing my math homework because I could sit at the table in front of the A/C. My grades didn’t necessarily improve because of it; it was just that I didn’t mind doing the homework.

Moving along through the years has only reinforced the deep appreciation I have for A/C, learned at my mother’s knee. And when A/C became standard equipment on vehicles instead of a top-of-the-line option, I was really hooked. I made the mistake once in my uninformed youth of buying a car without it and the “460” model A/C — four windows rolled down at 60 miles per hour — upset everyone’s hair.

So I’m hopelessly a weenie if I’m without the A/C because I now do know the difference.

And that same thought came to mind as I was plowing through a pile of “stuff” in my study trying to decide if it really was a good idea to keep out-of-date coupons, 2-year old

I’m fairly certain that if I did not have access to air conditioning, then I wouldn’t know the difference and I wouldn’t miss it. And the foundation for all that information and awareness rests with my parents.

newspapers and an empty Coke can.

Stuck in with all that stuff and more was a paper pad with some names on it — names of folks that I planned to see in some long-ago week before the week when I made the list was over.

I’m not sure when that list came to be but of the 12 people on it, a grand total of five are still with us.

Seeing the names of the other seven made me miss them all over again — because I’d known life with them.

So here’s the deal: don’t put too big of a demand on your well, keep the A/C in good shape and if you’ve got a list of folks you want to see — written on paper or on your brain — go see them. It’ll be worth the effort, even if the effort makes you hot and you perspire or glisten or sweat, even.

Trust me on this one.

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

LETTERS

When it comes to conference alignment, the NCAA has it wrong

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you to intern Max Baker for his astute analysis of the harms of NCAA conference realignment. Short-term greed for a conference championship football game is destroying the goose that lays the Golden Egg. Traditional

rivalries make fans instead of occasional casual attendees at football and basketball games. These rivalries depend not only on tradition but also on geographic closeness or at least regional proximity.

Being grouped saves everybody travel, time and money. Rivalries thrive on competitiveness. Eight teams are enough for any conference. It’s hard enough traveling north and south; crossing time zones is

rarely necessary.

Curveball: If the national television market dominates revenue that may overpower traditional rivalries. Bubba Cunningham asks for 3:30 p.m. kickoff time for UNC vs. Florida State. He doesn’t know if he’ll get it or not. That likely depends on how well both teams play between now and game time. Winners get prime time.

John R. Dykers Jr.
Siler City

VIEWPOINTS

Lay welcome mat for new houses

When demand exceeds supply, prices rise. While the problem of housing affordability has many facets and effects, that inescapable fact explains a lot about why so many North Carolinians struggle to afford the homes they'd like to buy or rent.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke
Foundation

It's not as if there are many idle homebuilders in our state. In fact, by one measure North Carolina is doing better than average. When the Manhattan Institute compared job growth to new housing permits in 20 fastest-growing metropolitan areas, the three North Carolina metros on the list fared very well: Durham-Chapel Hill (#1), Raleigh-Cary (#3), and Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia (#4). Alas, this isn't the whole story. It misses an important

stock-and-flow dynamic. Yes, over the past decade North Carolina metros have been more accommodating than most of their peers in allowing new home starts to keep up with new residents. But our state began the decade with too many consumers chasing too few housing units. Despite recent construction, we aren't adding enough housing stock. Take a look at the most-recent affordability data from the National Association of Home Builders and Wells Fargo Bank. Their study compares the median sales price of homes to the median income in each jurisdiction. For the first quarter of 2021, NAHB/Wells Fargo produced affordability scores for 233 metros. North Carolina's highest-ranking places for home affordability were Fayetteville (32) and Winston-Salem (58). Greensboro-High Point (96), Raleigh-Cary (102), Durham-Chapel Hill (113), Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia (124) and Asheville (150) face

bigger challenges. Our housing markets aren't as locked up as those in California or New York, to be sure. That's one reason why Californians and New Yorkers (among others) continue to move here in significant numbers. But home affordability in North Carolina is still a worrisome problem. Most policymakers agree with that, of course. Where they disagree is how North Carolina state and local governments should go about trying to address it. For decades, my John Locke Foundation colleagues and I have recommended that we loosen housing and zoning regulations to make it easier to provide housing to people of modest means. Yes, that means allowing more units per acre of (increasingly pricey) land. It means duplexes and triplexes. It means allowing homeowners to rent out spare rooms. It even means allowing more manufactured housing within municipal limits (modern units bear little relationship to old-fash-

ioned trailers, by the way). A serious effort to promote affordability in North Carolina also means reducing how long it takes — from planning stage to final construction — for homebuilders to bring new inventory to market. It means streamlining the process for obtaining permits. It means letting producers and consumers meet in the middle, trading off amenities for price, rather than imposing housing codes that reflect the preferences of existing residents over those of newcomers. Such an effort, then, isn't just about the precise wording of laws or the detailed analysis of regulations. It's about public attitudes. Do people other than buyers and sellers have a legitimate interest in the amount and type of housing stock erected in the community? To a limited extent, yes, regarding public services such as roads or water and sewer. That interest need not result in excessive regulation, however. Localities

can and do charge developers directly, and thus prospective newcomers indirectly, for the cost of adding infrastructure capacity to accommodate them. Such a practice is not about saying no. It's about saying yes — at the right price. Let's be honest, though: when the "neighborhood" resists new construction or higher density, it's not just about traffic or stormwater runoff. Preexisting residents want to keep "things" the way they were when they moved in. More trees. Fewer people driving or walking by. Structures and landscapes that existing residents admire when they drive or walk by. Here's a principle we should all take to heart: when we buy or rent a place to live, we don't purchase a right to oversee how many neighbors we'll have — or how they choose to live their lives

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

Second-guessing Trump

It is easy to second-guess somebody else's political decisions. Especially if you are not a big fan of the somebody else. So, I should be careful about second-guessing Donald Trump's endorsement of one candidate in next year's North Carolina Republican primary for the U.S. Senate nomination. The contest to succeed retiring Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Burr is a critical one for both parties and could determine which one controls the Senate after the 2022 elections. Democrats are hungry to take the seat away from the Republicans. Several strong candidates are competing for the Democratic nomination.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Republicans also have an impressive group of candidates, including former Rep. Mark Walker, former governor and Charlotte mayor Pat McCrory, and Rep. Ted Budd. Until the Republican state convention in June, Donald Trump's daughter-in-law, Lara, who grew up in Wilmington, was considered a possible candidate. But when she and the former president attended the convention, she said she would not be running and he announced his support for Budd. Trump's endorsement surprised some Republicans, including Sen. Burr, who said, "I can't tell you what motivates him." Before Trump's endorsement, Walker and McCrory were considered the favorites by many, including Burr, who, at least privately, supported McCrory. In three campaigns for governor (2008, losing a close election to Bev Perdue; 2012, defeating Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton; and 2016, losing a hair-splitter to Roy Cooper), McCrory proved in each election to be a statewide competitor. Those campaigns and his service as governor give him a network of friendship and support throughout the state. He claims to be conservative, but has sought and gained support from moderates and has distanced himself from Trump. Walker is more conservative than McCrory. A minister, he confessed concerns about Trump's personal actions during the 2016 presidential primaries. Budd is supported by the Trump-allied Club for Growth, which claims "it has already raised \$5.125 million to support Rep. Ted Budd's campaign to become the next Senator from North Carolina. Budd has a 97% lifetime rating on Club for Growth Foundation's Economic Scorecard." Support from Trump and Club for Growth do not guarantee a Budd victory in the GOP primary. In last month's primary for a vacant Texas congressional seat, the Trump/Club for Growth candidate lost to a candidate backed by the former Gov. Rick Perry. A few weeks later, however, in a crowded primary in Ohio's 15th congressional district, Trump endorsed Mike Carey, a coal lobbyist, who won a solid victory with 37% of the vote. Carey gave Trump full credit and asserted that "President Donald J. Trump is, without a doubt, the leader of our party." Thus, although Trump's endorsement does not make certain a Budd primary victory, it gives him a much better chance than he would have had otherwise. And a victory would underline Trump's power over North Carolina politics. That could be a problem for Trump and the party. If Budd wins the primary, McCrory and Walker will probably salute and announce their support for Budd. But a host of their supporters will resent Trump's interference and his takeover of their Republican party. Trump's party is not the same Republican Party they joined. Some may simply vote for the Democratic nominee in the general election. Others, unwilling to support a Democratic nominee, might simply stay at home on election day. Some might leave the party, unable to accept Trump's control. Thus, a Trump-Budd victory in the primary could strike a damning blow to the state's Republican party by driving away Trump skeptics, such as former Supreme Court Justice Robert Orr, who cannot abide Trump's egoism, dishonesty, and reckless personal ambition. In a close election, their actions could make the difference and assure the election of a Democrat to the Senate in the fall election.

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

Fed up yet? Ready to start a third party?

I've been involved in North Carolina politics more than 50 years as a reporter, columnist, campaign chairman and, over the past 21 years, as producer and moderator of a statewide political television talk show. Because I've been around for a while and am known, people often speak to me. Early in their conversation they invariably tell me how disgusted they are with the state of politics in our state. They are tired of the hyper-partisan, vindictive, name-calling, ugliness and falsehoods. Their angst is directed at both parties, which they believe are dominated by extreme factions. People who want to see our state working together and moving forward believe North Carolina is as stagnant and politically divided as the federal government. What can they do, they want to know?



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

They are right. The political climate in our state gets worse all the time. Clearly the parties and their leadership won't or can't change unless forced to do so. They need some new competition; since we are a "purple state," that competition should advocate more moderate positions. I believe it is time we form a third political party in North Carolina. I would suggest calling it the "Moderate" or "Common-Sense" party but am certainly open to a better name. The North Carolina statutes regarding political parties can be found in (G.S 163-96(2)). They define starting a new party as, "Any group of voters which shall have filed with the State Board of Elections petitions

for the formulation of a new political party which are signed by registered and qualified voters in this State equal in number to one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) of the total number of voters who voted in the most recent general election for Governor. Also the petition must be signed by at least 200 registered voters from each of three congressional districts in North Carolina. To be effective, the petitioners must file their petitions with the State Board of Elections before noon on the first day of June preceding the day on which is to be held the first general State election in which the new political party desires to participate." The petitions must be presented to the respective county board of elections so that the voter names can be examined, checked against registration records and found to be qualified, then sent to the State Board of Elections for certification. The petitions should contain a heading in bold print or capital letters on each page saying: "THE UNDERSIGNED REGISTERED VOTERS IN _____ COUNTY HEREBY PETITION FOR THE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL PARTY TO BE NAMED _____ AND WHOSE STATE CHAIRMAN IS _____, RESIDING AT _____ AND WHO CAN BE REACHED BY TELEPHONE AT _____." In the 2020 election for Governor there were a total of 5,545,848 votes cast. According to information provided by the State Board of Elections a total of 13,865 validly signed petitions would be required to form a new political party. At least 200 would be required from three of our 13 (current) congressional districts. A formal name would need adopting and a person named as chair of the party.

The goal would be to offer qualified candidates in hopes of garnering unaffiliated voters, as well as those from both parties. There are 7,104,795 registered voters; 35 percent of them are registered Democrats, 30.48% are registered as Republicans, but 33.8% are registered as unaffiliated.

In order to field candidates in the November 8, 2022, elections the requirements would need to be met by June 1, so there's time to accomplish the task. The goal would be to offer qualified candidates in hopes of garnering unaffiliated voters, as well as those from both parties. There are 7,104,795 registered voters; 35 percent of them are registered Democrats, 30.48% are registered as Republicans, but 33.8% are registered as unaffiliated. So how disenchanted are you? If you are fed up with the current two-party culture, here's something positive you can do. It will be interesting to see whether enough people are willing to organize and begin petition drives in their city or county to make it happen. Who knows? This may be the start of a movement that changes North Carolina. At the least it would be a wake-up call that people are ready for a change.

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

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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.

QUARRY

Continued from page A1

News + Record last week. “There are neighbors, our folks on the south end of town, that I still seem to hear more from them about it than anything else.”

The Fred Smith Company, it appears, will maintain similar operations at the quarry. The civil infrastructure and construction firm — which has worked on such projects as Chatham’s new Seaforth High School and the Chatham U.S. Hwy. 64 interchange project — specializes in road construction and will use the quarry to supply raw materials.

“We expect to use the aggregates mined from this facility to supply multiple asphalt plants that we acquired last fall,” Brett Armstrong, senior vice president of strategic operations for construction partners, said in a prepared statement first reported by the Triangle Business Journal. “The facility’s proximity to our current operations enhances our project bidding opportunities and we believe will contribute to future growth in these markets.”

‘It was very controversial when the rock quarry went in. There are neighbors, our folks on the south end of town, that I still seem to hear more from them about it than anything else.’

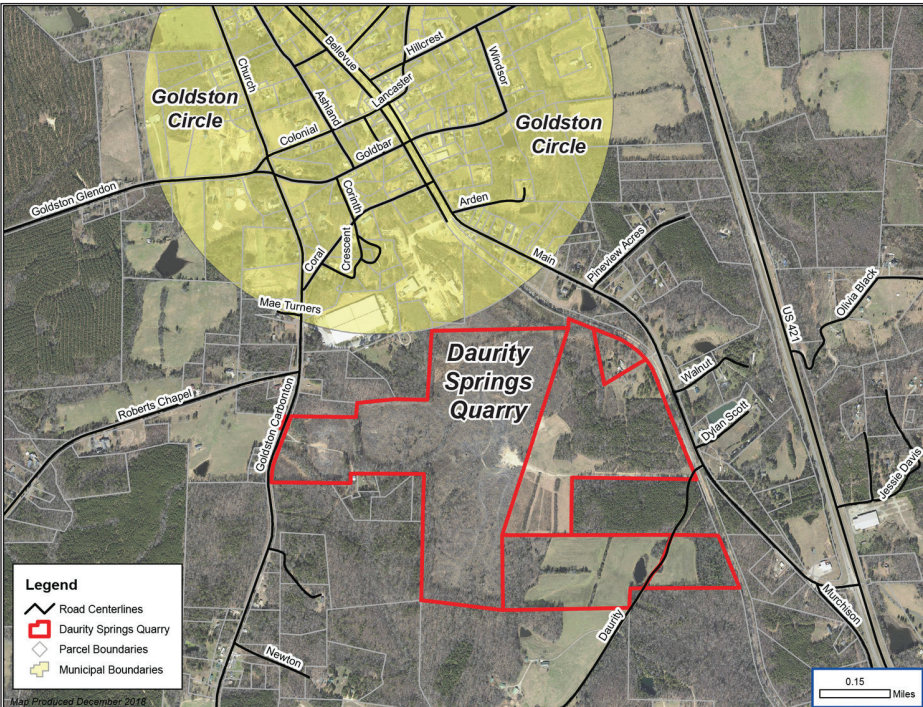
TIM CUNNUP, *Mayor of Goldston*

Representatives from the Fred Smith Company did not respond to the News + Record’s request for comment by press time Tuesday.

“I don’t know that folks would be in favor of it,” Cunnup said of continued mining. “But, unfortunately, the problem still is that we don’t really have any jurisdiction.”

The Fred Smith Company is a subsidiary of Construction Partners Inc. based in Dothan, Alabama, a civil infrastructure company with other quarries across Florida, Georgia and Alabama.

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



File photo

Daurity Springs’ rock quarry, just south of Goldston, has changed ownership, but will maintain similar operations.

CAMP

Continued from page A1

vocabulary and help recoup lost learning time.

The four-day camp, called “Aventuras de verano” (summer adventures), ran from Aug. 2-5. Only K-8 dual language students from SCE, North Chatham, Chatham Middle School and Margaret B. Pollard could attend. About 170 students registered for the camp, though not all attended.

Though organizers created the camp to provide extra Spanish practice, it wasn’t supposed to be Spanish boot camp. It was supposed to be fun. While teachers taught Spanish in standard ways, like reading stories or writing personal reflections, they also got creative.

Depending on their grade levels, students practiced their Spanish by making slime, talking about their emotions and building things like rafts, or bionic hands. Others played Kahoot!, matching which flag represented which Spanish-speaking nation.

Some even created their own countries.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

SCE’s Ventura Ruiz teaches rising 1st and 2nd graders how to make slime in Spanish last Wednesday inside Siler City Elementary. It’s part of CCS’ first Dual Language summer camp, which SCE and North Chatham Elementary hosted last week.

were not gaining in the oral expression and the oracy that we do every day in class during our Spanish dual language time,” Poston said. “And so this camp is an attempt — it’s only four days — to help support oracy and to bring additional cultural responsiveness to our students who are in dual language.”

But it’s also about providing opportunities to students who may not be able to practice or maintain their Spanish skills over the summer.

“Those parents that have their students in the dual language program, they’re doing that because they want their students to be biliterate,” said Gaby-Walencik. “... We have families that can support their children in Spanish at home, but we have families that cannot support their families in Spanish at home. They get it here, so they really want them to be here.”

‘Helping me keep up with Spanish’

On the first day of camp, middle school teacher Tabetha Vegas noticed many of her students hesitated to speak and write in Spanish. By the third day, however, most of her students showed more confidence — demonstrating to her that the camp was working.

“We also Zoom with Chatham Middle, so they get to present what they have done, and then the other group goes. And so yesterday one of the students was like, ‘I don’t feel comfortable,’” she said. “But today, he’s like, ‘I want to make sure I have what to say so that I can talk.’ So I want to say that, yes, it has built up some confidence for many of them.”

While many of the camp’s activities were meant to be more fun than a “typical” school day, Vegas said the day was still structured around all components of learning a language: speaking, reading, writing and listening “constantly.”

North Chatham’s site coordinator, Mandy Evans, said

the goal for camp was for it to be “100% Spanish,” even when doing things like making and talking about slime.

“They’re supposed to try and speak back to the teachers in Spanish and teachers help support them trying to speak in Spanish,” she said, “but the teachers for the most part, are always in Spanish. But that’s the goal, complete biliteracy — bilingual, biliterate and bicultural.”

Of course, that’s easier said than done.

“It’s very hard for our students, no matter their background, they all want to speak English,” Gaby-Walencik said with a laugh. “... We keep reminding them, ‘En español!’”

Jordan Truesdale, a rising 4th grader who attended the North Chatham site, said camp was fun because it wasn’t just “learning throughout the whole day.” She especially enjoyed making the slime.

“My parents don’t really buy me the real slime,” she said, “so it was fun to make.”

Still, though Truesdale didn’t feel like she spent the whole day at school, she said her time at camp was helping her Spanish.

“It helps me learn before I go back to my classroom because when I don’t use Spanish or anything, then I don’t really know what to say,” she said. “So this Spanish camp is helping me keep up with Spanish.”

Teachers and coaches at both schools said they’d seen similar improvements for middle school students. That first day in SCE’s middle school camp, Gaby-Walencik recalled, “you could have heard a pin drop walking in there.” No one wanted to participate.

By Wednesday, that class was unrecognizable.

“It was loud,” she said. “They were talking to each other, they were talking in Spanish. I know there was a little candy bribe in there, but it is OK because they were participating and they were really into it.”

Though she’d just finished six weeks of summer learning



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The dual language camp was designed to teach students Spanish while also having fun. Here, middle school students at North Chatham spend time on the playground.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Presley Krohn, a rising 4th grader, shows off the slime she made last Wednesday at North Chatham’s dual language camp.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

3rd grade teacher Maria Elena Vivanco poses with one of her students while teaching students to make slime last Wednesday.

the week before, Vegas wasn’t ready for the dual language camp to end.

“It’s been good, they enjoy it,” she said. “... I just wish it was longer.”

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

HUNTING FOR WATER SOLUTIONS

At last, 1,4-Dioxane levels in Pittsboro's water are non-detectable. Now what?

Town leaders struggling to enforce accountability from upstream polluters

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town leaders announced Friday that Pittsboro's drinking water is again devoid of 1,4-Dioxane more than a month after considerable levels of the carcinogenic chemical were discharged into the Haw River by a yet unknown Greensboro source. "It's the first we've had non-detect levels across the board since this all started," Town Manager Chris Kennedy told the News + Record. "We've had non-detect in the raw water and the finished water for a couple of weeks, which is good, but the tanks took a while because it's just trying to work its way through the system. So now the tanks are at that point and it's really kind of back to normal."

Daily water sampling began more than a month ago after the City of Greensboro and the North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality reported a discharge of 1,4-Dioxane on June 30 into South Buffalo Creek — a Haw River tributary — in effluent from Greensboro's TZ Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant. Water samples taken in Greensboro indicated initial levels between 543 parts per billion and 687 parts per billion of 1,4-Dioxane. The U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency recommends no more than 35 ppb in healthy drinking water.

The month-long campaign to purge Pittsboro's water of 1,4-Dioxane — which had not appeared in the town's water previously for more than a year — has ignited a renewed effort from town leaders to assume a proactive stance against upstream polluters such as Greensboro.

In a specially convened meeting last month, Kennedy and the town board of commissioners publicly demanded the City of Greensboro or the State of North Carolina pay recompense for water contamination issues in Pittsboro's drinking supply. Besides the most recent spat of 1,4-Dioxane contamination, Greensboro factories are regular dischargers of PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances), another carcinogenic family of chemicals. PFAS concentrations in Pittsboro's water are the highest of any water source in the country, according to a nationwide Consumer Reports study and local research from teams at Duke University and N.C. State, as previously reported by the News + Record.

Calls for Greensboro's and the state's accountability have gone unacknowledged, howev-

er, much to Kennedy's dismay.

"Greensboro and the state have basically not had any proactive communication with us," he said. "We were hoping that we would have a little more of that. So my goal this week is to try to get something set up with the state. I figured that they would kind of talk with the players-that-be downstream and tell us, 'OK, here's what we're going to do,' but they've done none of that. So that's been rather disappointing to say the least."

Since dangerous PFAS levels were first discovered in Pittsboro's drinking water about three years ago — and 1,4-Dioxane earlier than that — town staff and the board of commissioners have worked diligently to address the problem despite apparent indifference from upstream polluters. Under consultation from CDM Smith, an engineering and construction company, which provides water solutions for government and private clients, the board of commissioners adopted a plan in February for tiered installation of various treatment methods starting with a "fast-track" option that should be operational in less than a year.

The filtration method, known as granular activated coal (GAC), would filter approximately 90% of all PFAS from a

drinking supply of at least one million gallons per day (mgd) — more than enough for the town's water demands on all but the hottest days of the year.

The project will cost \$2.5 million to \$3 million, but GAC cannot remove 1,4-Dioxane. With the chemical having resurfaced and threatening to appear again, the town must accelerate its plan to add a second filtration system, which will cost several million dollars more.

That's a financial burden heavier than Pittsboro can reasonably bear.

"What we're looking at right now is called UVAOP and that's what the town had contemplated before anyhow," Kennedy said. "The reason that it wasn't included the first time was because we frankly just can't afford it. We can't afford it now. So if we go with UV at the plant, I don't know where those dollars are coming from."

If state authorities will not intervene to regulate Greensboro's discharge, Kennedy said, and if the city itself will not better manage its effluent, the least each can do is fund Pittsboro's requisite countermeasures.

"And so that's going to be part of the conversations we're going to have," he said. "If the state of North Carolina thinks this is no big deal, then they need to provide

Pittsboro, in my opinion, with the dollars and cents to go put in our system. Because if they're not going to regulate Greensboro and control this upstream, we're forced to handle this downstream, and we flat out cannot afford it. If I spent every dollar I had and fired every staff person on the enterprise fund, we still couldn't afford it, and, of course, that's ridiculous."

Town commissioners have expressed similar ire and waning patience with the state's inaction. Several have floated the idea of litigation, but such measures take careful forethought and can be expensive in themselves. To discuss legal options and alternative solutions, the board will host another special meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 18 dedicated to public discussion of the town's ongoing water contamination. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom. A link will be available on the town's website, pittsboronc.gov.

The town is also now collecting public comments from residents on water quality concerns and questions. Written comments may be directed to Town Clerk Cassandra Bullock via email at cbullock@pittsboronc.gov.

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

FIESTA

Continued from page A1

years. COVID-19 forced the Liaison to cancel it in 2020, and the year before that, the Liaison hosted an alternative anniversary celebration in its place.

According to Dubester, the Liaison finalized the decision to postpone Fiesta last week, but the writing first appeared on the wall a few weeks ago. Delta had begun surging across the country, vaccination rates plummeted and the CDC reversed its mask guidelines for the vaccinated. The increasing number of "break-through" COVID-19 infections also concerned organizers.

"So we consulted with the two main COVID doctors that we work with and the health department, and it wasn't, like, unanimous," she said. "It wasn't like, oh, everybody said, 'Oh, you should cancel,' or anything like that, but there was enough caution put around the fact that Delta is peaking — it hasn't peaked yet and is on the rise."

Organizers continued to monitor COVID trends. After seeing that those trends weren't likely to reverse by September, the Liaison and



Courtesy of The Hispanic Liaison

Participants in the 2018 Hispanic Heritage Fiesta's traditional outfit parade pose together in their quinceañera dresses in downtown Siler City. Thanks to the rising threat of the COVID-19 Delta variant, the Hispanic Liaison has decided to postpone the Fiesta until 2022.

its volunteer planning committee decided to make the decision sooner rather than later to stave off further financial damage to the organization and give themselves time to plan an alternative event.

Planners considered requiring masks to save the Fiesta, but ultimately decided against it since staff would have no way to enforce it among the general public.

"We could certainly require all our vendors to be masked," Dubester said. "... But we couldn't do that with the general

public. We could ask, but we couldn't enforce it because even in the peak of the pandemic, everywhere, and particularly Siler City, people weren't very good about wearing masks. So we didn't want to be put in a position of being in conflict with our guests over mask wearing."

With the postponement, the Liaison has decided instead to host an outdoor COVID-19 Health Fair on the same day. The fair will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 11 in the Chatham Rabbit Cafe courtyard

and will offer free COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and information booths staffed by various health organizations.

"A lot of people are calling the office for testing, which is to us yet another indication that that had pretty much come to a halt in the last few months," Dubester said. "... We're getting at least one (call) a day for testing, which is an indication that things are getting worse here, too."

Greensboro-based medical provider Better Care will administer the vaccinations — both first and second doses — as well as the COVID-19 tests. The fair will have "the full menu of vaccines," Dubester said, so people can choose among the Pfizer, Moderna and the Johnson & Johnson shots.

The event will accept walk-ins, though the Liaison plans to ask people to RSVP with their vaccine preferences so staff can ensure the fair will have enough vaccines. To make room for health

information booths and a waiting area, the health fair will temporarily close East Second Street next to the Chatham Rabbit.

"We're going to try to make it as fun as possible," Dubester said. "We're going to still put up a bunch of decorations to make it lively. I have a DJ. He's bringing his sound system, and he's going to put on music and entertain people and give announcements and whatever else and at least

make some noise and make it a festive COVID Health Fair."

The Liaison will also hold a virtual Hispanic Heritage celebration on its social media accounts. As part of that celebration, they plan to raffle off eight prizes via Facebook Live on Oct. 15, the end of Hispanic Heritage Month. The raffle will sell both physical and digital tickets.

Not all its Hispanic Heritage celebration will go online, though. Siler City's N.C. Arts Incubator will still exhibit the work of Mexican-American artist Antonio Alanis

throughout Hispanic Heritage Month.

"The art is actually in Mexico right now, but (Alanis) knows what's going on," Dubester said. "We'll also have his table at the event, so he can talk to people about his art, if he's willing given the nature of the event, but otherwise, the exhibit will be put up in time for this event, for the COVID Health Fair."

The Liaison has already begun refunding organizations who agreed to sponsor Fiesta. Those who have yet to hear anything should expect a call to discuss refunds soon, according to the Liaison's news release.

Sept. 11's event may not be the grand Fiesta many had hoped for, but Dubester said she hopes to see people turn out.

"I don't imagine that hordes are gonna come. I wish," she said with a laugh. "If we find out that there's a ton of people registering, we'll make more specific plans, but that hasn't been the case in recent vaccination events. I'm hoping that Delta is going to inspire more people to get the vaccine."

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



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OBITUARIES

BETTY JEAN CRAVEN OLDHAM DANIEL



Betty Jean Craven Oldham Daniel, born September 4, 1936, passed peacefully away on July 8, 2021. She was a 1953 graduate of Siler City High School, and a 1955 graduate of the Asheboro Business College. She is preceded in death by her parents, the late Marcus James “Mark” Craven and Virtle May Wright Craven of Siler City, along with her late husband, Lewis Kermit Oldham of Bear Creek.

Betty Jean was a valued employee of the Boling Chair Company, the Chatham Bank, First Union National Bank, Spence Builders’ Supply, Chatham Hospital, and Chatham Foods. She will always be remembered by everyone for her distinctive beauty, her eloquence, her grace, and her poise.

Betty Jean is survived by many Craven and Wright cousins, along with her surviving husband, Walter Scott Daniel Jr. She is also survived by her beloved children, Lewis Marcus “Mark” Oldham, Mack Eugene Oldham, Jean Denice Oldham Edwards, and Jamie Carlson Oldham; one grandson, Tyler Clifton Edwards; and two granddaughters, Torrie Lin Oldham and Teagan Jean Oldham.

A memorial may be contributed to any charity or church of one’s choice.

NANCY ROBINSON HICKS



Nancy Robinson Hicks, 60, of Siler City passed away surrounded by family at her home on August 9, 2021.

Mrs. Hicks was born in Hancock County, West Virginia, on August 3, 1961, the daughter of Clifford Earl Robinson Sr. and Virginia Marie DeRubis Robinson.

Nancy was a member of Piney Grove United Methodist Church, as well as the President of the United Methodist Women’s Group. She loved her job and spent her working years

working with the EC Department at Jordan-Matthews High School, just recently retiring after 24 years as a Teacher’s Assistant. Nancy is preceded in death by her father, Clifford Earl Robinson Sr.; husband, John Thomas Hicks Jr.; and brother, Carl Crawford Sr.

She is survived by her son, Robert Nicholas Hicks of Siler City; mother, Virginia DeRubis Robinson of Smithfield, Ohio; sister, Rebecca Dunn of Hardy, Va.; brothers, Charles “Sonny” Crawford and wife Paula of Broadway, Virginia, Norman Crawford and wife Susan of Smithfield, Ohio, and Clifford Robinson Jr., of Smithfield, Ohio; and a future granddaughter.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 12, 2021, from 3:30 to 4 p.m. at Piney Grove United Methodist Church, 2343 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City, N.C. A memorial service will follow at 4 p.m. at Piney Grove United Methodist Church with Rev. Parker Coppock officiating.

Donations may be made to Jordan-Matthews, EC Department PTA Fund in memory of Nancy Hicks, 910 E. Cardinal Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Hicks family.

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

DANIEL BRYAN SMITH

Daniel Bryan Smith, 19, of Sanford, died Sunday, July 25, 2021, at his home.

Memorial services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel.

He was born on February 21, 2002, son of Monroe and Kate Smith. He was preceded in death by his brother, Paul David Smith and his grandmother, Adriene Kubinski.

Surviving are his parents, Monroe and Kate Smith, of the home; sister, Julie Ann Warner; brother, Monroe Smith Jr.; and grandfather, Dave Roseman.

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

DOLLIE EVA (HALL) JOHNSON

Dollie Eva Johnson, 97, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at her residence.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at First Calvary Baptist Church with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

LEWIS JUNIOR MCDUGALD

Lewis “Wilson” Junior McDougald, 56,of Lillington, passed away on Monday, August 9, 2021, in Lillington.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

MICHAEL DAVID CLARK



January 15, 1970 - August 2, 2021

Michael Clark, 51, passed away Monday, August 2, 2021, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst, N.C.

Mikey was born January 15, 1970, in Lee County and was the son of David Clark and Brenda Clark. He was currently employed by Bolden Gas Works but worked many years at Gunter Automotive of Moncure, N.C. He loved and cherished his family very much.

He is survived by his father, David Clark of Bear Creek, mother, Brenda Clark of Bear Creek, sister, Loretta Keily and husband Greg; sons, Michael Clark and wife Cheynne, Damien Clark; and one grandson, Everett Clark.

Cremation arrangements are entrusted to Piedmont Cremation and Funeral Services of Graham, N.C.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

BRENDA KAY DENTON

Brenda Kay Denton, 53, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, August 8, 2021, at her home.

A graveside service will be held in the Mausoleum Chapel at Lee Memory Gardens on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 2 p.m. with Rev. Curtis Norris officiating.

She was born on March 6, 1967, to Forest Woodson and the late Christa Pietrez Woodson. She worked at Walmart as a clerk.

In addition to her father, Kay is survived by her husband, Dale Allen Denton; sons, Jonathan Denton and David Denton; and sister, Corinna Kelly, all of Sanford.

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

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

HEAVEN AMBER MAYNARD

Heaven Amber Maynard, 24, of Sanford, died Monday, August 2, 2021, at Wake Medical Center in Raleigh.

Memorial service was held on Sunday, August 8, 2021, at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

She was born on November 4, 1996, daughter of Deborah McFarland Buchanan and John Marion Maynard.

Surviving is her mother, Deborah McFarland Buchanan and step-father, Wayne Dannheim; father, John Marion Maynard; sisters, Barbara Kallas, Lauren Maynard, and Josie Maynard.

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

FRANCES MARGARET HIATT RITTER

Frances Margaret Hiatt Ritter, 85, of Robbins passed away on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at her home.

The graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 7, 2021, at Smyrna U.M.C. with Rev. Jerome Smith presiding.

She was born in Guilford County on April 28, 1936 to Jesse Clifford and Ruth Marshall Hiatt. She was a member of Smyrna U.M.C. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ray Anderson Ritter, a son, Wendell Harold Ritter, four brothers and one sister.

She is survived by children, Melvin Ray Ritter of Bennett, Lynn Elias Ritter of Robbins, Janet Ritter Kern of Asheboro; sister, Faye Bedell of Old Fort; brothers, Laurie Eugene Hiatt Sr., of Coleridge, David M. Hiatt of Archdale; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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

DARRYL ANTONIO BUIE

Mr. Darryl Antonio Buie, 58, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ANNIE SUE MILLER COLLINS

Annie Sue Miller Collins, 90, of Sanford, formerly of Florida, passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Graveside services will be held in Lakeland, Florida.

She was born in Polk County, Fla. on May 19, 1931, to the late Richard R. and Ida Victoria Jeffries Miller. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse K. Collins; son, Arthur Collins; brother, Alvin (Bubba) Miller; and sister, Rachel M. Hendrix.

She is survived by sons, Gregory M. Collins of Venice, Florida, and Jesse Collins, Jr. of Winter Haven, Florida; daughter, Jerry Lynn Farmer of Sanford; brother, Richard J. Miller of Lakeland, Florida; sisters, Martha Conner, Nancy Page and Carolyn Wilt, all of Lakeland, Florida; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

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

PHYLLIS CHEEK BEAL

Phyllis Cheek Beal, 75, of Staley passed away on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at her home.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Phyllis was born in Randolph County on August 7, 1945, the daughter of Cletus and Ruth Elizabeth Barker Cheek. In addition to her parents, Phyllis is preceded in death by her sister, Dixie Lee Kivett.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Wade Beal; daughter, Chandra B. Lafone; son, Daniel Beal; two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

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

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Beal family.

MICHAEL WAYNE BUCKMAN

Michael Wayne Buckman, 52, of Cameron, died Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at Central Harnett Hospital in Lillington.

The memorial service was held Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 6 p.m. in the chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Rev. R. C. Thomas officiating.

He was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 2, 1969 to the Charles Otho Buckman and late Charlotte Hurt Buckman. He worked as an IT Technician.

Surviving relatives include his father, Charles Otho Buckman of Louisville, Kentucky; his wife, Amy Gaynier Buckman; daughter, Jennifer Buckman of Uticia, N.Y.; sisters, Katherine Shealy and Kimberly Owen, both of Louisville, Kentucky; and one grandchild.

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

DRUCILLA (DOWNEY) ALLRED

Ms. Drucilla Downey Allred, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, August 6, 2021, at the Hock Family Pavilion in Durham.

Knotts Funeral Home will be serving the family.

GERALD ALLEN MCLEAN, SR.

Gerald Allen McLean Sr., 63, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at his residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

DANNY LEE MARION

Danny Lee Marion, 56, of Broadway, died Thursday, August 5, 2021.

The memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021, at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Jerry Parsons officiating.

Danny was born in Lee County on November 12, 1964, son of the late Wade Allen Marion and Callie Buchanan Marion Wilson. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brothers, David Yarbrough and Wade Allen Marion Jr. Surviving is his daughter, Danielle Marion of Broadway; two grandchildren; brothers, Tim Marion and Connie Marion, both of Broadway; step-mother, Patsy Marion of Cameron; and step-siblings, Michelle Brown and Garrett Arnold, both of Sanford.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Smith Funeral Home for funeral expenses.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

ROYCE ALI SMITH

Royce Ali Smith, 37, of West End passed away on Sunday, August 1, 2021, at First Health Hospice House.

Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at West End Cemetery.

SARAH DIANE BLUE

Sarah Diane Blue, 60 of Broadway, passed away on Friday, July 30, 2021, at her sister’s residence.

Services were held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2021, at Cameron Grove A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

PAULO HONORIO MENDOZA RAMIREZ

Paulo Honorio Mendoza Ramirez, 30, of Durham, passed away Monday, July 26, 2021, in Durham.

Services were held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

COY HEADEN JR.

Coy Headen Jr., 76, of Pittsboro, passed away Monday, August 2, 2021, at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, August 7, 2021, at Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church, with burial following in the church cemetery.

CHARLENE DENISE MCLEAN

Charlene Denise McLean, 48, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, August 3, 2021, at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

EARL BRYANT LIPFORD

Earl Bryant Lipford, 73, of High Point, passed away on Monday, August 2, 2021, at his residence.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 8, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford with burial following at Mt. Herman AME Zion Church.

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What is Lee County doing to combat COVID-19?

While COVID-19 cases in Chatham County are on the rise — case counts have doubled in the last week, and are at a level three times what we saw two weeks ago — the situation is even more dire in neighboring Lee County. Lee's total case rate is 57% higher than Chatham's, according to N.C.'s Dept. of Health and Human Services. Lee has fewer deaths (83, compared to Chatham's 89) but a slightly higher death rate, and is one of just a handful of states with "substantial" community spread (the second highest level, behind "critical").

The News + Record reached out to Lee County Health Department Director Heath Cain to get an update. Lee County announced last week that with the recent rise of cases in there, the department would begin providing COVID-19 testing for individuals at the department's clinic this week, located at 112 Hillcrest Dr., from 1-4 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesdays. Lee County residents can register online at <https://leecountync.seamlessdocs.com/f/gcdzvhxslb> or by calling 919-842-5744 to make a testing appointment.

"With the number of COVID-19 positive cases increasing locally, we

'The percent vaccinated in Lee County continues to rise. We have had an uptick in demand concerning the community's interest in being vaccinated. With that said, the more who are vaccinated, the safer and healthier our community will be.'

HEATH CAIN, *Lee County's health director*

want the community to have access to this important tool so they will be aware and mitigate the spread of the virus," Cain said. "We are here to improve the health of our community and testing will aid in helping us achieve that goal."

Cain emphasized the 3 W's, washing your hands, waiting six feet apart and wearing your mask as means to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Here's what else Cain had to say:

Lee County is one of a handful of counties in N.C. with "substantial" spread. What's been the biggest challenge for you and your department in this fight against COVID-19?

I would say the greatest challenge is making sure our community is aware that this virus is highly transmissible and whether you are symptomatic or asymptomatic, you have the means to spread this virus anywhere you go and/or contract it while you are out and about. Following the 3 W's would

help tremendously in our fight against COVID-19. Some choose to be vaccinated while others have not and we understand that. But we all must consider family, friends and coworkers as we work to mitigate this virus.

How has the CDC's shifting advice complicated your work? Have you had to adjust anything within your department, or in your collaboration with local hospitals and physicians' offices?

The guidance has been a challenge but we have modified our responses accordingly and shared all information we are receiving with the local hospital and the physician's offices.

How significant a problem are breakthrough infections in the COVID discussion? How concerned should we be about them?

Around 10-15% of our positive confirmed COVID-19 cases are breakthrough cases. While that number is low, I do not feel it is accu-

rate due to the number of individuals who are vaccinated and are not being tested. The best way to know for sure is to be tested and there are many locations in the county where testing can be provided at no cost. Vaccinated individuals can spread the virus just as easily as the non-vaccinated. While their symptoms are not as severe as the non-vaccinated, they still need to follow the 3 W's which were previously mentioned to protect themselves and others around them.

There's a lot of grim news about the Delta variant...anything you want say about Delta?

It is highly transmissible and according to the State Lab, most of the positive cases we are seeing now as a state is the Delta variant. While the vaccine remains highly effective against the Delta variant, it can still affect the vaccinated, but with milder symptoms. The symptoms we are seeing primarily are loss of taste and/or smell and sinus issues, but there are other symptoms as well.

We're all looking for silver linings...what good, positive news can you tell us?

The percent vaccinated in Lee County continues

to rise. We have had an uptick in demand concerning the community's interest in being vaccinated. With that said, the more who are vaccinated, the safer and healthier our community will be.

The CDC now says counties with "high" or "substantial" virus transmission should mask up indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Do you agree or disagree?

That decision will be left up to the Lee County Board of Commissioners and our Board of Education. I want to see us do everything we can as a county to protect ourselves and each other

The CDC has struggled with its messaging; now it's become clear the CDC is concerned that too many people are convinced that vaccines don't work. The unvaccinated will say that they're told to follow the science, then suggest the science says masks/vaccines can't totally protect you — because the vaccinated can spread COVID. And that the antibodies, if they get COVID, will protect them. Anything you want to add in response to this?

Vaccines mutate and the more it spreads the greater the chance for mutation. With the original virus, testing was done and the science

showed greater than 90% efficacy against the original strain. With the variant, the science is evolving and while it does show us that breakthrough cases are occurring, the affected cases are not as sick as the non-vaccinated so it continues to provide some protection. Concerning the masks, it is a two-way street. Some look at the masks as it isn't going to prevent COVID-19 while others see mask wearing as a method of protecting others as well. The wearing of a mask protects us all and (is) part of the 3 W's.

Any advice about getting tested?

If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, it would be the best thing to do to protect yourself, family, friends and coworkers. If you are positive, you need to follow the guidance we have been sharing with all confirmed positive cases.

When should a vaccinated person wear a mask? Is it safe for vaccinated people to go to restaurants, museums, the movies, a wedding or other large gatherings? Is it safe for the unvaccinated to do same?

Again, I would follow the CDC's recommendations concerning any of these type businesses or events.

NEWS BRIEFS

CCPHD provides updated COVID data

Since May 1, 91% of confirmed COVID cases in Chatham County were diagnosed among those not fully vaccinated, according to the latest data

on various COVID dashboards and the Chatham County Public Health Department.

Since July 14, if you're in Chatham County, you're 7.3 times more likely to test positive for COVID if you're unvaccinated than if you're vaccinated,

the CCPHD told the News + Record. Chatham's case count per 100,000 population has doubled in the past week.

"Cases are rising incredibly quickly around Chatham County and across the state," said Mike Zelek, Chatham County Public Health Department's director. "To keep us from reaching levels we have not seen over the entire pandemic, there are two things that matter most: vax up and mask up. Masks in indoor public spaces to keep people from getting infected and giving COVID to others. Vaccinations to keep people out of the hospital."

In addition:

- From May 1-Aug 2, 91% of confirmed cases in Chatham were among those not fully vaccinated
- From July 14-Aug 2, Chatham residents not fully vaccinated were 7.3 times as likely to test positive for COVID as those who were fully vaccinated
- 9.7% of tests are coming back positive in Chatham (compared to 10.6% in N.C.).

New Dollar General opens in Siler City

SILER CITY — Dollar General's new store at 4165 Old U.S. 421 S. in Siler City is now open.

Dollar General stores are proud to provide area residents with an afford-

able and convenient store location to purchase household essentials including food, cleaning supplies, paper products, over-the-counter medicines, hygiene products, baby items and more through its mission of serving others.

In addition to the national and private branded products customers trust Dollar General to carry, the new Siler City location includes the company's on-trend home décor and an expanded party preparation selection. Normal hours of operation may be found through the Dollar General app.

"At Dollar General, we believe the addition of each new store provides positive economic growth for the communities we proudly serve, and the addition of our new Siler City store highlights our commitment to deliver a pleasant shopping experience that includes great prices on quality products in a convenient location," said Dan Nieser, Dollar General's senior vice president of real estate and store development. "We look forward to welcoming customers to our new store and hope they will enjoy shopping at our new location."

Dollar General plans to create new jobs in the Siler City community as the store is expected to employ approximately six to 10 people, depending on the individual needs of the store.

— CN+R staff reports

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\$62.99
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Double Parachute Nylon
230747

\$789.99
GP Series
Generac's GP6500
249345



\$11.99
Original
Kingsford, 16 lb. original
250214

\$19.99
Fire
2.5 LB. Fire Extinguisher,
235188

\$799.99
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Centurion, 24 gun
243415

\$15.99
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Blake Hogg,
General Manager

Local Spotlight



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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

Contact the Chatham Chamber of Commerce
919-742-3333 | info@ccucc.net

Will you take the journey with us?

CHURCH NEWS

SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

You are invited to Sandy Branch’s annual Homecoming service on Sunday, August 15. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., with the worship service at 11. The message will be brought by our new pastor, Jimmy Brown. Come meet him and his family.

A covered dish luncheon will follow. We hope you will bring a picnic basket filled with your favorite dishes to share as we enjoy a time of fellowship at 715 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek. You can also watch our service live

stream on Facebook Live.

PLEASANT GROVE WESLEYAN CHURCH

We will host our second annual Community Giveaway from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 14, at Pleasant Grove Wesleyan Church. There will be free clothing, household items, games, activities, facepainting, food and more. All will be welcome.

The church is located at 3276 Piney Grove Church Rd., Siler City.

RCC HONORS LIST

Randolph Community College announces 2021 Summer Semester Academic Standing Lists:

PRESIDENT’S LIST, GPA: 4.0

- Ramseur: Kylie Robbins
- Academic Merit List, GPA: 2.0 to 3.50/4.00
- Bennett: Misty Murray
- Franklinville: Jerri Coley, Jamie Hughes
- Liberty: Heidi Hammond, Jonathan

- Houston, Crystal Kennedy Jakson
- Kirkman, Arielle Woods
- Ramseur: Kiersten Brower, Kody Cummings, Jarod Dill, Melanie Garner, Melody Hill, Nayeli Juarez, Alejandro Pacheco
- Siler City: Dustin Bullock, Erika Gil, Litzy Gomez, Parker Kidd, David Stecher
- Snow Camp: Dalton Thompson
- Staley: Cheryl Bowman, Fatima Vera Raya

Pittsboro board pledges support to North Woods neighbors

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners agreed in its regular meeting Monday to assist property owners in Pittsboro’s North Woods neighborhood with their campaign to revive the N.C. Dept. of Transportation’s investigation into potential road alignments for the impending North Chatham Park Way.

Design and construction of the North Chatham Park Way has been hotly contested since planning for the 2.7-mile road accelerated in January. At a public hearing on Jan. 7, NCDOT unveiled “Alternative 6,” an iteration of the road’s trajectory that would run through the North Woods neighborhood — a 200-acre, private community of 17 properties. The four-lane highway is necessary, NCDOT has said, to serve the many thousands of new residents who will inhabit Chatham Park in coming years, and to mitigate traffic issues through downtown Pittsboro. Already, a section of the larger Chatham Park Way has been constructed between U.S. Hwy. 64 and Suttles Road, but North Chatham Park Way would extend the road to U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

Back in June, months-long debate over potential realignment plans was abruptly cut short when NCDOT announced it would move forward with plans to bisect the neighborhood, according to a NCDOT email obtained by the News + Record. The department had previously suggested it might amend the proposed alignment to circumvent the North Woods community.

On Monday, the topic reemerged as the board discussed a request from Chatham Park Investors for the town to approve its small area plan for the Chatham Park North Village. The 2,225-acre community would comprise 11 of 27 sections identified in CPI’s Master Plan of 7,068 acres to be developed over coming decades. The North Village will sit directly adjacent to the North Woods neighborhood.

“The central feature of the small area plan is the North Chatham Park Way, a major divided road that’s planning to run through and destroy my North Woods neighborhood,” said Mark Pavao, a North Woods resident who’s led the community effort to oppose the road’s current trajectory.

To elicit support for their cause, Pavao and the 16 other North Woods

land owners launched a petition in January on Change.org called “Save North Woods Neighborhood.” They implored residents of the greater Pittsboro area to voice their disapproval of the proposed North Chatham Park Way alignment. Within a week, more than 2,300 had signed. As of Tuesday, the number exceeded 3,750.

The missing link, however, was explicit support from Pittsboro’s commissioners, Pavao told the News + Record. In Monday’s meeting, the board and staff publicly pledged to continue the inquiry into NCDOT’s chosen alignment before voting to approve CPI’s small area plan.

“I would like to know the extent of alternatives that were looked at,” Mayor Jim Nass said, suggesting there might still be a compromise that could better serve the North Woods community.

Since the start, Pavao and his neighbors have insisted a 200-yard rightward shift in the North Chatham Park Way’s alignment would minimize impact on North Woods without significantly changing Chatham Park’s development plans. Some commissioners said Monday they had not seen a satisfying rebuttal to that suggestion.

“What would be the repercussions of changing it 200 yards?” Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said, echoing sentiment from other officials. “That’s what I’d like to know, just as the mayor stated.”

Approval of the small area plan would not in itself guarantee the current road alignment comes to fruition, however.

“The Small Area Plan is a conceptual guide for how future growth might occur in the North Village and the information, illustrations and maps provided are not considered as binding,” Pittsboro Planning Director Theresa Thompson wrote in a memo to the board.

“... The Small Area Plan includes conceptual locations of public facilities such as parks, schools, fire stations, proposed transit stop locations and trail heads. The actual locations, design details and required improvements may vary and will be determined by final surveys and development plan approvals.”

The North Chatham Park Way itself falls under NCDOT jurisdiction, though its construction is part of a joint effort including the Town of Pittsboro. If the board was to approve the current small area plan, it might suggest to Chatham Park and NCDOT that Pittsboro’s commissioners support the highway’s path through North Woods and it could set dangerous precedents for future development, Pavao said. He was encouraged, though, by their interest in further investigation.

“The board is interested in understanding the proposed destruction of my North Woods neighborhood,” he told the News +Record. “There was also recognition that what happens with North Chatham Park Way is a harbinger for the future South Chatham Park Way which is projected to affect many more private homeowners.”

The board will address the small area plan request again at its next regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Aug. 23 during which the commissioners may bring the matter to a vote. NCDOT representatives have been invited to attend the meeting and explain their current decision to proceed with a road alignment through North Woods, Town Manager Chris Kennedy said.

The meeting will be held on Zoom. A link will be available on Pittsboro’s website, pittsboro-nc.gov.

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo INTERPLANETARY

ACROSS	50 Morales of “La Bamba”	97 What a dipstick is dipped into	3 “Diary of — Housewife”	44 Med. exam involving a forearm jab	80 Botch it up
1 Flip out	51 Infant	98 Faux — reader	4 Careful reader	45 Sneaky laugh	81 Bond creator Fleming
6 City in Florida	53 Drain cleaner	100 Diner patrons choosing dishes	5 Race joiner	46 Et — (and others, in footnotes)	82 Circle portion
11 Nerve-racking	54 Hiker’s printed guide	101 Danger of atomic weapons	6 Bruin Bobby	47 “Fist City” singer Loretta	87 Nobel-agcy.
20 Rock guitarists, slangily	58 Result of a lucid mind	108 Drink mixer	7 Pigeon calls	48 Safecracker, slangily	90 Most frigid
21 After-bath garments	63 Like scalawags	109 Just slightly	9 Helpful boost	51 Boxer Max	91 Put a knot in
22 What a dipstick is dipped into	65 Prefix with commuting	110 Trembled	10 Oar wood	52 Guthrie of folk	92 Skin protein
23 Rip open eagerly	66 Making haste	111 Victory sign	11 NPR journalist Daniel	55 “Angel” actress Amy	93 Draw upon
25 Budapest native	67 Aid in diagnosing an injured meniscus	113 “Au —” (“So long for now”)	12 Depend on	56 French artist Edouard	94 Venerate
26 Put up with	71 In dreamland	117 Wedding party	13 Cattle home	57 First Hebrew letter	95 Makes good
27 Actor Erwin	74 Dragon killer, say	119 Tolkien’s imaginary world (that hints at this puzzle’s theme)	14 Congest with fluid	59 Set of values	96 Hard work
28 Chocolate syrup brand	75 Some pudding bases		15 Kin of reggae	60 “Would that it were true!”	98 Players of LPs and 45s
29 Bone-dry	79 “Hamilton” duet sung by Burr and Hamilton to their children		16 Prints messily	61 — the bud (forestall)	99 Noah’s boat
30 Je ne — quoi (elusive quality)	83 Literary alias		17 Savoir- —	62 Single out as especially important	101 DEA agents
32 Tools facilitating weapon-launching	84 Big cat’s lair		18 Onetime TWA rival	63 Race pace	102 In — (not yet born)
35 Asset of Hercules and Samson	85 Beet or turnip		19 Gives temporarily	70 Ones	103 Tree that’s a chocolate source
39 Road coating	86 “I don’t give —!”		24 “— -Ho” (“Snow White” song)	71 Appends	104 Mannheim’s river
40 Young miss	88 Olympic runner Sebastian		28 Sheep call	72 Flow slowly	105 Horn sounds
41 Aerobic exercise promotes it	89 Ghosts		31 Church tower	73 Race space	106 Home to St. Teresa
44 Greek region	93 Paul Lynde’s role on “Bewitched”	DOWN	33 Archaic verb ending	76 Secret stash	107 Soft toy bear
49 Work unit, in physics		1 Jetway locale	34 Alliance of the W. Hemisphere	77 Love, to Celine	112 Emmy winner Falco
		2 Plow pullers	35 Clip, as wool	78 Foretellers	114 Bicolor whale
			36 On — firma		115 Possible response to “Good job!”
			37 Is furious		116 Greek consonants
			38 Possesses		118 Greek consonant
			42 Fond du —, Wisconsin		119 Rowdy crowd
			43 Up to, in ads		120 Conducted

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Solution for the puzzle in last week’s edition.

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S	N	I	P	E	S		R	A	P	T	U	R	E		A	G	E	N	T	S



The Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Siler City committed to reducing health disparities in our community by providing free prescriptions to the qualifying low income, uninsured, and underinsured Chatham County residents who meet 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. We operate fully through donations and grants. Every year, the Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy serves approximately 350 clients with chronic health concerns like high blood pressure, diabetes, and mental health disorders.

If you are in need of our pharmacy services, or you would like to donate to the pharmacy, please contact us at 919-663-0177 or ChathamCares@embarqmail.com.

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Bruce McDaniel

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DIRECTOR

Continued from page A1

growth, and the needs of its working poor, in mind. Her arrival expanded the Salvation Army Service Center’s Siler City staff from two to three. Long-time director Jane Wrenn is continuing to oversee the Salvation Army’s emergency financial assistance programs; Donna Smith, who works part-time, will focus on case management and coordination.

“They were strong,” Sommer-Petersen says of Chatham’s Salvation Army, “but they just needed some assistance in becoming stronger.”

But when she settled into her office this spring, what Sommer-Petersen found was an agency “at capacity.” The Salvation Army of Chatham County has been serving dozens of families and hundreds of individuals in crisis situations from its offices at Chatham Trade — a community rehabilitation program and facility off old U.S. Hwy. 421 in Siler City, which also houses West Chatham Food Pantry and Chatham Transit. The Army’s clients are those people who find themselves in need of emergency financial assistance for things like utility bills, rent or rapid rehousing. A growing population, the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of affordable housing in Chatham have contributed to the demands on the agency, and Sommer-Petersen said the needs among the working poor are only multiplying.

The factors that compel residents to call the Salvation Army vary — ranging, she says, “from a job loss, an unexpected medical bill or car repair, abusive relationship issues, or some other type of social change.” There are so many in dire straits in Chatham County that the Salvation Army has developed a waiting list of those needing assistance while the agency helps those it can, and Sommer-Petersen works with her staff and the divisional



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Becky Sommer-Petersen, left, the new director of the Salvation Army of Chatham County Service Center, and long-time staff member Jane Wren (right) pose in the Army’s offices at Chatham Trades in Siler City. Sommer-Petersen says the client base of the agency is ‘at capacity,’ but she’s working to expand the assistance its offers to Chatham’s working poor.

headquarters in Greensboro to expand operational capacity.

Assistance the organization provides is given as part of a goal to avoid the real possibility of homelessness for residents who cannot meet their basic daily needs. Clients become a part of Salvation Army programs like “Pathway of Hope,” which works toward helping them become more financially stable and self-sufficient. Assistance is typically given once every 24 months to avoid recidivism, and the Army’s staff — which has worked primarily remotely during the pandemic — works to collaborate with other community agencies and resources to provide optimal support and results.

“We ask the client to find other resources on their own so that they can feel empowered about helping themselves and to hopefully motivate them,” Sommer-Petersen says. “It is important to have measurable goals so that we can

successfully track any progress or issues.”

She may be new to the agency, but the position certainly isn’t a leap for Sommer-Petersen: she says she knows the Army as a “tried and true” organization, having worked with plenty of Salvation Army staff and volunteers back in Massachusetts. And her heart has always been in mission, outreach and program work, designed — as she headlines her resume — “(t) o leave the world in better shape than I found it.”

So the job is a natural fit. Sommer-Petersen grew up in Winston-Salem but went to college in the northeast: she earned a degree in Drama from Ithaca College and then turned to the ministry, getting a master’s degree in Pastoral Care from Boston College in 1992, followed by a second master’s — this one in Philosophy, Theology and Ethics — from B.C. in 1995. She forged careers in ministry and social services, most

recently leading the Council on Aging in Northfield, Massachusetts, and its Senior Center. In between, she served as a youth pastor and counselor, day care owner/operator and a caregiver support specialist

But she had a desire to get back “home,” where she has an ailing father (in Winston-Salem), a son (in Asheville) and a sister, a niece and a nephew who live not far from Chatham County. So she started keeping an eye on job postings within the state.

“I just came to a time in my life when I realized I wanted to get back to North Carolina,” Sommer-Petersen said. “So when the job became available, I decided to jump on that. I’ve always loved the area, and Chatham County is beautiful.”

Her husband, Rodney, is back in Boston and preparing a move here. He’s just retired from his position as executive director of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries in Boston. A Harvard- and Princeton-trained scholar and author and former pastor, he’s accepted a position as a visiting professor at Duke University.

“He says he sent me off to war,” Sommer-Petersen jokes. “A war on poverty in Chatham County.”

In her first 100 days, she’s focused on implementing changes in protocol within the agency and familiarizing herself with other local agencies and potential collaborating partners, including area churches.

The county’s affordable housing crisis, she says, always seems to be a part of the discussion. She thinks about efforts to develop some kind of shelter in Chatham County or even a facility like the Greensboro Salvation Army’s Center of Hope, which provides housing and food for up to 36 single women, 20 men and 10 families for a 30- to 90-day period. The Greensboro Army’s “Shelter to Success” program also helps provide clients with a housing plan developed to help them move directly into affordable housing as quickly as possible, and then provide up to a year of home-based case

‘We ask the client to find other resources on their own so that they can feel empowered about helping themselves and to hopefully motivate them.’

BECKY SOMMER-PETERSEN, director, the Salvation Army of Chatham County Service Center

management support services after the move to help maintain housing stability.

But for now, Sommer-Petersen is saying “no” new programs as existing programs are shored up. The Salvation Army just wrapped up its annual “Stuff the Bus” school supplies program, done in conjunction with Walmart, in Chatham. She’s thinking ahead to the holiday season and the Salvation Army’s large Angel Tree program and “red kettle” fundraising campaigns, as well as chaplaincy outreach, providing spiritual nourishment to families as well.

“We’ve asked everybody who’s asked for assistance if they want it — giving them an option of having a partner for prayer or a chaplaincy visit,” she said.

“The Salvation Army of Chatham County has always been at the forefront of assisting people in various ways and partnering with organizations like the United Way and the county and the churches,” she said.

She’s also reaching out to local farms and businesses to explore potential partnerships and meeting with and developing the Service Center’s advisory board. She may still be the “new” person, but for Sommer-Petersen, her position is just a continuation of what she’s done, and what she’s seen, throughout her career — meaning that she’s come home in more ways than one.

To reach Sommer-Petersen, email her at Rebecca.Sommer-Petersen@uss.salvation-army.org or call 336-763-6402, ext. 65281.

CORA is a member agency of Chatham County United Way.





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Review Your Ira, 401(K) Beneficiaries

If you’ve had an IRA and a 401(k) for many years, you may occasionally ask yourself some questions: “Am I contributing enough?” “Am I still funding these accounts with the right mix of investments for my goals and risk tolerance?” But here’s one inquiry you might be overlooking: “Have I used the correct beneficiary designations?” And the answer you get is important.

It wouldn’t be surprising if you haven’t thought much about the beneficiary designation — after all, it was just something you once signed, possibly a long time ago. Is it really that big a deal?

It could be. For one thing, what if your family circumstances have changed since you named a beneficiary? If you’ve remarried, you may not want your former spouse to receive your IRA and 401(k) assets or the proceeds of your life insurance policy, for which you also named a beneficiary.

However, upon remarrying, many people do review their estate plans, including their wills, living trusts, durable powers of attorney and health care directives. If you’ve revised these documents, do you have to worry about the old beneficiary designations? You might be surprised to learn that these previous designations can supersede what’s in your updated will and other documents. The end result could be an “accidental” inheritance in which your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone who is no longer in your life.

Furthermore, your retirement plans and insurance policy may not just require a single beneficiary — you may also be asked to name a contingent beneficiary, to whom assets will pass if the primary beneficiary has already died. As you can imagine, the situation could become quite muddled if stepchildren are involved in a remarriage.

To avoid these potential problems, make sure to review the beneficiary designations on all of your accounts at some point — and especially after a significant change in your family situation. If you see something that is outdated or incorrect, contact your retirement account administrator — or your insurance representative, in the case of life insurance — to request a change-of-beneficiary form.

And if you really want to be on the safe side, you may want to enlist a legal professional to help you with this review to make sure the beneficiary designations reflect your current family situation and are consistent with what’s in your estate plans.

In fact, if you’re already working with an experienced estate planning attorney — and you should — you might also pick up some other suggestions for dealing with beneficiaries. Just to name one, it’s generally not a good idea to name minor children as beneficiaries. Because children can’t control the assets until they become adults, a court would likely have to name a guardian — one that you might not have wanted. Instead, you could either name your own custodian to manage the assets designated to the minor or establish a trust for the benefit of the minor, which can distribute the money in several disbursements over a period of years — which is often a good move, since young adults aren’t always the best at managing large lump sums.

If you’re like many people, you have a strong desire to leave something behind. But you’ll want to do it in the right way. So, pay close attention to your beneficiary designations — when you first create them and throughout your life.

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

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Heading west: Bears' Michael Moore chooses basketball over football, switches commitment from Catawba to App. State



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central's senior center Michael Moore (4) shoots a short jumper in his team's 60-59 victory over the Jordan-Matthews Jets on Feb 12. Moore led the team in scoring with 15 points.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — On June 11, the students at Chatham Central High School turned their tassels at the conclusion of the hot, somewhat cramped ceremony inside of the school's gymnasium, signifying their graduation status.

At that moment, then-senior Michael Moore — the school's 6-foot-4 triple threat, an all-conference player in baseball, basketball and football — was slated to continue his decorated athletic career at quarterback for the Catawba Indians' football team in Salisbury this fall.



Now, Moore has other plans. What a difference a summer makes.

In a sudden change of heart, he'll be trading in his cleats for a pair of Air Jordans, officially switching his commitment from playing football at Catawba to joining the basketball team at Appalachian State University as a preferred walk-on. "Since graduation, I've

been getting ready for football because I thought that's what I was going to do," Moore told the News + Record on Sunday. "But I have some pretty good connections and the basketball coach from App ended up calling and we talked a little bit and he gave me a little while to decide, but after a couple of days of talking it over with everybody and thinking about it ... I didn't need to think any longer, I didn't need to wait any longer. I went with it."

Moore, who threw for 6,296 yards and 45 touchdowns in 37 games with the Bears during his four-year high school

See **MOORE**, page B4

When an international door closes, a local one opens

If you have any sort of online or news-related presence, you may have already seen this week's sad headline: the 2020 Summer Olympics are officially over.

Tokyo 2020's closing ceremonies took place on Sunday evening (early Sunday morning in the U.S.), complete with fireworks, flag-bearers and very

little in-person fanfare, marking the end of one of the most unusual installments of the Games we've ever seen.

While it's impossible to recap all 1,080 medals given out over the last two weeks in a column of readable length, here are some notable highlights:

- The U.S. won 39 gold medals in Tokyo, clinching the gold-medal title for the third straight Games and beating out China (38) by a single gold. The U.S. snatched the title on the Games' final day, winning three golds on Sunday to China's zero, including the Americans' final gold in women's volleyball (a 3-0 victory over Brazil).

- The U.S. also took home the most total medals this year with 113 (39 gold, 41 silver, 33 bronze), marking the seventh straight Games that Team USA has claimed the title.

- There were 37 athletes that won multiple gold medals, including seven Americans — Caeleb Dressel (5, swimming), Katie Ledecky (2, swimming), Zach Apple (2, swimming), Robert Finke (2, swimming), Sydney McLaughlin (2, track & field), Athing Mu (2, track & field) and Blake Pieroni (2, swimming).

- Speaking of Dressel, he emerged as Team USA's newest Michael Phelps-esque athlete, vacuuming up five gold medals in five events and setting four records — three Olympic, one World — in the process. He'll have to do it a couple more times to reach Phelps' Mount Olympus-level heights, however, as Phelps accomplished the five-gold feat in three separate Games, including his mind-boggling eight golds won (out of eight events) at Beijing 2008.

- Team USA gymnast — and certified G.O.A.T. — Simone Biles helped

See **DOOR**, page B5

'THIS IS MY HEART' Returning home after 21 years, J-M tabs alum Ryan Johnson to lead football program

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Earlier this summer, Ryan Johnson had no plans to be a head coach by summer's end, much less for his alma mater in Siler City.

Yet, a lot can change in a short amount of time.

With a little over a week to go before the start of the 2021-22 fall football season, Johnson's now preparing to participate in the Jets' Friday night festivities for the first time in 21 years.

On Monday, Jordan-Matthews announced that Johnson, former head coach at East Chapel Hill and member of J-M's Class of 2000, would take over head coaching duties for the varsity football program just 11 days before the team's first regular-season game.

Johnson takes over for Sam Spencer, the Jets' head coach for the past two seasons, who left in what school officials said was a mutually-agreed upon parting of ways just a few weeks ago.

"My previous school was Cummings and (the Jets) actually attended one of our seven-on-seven functions, then it was maybe that same week that the job came open," Johnson told the News + Record on Sunday. "(Siler City) is my home town, so I guess people heard the news that things were open and they kind of encouraged me. ... They were like, 'Man, you need to look into this.'"

"It was one of those things where I had already committed to one school, but it was my home, so I kind of wanted to at least sit down and talk and see what the situation was," Johnson added. "Then, they went through the process and I was their first pick."

Johnson spent the last three seasons as the defensive coordinator and associate head coach for Cummings High School in Burlington, but just as he was set to start his fourth season in the role, Jordan-Matthews Athletic Director Josh Harris offered him the head coaching gig, which he promptly accepted.

In total, Johnson has spent 17 years coaching for a variety of schools, including Graham (defensive line coach), Eastern Guilford (defensive coordinator), Southwest Guilford (defensive coordinator, associate coach), Southern Alamance (defensive coordinator), North Moore (defensive



Ryan Johnson, Jordan-Matthews' newly hired head football coach, poses with a Jets helmet in the coach's office in the school's clubhouse. Johnson was a 2000 graduate of J-M, playing for the football team 21 years ago.

coordinator, associate head coach), East Chapel Hill (head coach) and Cummings (defensive coordinator).

He said his wealth of knowledge — especially on the defensive side of the football — will help him lead the Jets this season.

"People talk about a melting pot, I'm kind of a stew guy," Johnson said. "I take certain things from each place (I've coached) and put my own spin on it. Coaching with some coaches that have won state championships, have championship pedigrees, and then others who were just starting out, you look at the positive and negatives and take out the positive stuff, like leadership, organization ... approaching difficult situations, how to deal with conflict, how to communicate ... and just how to manage a team."

This is Johnson's second stint as

a high school head coach. At East Chapel Hill, his Wildcats posted a 2-20 record in two varsity seasons (2015, 2016) with Johnson at the helm.

However, his time at East Chapel Hill was marred by a lack of player participation, especially in regards to upperclassmen, inspiring the decision for Johnson and the school's administration to drop down to junior varsity for the 2017-18 season, citing player safety — freshman/sophomores going against opposing team's juniors/seniors — as the primary concern.

"In a place like Chapel Hill, kids are interested in other things besides football, so it was kind of challenging to try and get those kids to think about football since it hadn't really been important at

See **JOHNSON**, page B5

The Little League World Series won't be the same this year

Every August, there are constant reminders of the return to school. Whether it was those unfinished summer math packets that lay on the floor of my bedroom in elementary school or today, the ending of my college apartment lease.

It's always a stressful transition period, at least for me.

Every year, though, there's always one thing I treasure about the end of summer: the Little League World Series.

But this time around, something will be missing. For the first time since 1975, it won't feature any international teams because of logistical complications from COVID-19. This will leave a giant hole in the LLWS experience.

I'm by no means a die-hard Little League fan. I didn't play by those rules or in that league growing up, and I certainly don't watch every game. However, when my uncle Andrew, the head coach and cousin Alex, the second baseman, made it to the United States championship for Pearland (Texas) back in 2015, I really became invested.

For many years, I didn't

understand how competitive merely getting to the LLWS was. My cousin's Pearland Little League team had to win numerous tournaments just to make it to Williamsport.

Every year, though, there's moments that make you smile.

Whether it was watching Mo'ne Davis dominate hitters on the mound or seeing a kid blast a home run while ESPN interviews their parents, the heartwarming and inspiring stories are everywhere. Yet, there's always something extra special about watching the international teams.

Seeing the kids from Uganda

quickly become fan favorites in 2012 as they became the first team from Africa to play in the LLWS was unlike anything you can find in sports.

For roughly two weeks, these kids represent a nation, and there's something to be admired about 12- and 13-year-olds traveling thousands of miles together, often not accompanied by their families, for a game they love.

Before each game, the players share their favorite professional ballplayer and almost always, it's someone from their home country. It's heartwarming to see these kids look up to someone who, at one point, was one of them.

In addition, viewers see videos of American and international players sharing meals together and teaching one another about their respective cultures. It seems like a moment that they will both cherish and one that's likely a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Odds are, you'll still find me flipping on ESPN to watch some young sluggers compete for a Little League championship next week.

But it just won't be the same this year.

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MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

THE CLIPBOARD | SEAFORTH HAWKS

With fall sports less than a week away, Seaforth coaches discuss challenges, excitement levels

The opening of Seaforth High School is upon us, which means that the Hawks are closer than ever to suiting up for the first time, donning their sleek crimson and gray and competing as Chatham County’s sixth high school in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference. With the Hawks set to fly onto the scene this fall, the News + Record spoke with three coaches — Terrance Gary (football), P.J. Petrides (tennis) and Giovanni Viana (soccer) — who have played

instrumental parts in the creation of Seaforth’s athletic department and are sure to make noise once sports resume on Aug. 16.

Terrance Gary — a 2004 graduate of Guilford College, where he played football — is no stranger to coaching, having spent the last 13 as a head football coach and defensive coordinator, among other roles with different recreational teams, middle school teams and even a women’s semi-professional team, the Carolina

Phoenix, before making a four-year stop at Northwood as its special teams coordinator and quarterbacks coach, his role this past season.

P.J. Petrides — a 2006 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, where he played tennis under legendary coach Sam Paul — spent his post-grad career in both Oklahoma and Colorado, where tennis was a side activity rather than a career. However, just a few years ago, he moved back to N.C. and took the job as the head coach for

the J.V. boys tennis team at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh before taking the varsity head coaching position at Seaforth.

Giovanni Viana — a 2000 graduate of the University of Miami — has more than 20 years of coaching experience from all over the map, which doesn’t even account for all of the time he put in as a player before making the switch. He’s been an assistant coach in Brazil, where he also played professionally, along with

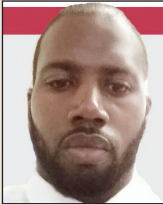
being a head women’s soccer coach at Newbury College and Beaver Country Day High School, as well as the head men’s soccer coach at Brookline High School and assistant coach at Lasell College, all of which took place in Massachusetts. Since then, he’s spent the last seven years as a youth coach with N.C. Football Club (NCFC) before taking over the Seaforth program this off-season.

See **Q&A**, page B3

TERRANCE GARY, HEAD COACH, FOOTBALL

These interviews have been edited and condensed for clarity.

This is your first high school head



Gary

coaching gig. What’s your plan to make sure it’s a successful one?

TERRANCE GARY: To set a standard of what the expectations are. Yesterday, we had a talk — we always talk about this — about effort. We set the bar high on effort and energy. We’re not going to bring any negative energy after practice, whether it’s your attitude or your body language. Effort is 100% from the first time you step a toenail onto the field and when you step off of that field, even when you’re in class, we’re all effort. In this program, nobody’s going to out-effort us. We’re going to win the national championship in effort and energy every single day.

What has this summer been like for you and the rest of the Seaforth athletic staff with trying to build both a football program and athletic department from the ground up?

Full of surprises. When you’re starting things from scratch and you’ve always been in places where you already have the sled there, so you have to maybe get a part for the sled, it’s a lot different. You’ll order a lot of stuff and you’re like, ‘Man, I didn’t know I needed this or that chinstraps didn’t come with helmets.’ We ordered a chute that came yesterday and I’m thinking the whole chute’s going to be put together and I’d just unload it off the truck, but it came in like a million pieces with four pieces of directions. And I’m not handy, so it was a challenge.

You guys started tryouts last week, so how have those been up to this point? What are the participation numbers looking like for this upcoming season?

We’ve got 30-plus kids. The thing about being in this county compared

to other places that I’ve been — I’ve kind of had some experience with it by coaching the women’s (semi-pro) team — is that a lot of people out here, a lot of kids out here don’t have experience with football, so even though you have a 9th grader or a 10th grader, this is like the first time they’ve ever played actual football or put shoulder pads on or buttoned their chinstrap, so you’ve got to teach all of those things too. It’s patience. I’ve done it before with a group that I’ve coached, but it’s got to bring a realization to everybody else that these kids have never stepped on a field. I think out of the 30 kids we have, we have eight or nine that have actually played a football game before.

Coaching is teaching. I don’t know why people try to separate them. You start from the foundation, the fundamentals, you teach you all of that. You look at this year — the victories are going to be different this year. They’re not necessarily going to be on a scoreboard, but it’s going to be that “Little Johnny” has progressed so much within his first year, then seeing “Little Johnny” when he’s in 12th grade and see how much he’s changed and stuff. It’s those victories in a weight room, beating maxes or getting deep enough in a squat. It’s small things, coming together as a family, being a community and seeing everything grow.

One of the largest differences between being a special teams coordinator and being a head coach is that you’re having to manage all aspects of the team rather than one specific unit. How are you preparing yourself to coach offense, defense and special teams this season?

I’m pretty organized when it comes to my football stuff, I think that helps out a lot. It helps having a good staff, too. We have a pretty good staff here, and I’ve got one guy that coached at Northwood, so he knows me, he knows I have some quirks about being organized and everybody else being organized, too. Just like with the student athletes, I set a certain standard

for the coaches, as well. And they have responsibilities, too. I’m not going to micromanage, but if you’re not doing something up to the standard, then I have to say something because that reflects on the whole program. I’m not going to do everything, either, so if certain coaches, if they’re good at something, I’m going to let them do it. It’s better than me trying to do everything and stressing myself out even more.

I kind of like that stuff, the logistics and trying to be the most efficient at practice and seeing where we started from day one and the first practice over the summer to where we’re getting at now. The first couple practices, people out here really don’t know football, but summer is a very important time, so just seeing the progress from that first day that we actually had an official practice until that last game, just to see how much we can build with defense, offense and techniques. Man, I don’t know, I just love that stuff.

If there’s one or two things you’d want incoming athletes to know about you and your coaching style, what would they be?

I’m not as mean as I look. I’m a pretty nice guy. I don’t talk a lot, but I’m pretty easy to get along with as long as you’re doing what you need to do. Incoming athletes need to know that I’m going to have a high standard for them, as well as myself, so they might not have that standard for themselves, but I’m still going to hold them up to that standard. A lot of people can do better than what they think, it’s all about your mindset.

You’re not necessarily in the business of making predictions, but if you had to project how this season’s going to go, what would you say?

It’s going to go well. I mean, we’re not going to win the state championship, obviously, since we’re J.V., but this year, we’re laying that brick in the foundation. We want that to be a solid brick, we don’t want a hollow brick to build on top of. We talked yesterday

about how that was the third practice in the history of the school and when they’re old and when their kids and grandkids go here, they want to be able to say that they were a good start to this program, they’ll be able to wear their Seaforth stuff with pride.

What does it mean to you that you’re the first football coach ever at Seaforth?

It’s very humbling, but also, it’s hard to put into words, but I get to put my footprint on it without following behind somebody else. It’s also kind of like a catch-22, though, because if the person in front of me wasn’t good, then I would have higher expectations of myself to be better than that person, but if the person’s great, like Bear Bryant or somebody, then I’d have to follow behind Bear Bryant. But right now, it’s just me and I’m going to set the bar really high. And when I get too old to be able to walk around or whatever, hopefully I have somebody underneath me that’ll be ready to take over and keep that same standard, so that when I’m 89, I can come back and stand on the sideline and do something.

What are you looking forward to most about the season starting in just a couple of weeks?

Just football in general. I didn’t find out that I got the job until pretty late, so I was late getting started and getting staff together and all of that. Anybody that knows me knows that I’m football 24/7. My wife would tell you that I’ve got little pieces of paper with football stuff on it all over the house and she’ll find it when we clean up. I just love everything about football, man. I really love practice, almost more than the game. Putting all of that stuff together, the chess match between the coaches, preparing the kids and finding out what we do best, what we don’t do that well and trying to get better at it than the other team, every freakin’ minute thing about football. Analytics, everything, just all of that stuff that comes out on Thursday on Friday nights. I love it.

P.J. PETRIDES, HEAD COACH, MEN’S & WOMEN’S TENNIS

With all of the chaos of starting an athletic department from scratch, what has this summer been like for you and the tennis program as a whole?



Petrides

P.J. PETRIDES: It’s been a challenge because we can’t just start a workout and just wing it and just go with the flow. We really have to have a game plan from every workout to every practice to every match because we’re dealing with just freshmen and sophomores here, some who are just beginning the game and some who may be intermediate but not super advanced yet. I know that I’m going to have some time with these ladies to develop them, but the biggest thing has been to taper expectations for everybody. I don’t want people to think we’re going to come in and just start blowing everybody off the court. We’re going to have a lot of bumps and bruises along the way and it’s just important to really have a game plan so that we can get through some of these tough days I’m sure we’re going to have coming up.

We’re jumping into varsity this year and we’ve got two scrimmages starting this week, then on the 16th, we open at Northwood, just right away. Last week we had to postpone tryouts because of the rain, so we only got really one day of tryouts on Wednesday, and then we had a full practice Thursday and postponed Friday, so it was like, “All right, we’re going right into the fire here.” But that’s been the thing, I’ve been talking to the girl’s parents like, “Hey, I’m super happy y’all are positive here and it’s fantastic for us. Please keep that momentum going, even when there are some bad times,” so that’s the thing is we’re trying to get going

and get our expectations going.

What has the interest level been in tennis so far this summer among incoming students?

Pretty good. The summer workouts were optional. I offered different start times to try to make sure some people could come or not, make sure schedules would work. I would say, over the summer, we had anywhere from 12 to 15 players come out and have a workout. At tryouts this week, we had a total of 14. We’re going to keep 12 total, which I think is a pretty solid number for tennis and that’ll be good for everybody for practices, too. I was impressed. I’ve heard soccer has gotten great numbers for tryouts, too, and volleyball, so I’m very glad that these kids are coming out and wanting to participate.

You mentioned that there will undoubtedly be “bumps and bruises” along the way, but what will be some of the keys to fielding a competitive team of underclassmen at the varsity level this year?

I think a lot of ways for us that we’re going to be able to have an edge is each match that we’re going to go into, these girls are going to have a game plan. I’m going to — and that’s the beauty of my background and me having seen 25 years worth of experience and seeing all different kinds of tennis players along the way, from the good and the bad — I’m going to be able to know within the first 10 to 15 minutes or so where the opponent’s weaknesses are. I’m going to be able to go up to our player-in-coaching and give them a kind of game plan and say, “Hey, if you follow this path, if you continue to hit it to her backhand two times in a row, you’re going to get her to make a short ball or a mistake soon.” And that’s where we’re going to take ad-

vantage. So I think our edge this year is going to be to out-think and outwork the other players because we are going to be going up against older, bigger, stronger players. So we have to come up with ways that we’re going to compete and I think just being organized and having a solid game plan in the match is going to be our best chance to try to get some points on the board.

If there’s one or two things you’d want incoming athletes to know about you and your coaching style, what would they be?

My coaching style is that I’m going to give you what you’re going to give out with me. I don’t set an expectation that you have to meet or else I don’t want you on my court. Our match practice times are from 5:30 to 7:00. During that period, we have our drills, we have our things that we’re going to do to get better. I want you to buy in and participate. If you don’t, then I’m going to notice, and you will be adjusted accordingly in the roster. But my hope, my hope is to provide as much of a positive experience in practice and my coaching during our matches, I want that to be encouraging to our players, so that they want to continue to be competitive and try to win. I would just say that my style is going to be a positive reinforcement on the stakes and definitely encouragement to continue to work hard because that’s how we’re going to get better over the season is just getting after it.

Last season, with all of the sports taking place in the spring semester, the women’s tennis season was hot, rainy and sometimes just flat-out miserable. How are you feeling now that things are back on schedule and you won’t have to necessarily battle the weather on a regular basis?

I’m very glad that we don’t have to deal with, “Well, is it over 90 degrees

humidity today? OK, I’ve got to cancel practice.” I’d much rather look out in the sky and say “Oh, well there’s some rain, so we’ve got to cancel.” From that standpoint, it’s a lot easier to communicate with the players. But there’s an extra level of hope this season, in addition to being at a new school, that maybe, if we continue to do everything right — and comply with all of the policies, whatever our school policy says and the county policies say — if we continue to do everything right, just maybe we’ll have a good season and not have to be subject to cancellations or postponements. There’s an additional sense of hope there for a lot of our players and for myself, too, in addition to being at a new school and new team. It’s more of a jinx thing, like if I say it out loud, I don’t really want it to blow back up in my face, but that’s kind of where I’m at. We’re hoping and definitely crossing our fingers that we’re going to be good to go this season.

Now that you’ve put in the work — and the players have put in a lot of the work, too — what’s your excitement level for the season to start?

Through the roof. Absolutely through the roof. To quote a fellow Tar Heel alum, “The ceiling is the roof” for us. And I cannot wait to get started. I feel like every time Coach Jason Amy goes on vacation, I just call him nonstop, like “Coach, I’m sorry, I just want to make sure that this form is good to go,” because I don’t want anything to stop me from starting the season or any of my players, it’s just been such a long process this summer to get to this point. I’m so glad we’ve gotten done with our first week of practice and now we can really start focusing on these matches coming up and, hopefully, a really fun season for everybody.

Q&A

Continued from page B2

You’ve coached seemingly all over the place, from Brazil to Boston, so what have those experiences taught you that’s going to help you lead this program at Seaforth?

GIOVANNI VIANA: I think the biggest thing I have learned is that I’ve learned different ways to build relationships with different personalities. I think that the great coaches, they get to know their players well and they learn what motivates them. Different players have different motivations. For some, it’s all about winning, some it’s about camaraderie, some it’s about praise, it’s all different. And learning the little things that makes each kid perform at the highest level or that makes each kid feel special in a certain way and build those deep relationships with them, I think that is the biggest thing I have learned throughout my journey. I think when you’re a young coach and you start out, you have all these grandiose ideas and you kind of want to impose those ideas on kids , but now I’m much more about getting buy-in from the group. I’ve become more of a player’s coach in my older age, where I try to include them as much as possible, make them feel part of the project, get to know what makes them tick and hopefully find positive ways to get the best out of them.

Have you ever been in a situation like Seaforth, where you kind of had to build a program from the ground up? How does it compare?

I’ve been on a program that was borderline on probation for not being able to field a squad. When I took over Newbury College’s women’s team, they had five returning players. The coach had just done a poor job with recruiting. Imagine a college program with five returning players. The coach had kind of let their whole recruiting thing go and their previous class was slim and then there was some turmoil on the team with personalities and a bunch of kids quit, so when I took over the job, it was like, “Oh my god, we have five kids.” They couldn’t get together for the spring season, which is a violation of the conference rules at the time, they weren’t able to field the team for the spring season, so I came in and was able to go out and recruit 13 players and fielded a team that was mostly freshmen for my first season there and we made it all the

way to the quarterfinals with a class of all freshmen, so that was probably the most challenging situation that I had. We lost on a P.K. shootout. We had a couple breakaways there that had my striker been a little bit more technical, we could have walked away and gone to the semis, so that was a program that I literally built from scratch. At Beaver Country Day School, they had like one win in five years, it was a private school that I coached in Massachusetts, too, and, again, we went to the conference playoff my first season there and were able to get six wins, but I think the Newbury College one, where you’re coming in and you have five returning players and you have to recruit like a maniac in the spring season, that was probably my best hocus-pocus job.

What has the soccer program been up to this summer as part of the school’s first offseason?

Coach Jason Amy said he wanted to get some more training in, but the challenge was that most of the kids were on vacation, so I kind of had a mixed group. One of the days in June, I had 13 kids out there, boys and girls. Most of the soccer junkies came out, the high-level club kids came out. We had three trainings a week through the whole month of June and then in July, we had the two dead periods where were only able to train one week. I kind of went through basics, just to see where these kids are at. With these kids — even the club kids, where there’s so many different levels of coaching experience at clubs — you never really know what they know or don’t know, so I kind of went through the basics of defending, basics of attacking, basics of possession, just the basic things in a game to see what they understood, terminology and stuff like that. Since doing that, I’ve been putting together some documents to teach them. I just saw that there was a lot of varying knowledge on the team of who understood the basics of the game, even though they knew how to play, they kind of didn’t understand a lot of things that are important from a classroom standpoint to understand and be able to play the game positionally. There’s a lot of work to be done there, but we tried to address a little bit of everything and that’s been the approach, now, in the offseason, getting ready for Chapter B. We started with defending, then we’re working on team possession, then we’re going to work on offense and we’re going to train set pieces, then test some formations at these three scrimmages we have coming up.

With this being a brand new program, what are your expectations for this upcoming season?

That we compete. When you first think about it, like, “Wow, I’m going to have 14- and 15-year-olds playing against 17- and 18-year-olds,” so you know that the speed of the game is going to be faster. These older boys are going to be more physical, they’re going to run faster, so you know you’re not going to have a lot of time on the ball, so I’m like, “OK, if we can move the ball quickly, if we cannot be static, we’re going to be able to compete if we can be solid defensively.” My whole point right now is just trying to compete and still develop. I don’t want to focus on results. I know it’s cliché to say it’s not about the results, but it’s really not, it’s about building for the future, because you have freshmen and one sophomore going to play varsity against teams that have been together, kids that have been together for a long time, coaches that have been there, so it’s going to be a real challenge. It’s about making sacrifices, maybe playing the positions you don’t like, but that you’re good at, to help the team. Just compete. I want them to compete. I don’t want to sit down and defend for 90 minutes, I want to try to play a game. But my expectations are that we’re able to compete, that I can teach them enough, based on my experience — I’ve already talked to a lot of the boys and they’re picking it up like sponges — and just teach them enough so that we can we can be competitive.

If there’s one or two things that incoming students — especially student-athletes interested in soccer — should know about you and your coaching style, what are they?

I’m a player’s coach. I seek the players input, I want them to be a part of the process, I involve them in the decision-making process. I explain everything I do, I don’t dictate to the kids. A lot of times, kids will have a coach that tells them XYZ and then I’ll call them and I’ll tell them ABC and they’ll be like, “Well Coach, my so-and-so coach said this,” and I’ll sit down with them and explain why there’s not one right way to play soccer. There’s multiple ways and I try to explain to them why I think my way’s best and then, hopefully, they can buy into that. They’re going to learn things from me that they haven’t learned from any other coach and it’s hard to say that without trying to sound grandiose — I’m a coach that’s still learning every day, I’m always seeking out new knowledge — but I just think that there are a lot of coaches out there

that just have never been at a high level, have never coached a high level and don’t really understand some of the intricacies of the game. There’s all these intricacies of who you are in the moment on the field and if you don’t know that, you can’t play collectively, so right off the bat, I see, “OK, there’s a lot of knowledge that need to impart on these kids.” I think that a lot of coaches just focus on formations and the basics of the game, but not the educational part of the game. It’s really important for players to know what their roles are on the field because your role dictates what your responsibility is at a given moment. There’s a lot of learning to be done and I think that’s one thing I’ve found in my 20-plus years coaching in America, especially, is that a lot of kids will get formation and they’ll get basic roles and duties of the positions, but they’re not really taught the overall responsibilities beyond their unique positions. I’m a very educational coach.

Now that the program has spent the summer working, what’s your excitement level for the season to start?

I’m beyond excited. I just want to get there and see. I think these scrimmages that we have coming up, this Jambo-ree on Aug. 14, is going to tell me a lot, because I know club soccer really well in North Carolina. I’ve been coaching North Carolina Football Club for seven years at all levels, so I get it. I know NCFC is the big club, I know that our kids are usually more talented than the other teams and I know the other teams are usually more physical. In my seven years with NCFC, most of the games I lost, I lost because the other team are just more physical, more aggressive and our kids weren’t, but we always dominated possession, we always played better, we always played soccer, we didn’t play this direct long-ball that a lot of people play. My excitement level, based on the talent, the ability of this core of 12-13 players that have played high-level soccer is giddy. It’s just now pulling it all together, just kind of seeing if the high school level correlates to the club level. I’m pumped up about my team, I just kind of have that curiosity of what am I going to face? How does it look out there? Once I go through this first season and see what our opponents look like, then I’m going to be in a much better position, not only for when I coach the girls in spring, but to tweak for next season for the boys. It’s all excitement right now. It’s kind of like, let’s get there, let’s see what it looks like, let’s get an idea and just start playing.

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This (and next) week's schedules

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

High. School. Sports. Are. BACK.

Even though things ran long this past school year, with a few different sports going until late June, it still feels like it's been way too long without them. As of now, there aren't any COVID-19 restrictions this fall, such as players having to wear face coverings during games or limited fan capacities. So it looks like we're getting set for what should be a normal high school sports season — something we've all been waiting to say for awhile.

Next week, seven fall sports begin competition: cheerleading, cross country, football, golf (women's), soccer (men's), tennis (women's) and volleyball. This week, there are a few exhibition scrimmages in some of those sports, but real contests begin next Monday, Aug. 16. There may not be any results to pair with these schedules just yet, but there will be soon enough.

For the first time this season — here are this (and next) week's schedules:

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, August 11
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. Asheboro, 6

p.m. (SCRIMMAGE)
Soccer: Northwood men vs. Union Pines, 6:30 p.m. (SCRIMMAGE)

Thursday, August 12
Tennis: Seaforth women vs. Carrboro, 4:30 p.m. (SCRIMMAGE)

Friday, August 13
Football: Northwood, Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central at Jack Shaner Jamboree (hosted by Northwood), 6 p.m. (SCRIMMAGES)
Football: Seaforth at Cary Jamboree (hosted by Cary High School), 6 p.m. (SCRIMMAGE)
Soccer: Seaforth men at Husky Jamboree (hosted by Heritage High School), time TBA (SCRIMMAGE)

Saturday, August 14
Tennis: Chatham Central women vs. Chatham Charter, 9 a.m. (SCRIMMAGE)
Volleyball: Northwood at Lee Senior Jamboree (hosted by Lee County), 9:30 a.m. (SCRIMMAGE)
Soccer: Woods Charter men at Granville Central, time TBA (SCRIMMAGE)

NEXT WEEK

Monday, August 16
Tennis: Northwood women vs. Seaforth, 4 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter men at Eno River Academy, 5 p.m.
Volleyball: Seaforth vs.

Southern Wake, 5 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men vs. Seaforth, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, August 17
Golf: Chatham Central women vs. North Rowan (played at Corbin Hills), 4 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women vs. Union Pines, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Northwood women vs. Chapel Hill, 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women at North Moore, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Jordan-Matthews women at Eastern Randolph, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Woods Charter women vs. Eno River Academy, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, August 18
Tennis: Chatham Charter women at Union Pines, 4 p.m.
Cross Country: Jordan-Matthews at Southwestern Randolph, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews at Southwestern Randolph, 4:30 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter men vs. N.C. Leadership Academy, 5 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Central women at Lee County, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women at South Davidson, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Seaforth women vs. Northwood, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men at Carrboro, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 19
Tennis: Chatham Charter women at North Moore, 4 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Central women vs. Vandalia Christian, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women vs. Eno River Academy, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Northwood women vs. Lee County, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Woods Charter women vs. Research Triangle, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Northwood, 6:45 p.m.

Friday, August 20
Cheerleading: Seaforth vs. Northwood, 6:30 p.m.
Cheerleading: Northwood vs. Lee County, 7 p.m.
Football: Northwood vs. Lee County, 7 p.m.
Football: Chatham Central at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. Southwestern Randolph, 7:30 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter men vs. Research Triangle, time TBA

Saturday, August 21
Volleyball: Northwood women at East Chapel Hill, 10 a.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women at Cornerstone, 1 p.m.

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnc.org or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

MOORE

Continued from page B1

career, according to Max-Preps — and played in the Blue-Grey All-American Game at AT&T Stadium in Dallas in May — has long pictured himself putting on shoulder pads in college.

But when a school like Appalachian State comes calling, it's hard to say no.

"I've always loved basketball, but I always thought that football was my best chance to go bigger, but obviously not," Moore said. "A bigger school is always a bigger stage and that's what I've always wanted, so that's what I went with. ... I like the fact that maybe I can grow into a better player and that can set me up for my future."

He started the summer training for football, but as his commitment changed, so did his workout routine.

"Well, I stopped throwing a football," Moore said with a laugh. "I started shooting, getting in the gym wherever I could, just trying to get a little bigger and trying to get in shape because I don't want to get down there and be huffing-and-puffing after

a suicide."

With him switching his commitment so late in the summer — having received the call from Mountaineers Head Coach Dustin Kearns in late June — he was unable to participate in the team's summer workout program. But Moore plans to get to work once he arrives in Boone on Thursday, Aug. 12, which also doubles as his birthday.

He's joining a team at App. State (17-12) that made its first NCAA Tournament appearance in 21 years last season, losing a close game, 54-53, to Norfolk State in the First Four as its 19-point comeback came up just short at the buzzer.

The Mountaineers are returning 12 of its 15 players from last season, including five of its top six scorers, possibly putting them in good position for another run in March.

Having not gone through practices or workouts, however, it's unclear what Moore's exact role will be during his first year, but he said he'll likely play shooting guard and hopes to contribute to the team in any way he can.

"At the end of the day, I can dribble, run, jump and

shoot; I can score at all three levels," Moore said. "I feel like whatever Coach Kerns calls on me to do or any way I can help, I think that I can do that."

This upcoming season, as part of the team's non-conference schedule, the Mountaineers will play both North Carolina in the Dean E. Smith Center (December 21) and Duke at Cameron Indoor Stadium (date TBA).

For Moore — and many kids that grow up near Tobacco Road — playing at the state's two most iconic basketball arenas is a pinchable-worthy dream.

"It definitely hasn't (sunk in)," Moore said. "I was a big Carolina fan growing up, so ... that's stuff that you want to happen, you dream to happen, but deep down you don't know if it's really possible to happen. But it's a reality now. I can't wait to get ready for those, they're going to be a lot of fun."

And despite his secured spot on the Mountaineers' men's basketball roster, Moore hasn't ruled out the possibility of being a dual-sport athlete in college. He's considered walking onto the football team, too.

"There's definitely a possibility," Moore said. "I could easily get a tryout in

the spring to get on there and see what happens. I don't know if I will, but I'll wait and see how basketball goes. ... I just can't wait to get started, man. I'm so excited, I can't even explain it to you."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnc.org or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

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August 12th through August 18th

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- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly](#) at 3:00 PM

Friday, August 13th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City)

Monday, August 16th

- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM

Tuesday, August 17th

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

Wednesday, August 18th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Chair Yoga with Liz](#) at 10:00 AM

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Mason Point Horse Trail opens



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Mason Point Horse Trail celebrated its grand opening with the Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association Planning team July 31. The group started work on this trail about five years ago. To access the trail, you must have a valid Game Land License if you are 16 or older. Go to <https://www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Hunting-Fishing-Trapping-Licenses> to purchase. Riders must be able to present a current negative Coggins Test report for each horse.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

These riders were among the first to ride Mason Point Trail.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Amanda Suchanek and her horse, Buddy, reside in Chatham County. Buddy was born and bred in Kentucky and won a turf race there in 2016. These days, Buddy has a leisurely life and Suchanek volunteers on trail work days.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chris Dodd of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission discussed the timeline of the project, which began in 1963, the date Jordan Lake was authorized to begin. Listening were Dr. Stephanie Freese, Leslie Kennedy and Barb Oslund.

DOOR

Continued from page B1

continue the conversation surrounding athletes' mental health after bowing out of all but one of her individual events (a bronze-medal win in the women's balance beam), following in the footsteps of Japan's Naomi Osaka, who spearheaded the discussion at both the French Open and Wimbledon earlier this year.

- American Allyson Felix won a gold medal in the women's 4x400 meter final, accounting for her 11th Olympic gold, surpassing Carl Lewis for the most track & field gold medals by a U.S. athlete.

- As rocky as things seemed pre-Olympics, Team USA Basketball swept the competition

as the men, women and 3x3 women all won gold medals at Tokyo 2020, with Latvia being the only other nation to win a basketball gold (in the men's 3x3, which the U.S. didn't qualify for).

All of those moments happened in front of the smallest at-home audience from the U.S. since Seoul 1988, with NBCUniversal, the Olympics' lone television host, announcing over the weekend that the Games pulled in an average of 15.5 million viewers per night.

There are a couple of possible contributors to the less-than-stellar ratings, including (1) NBC's confusing coverage that spanned a wide number of channels and streaming platforms, making it hard for the average viewer to find the sports they wanted to

watch, and (2) the 13-hour time difference between New York and Tokyo, making live events tough to catch.

The lack of in-person spectators — they were banned from attending the Games after a spike in COVID-19 cases led to a state of emergency in Tokyo — also factored into this Olympics' unusual flavor.

Nevertheless, it's always sad to see another Olympics come and go, knowing we'll have to wait another three years to see skateboarding and synchronized swimming — two very similar events — together again in Paris 2024.

However, I'm sure you've heard the very popular saying — which I most definitely didn't make up while writing this — that when an international door closes, a local one

opens.

While the Olympics came to an end on Sunday, it won't be long before we get our sports fix once again.

On top of the Little League World Series coming up, NBA Summer League ongoing and plenty of MLB action every day, the NCHSAA fall sports season begins next Monday. It's the day we've all been waiting for.

Chatham Central, Chatham Charter, Jordan-Matthews, Northwood, Seaforth and Woods Charter are all in action next week, meaning we'll soon get a look at the new facilities at Seaforth, the always exciting men's soccer program at J-M and the talented cross country team at Northwood, among many, many others.

Despite the athletics-induced

coma that we all fell into this past winter/spring with every sport being crammed into a few-month span, I'm officially ready to do it again. A month and a half off is just a little too long.

So whether you're a Bear, Knight, Jet, Charger, Hawk or Wolf, it's time to turn off NBC, set down your remote that's suffered plenty of wear-and-tear from switching back and forth from water polo to badminton and head out to your local high school to cheer on and support the student-athletes that have worked so hard this summer to get ready for fall.

I promise it's worth it.

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

JOHNSON

Continued from page B1

all there," Johnson said. "We had football events, we made sure that we attended other functions, both sports events but also a lot of the kids in that area are involved in things like chorus or drama, so we made sure we were in attendance in those types of areas to try and get interest."

The Jets are no stranger to smaller rosters.

Last season, J-M had just 27 players on its roster by season's end, many of whom had sustained injuries by the team's final game out of the necessity to play increased snaps on both sides of the ball.

Academic ineligibility — fueled in part by remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic — wiped out over half of its projected roster, leaving the Jets with major holes when it came time for games to start.

Johnson and his coaching staff are already working on increasing participation.

So far, so good.

"We counted on Saturday and we have 35 (players) right now and then a bunch of kids that haven't been coming, but I've talked to some



Ryan Johnson, J-M's newly hired head football coach, speaks to a player on the sideline during a Cummings High School football game. Johnson spent three seasons as the defensive coordinator for the Cavaliers from 2018-2021, just a small fraction of his 17 years of coaching experience.

parents," Johnson said. "We can probably get about 10 or 15 more that are interested to show up this week. The magic number is 40. If we can get to 40, our plan will be to implement two programs, varsity and J.V."

One of the biggest challenges for Johnson, though, hasn't been the lack of interest, but rather a lack of time.

He arrived at J-M last Thursday, a scant 15 days before the Jets' first contest on Aug. 20. That's not a lot of time to get acquainted with a

team, establish a culture and get settled in before the season starts.

"It kind of worries me a little bit," Johnson said with a laugh. "You want to get everything done, but there's only so many hours in the day and your brain keeps turning and turning to make sure you get everything done because you want to do right by these kids in the program."

Johnson said he's been "blessed" to have a communicative coaching staff that's chosen to stay on with him that have led workouts, made sure the

players stayed in shape and prepared them for the season throughout this offseason. He said he's been in meeting after meeting since he took the job, just trying to get himself up to speed.

His return to Siler City, though sudden and unexpected, acts as a great opportunity not only for Johnson to bounce back from his stint at East Chapel Hill, but also bring the Jets back from their struggles in a brand new conference, the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A.

Those struggles have run deep.

In two years under Spencer, the Jets posted a 2-16 record, including an 0-7 season this past spring.

Taking it back further, the Jets haven't had a winning season since 2011, when a 7-6 campaign saw a first-round upset win over Randleman in the post-season before a lopsided second-round exit.

"Our motto this year is 'Heart, Pride, Discipline,' so we've talked a lot about heart this past week," Johnson said. "I'm old school, so I think practice should be harder than the game. So really putting them in situations where they have to lean on each other, they have to fight. It's all about that heart piece, their commitment.

We're putting you through tough situations now in practice, so when Friday night comes, it's easier. And they've stepped up to the challenge."

It was 21 years ago when Johnson last laced up a pair of cleats for the Jets.

During his time at J-M, Johnson was a three-time all-conference offensive and defensive lineman and was even nominated to play in the N.C.-S.C. Shrine Bowl his senior year.

He'd go on to play football at Elon University, a Division I FCS program, for four years before graduating and playing a year of professional arena football for the Greensboro Revolution of the now-defunct National Indoor Football League.

"My coaches pushed me and I'm always thankful for them, because without them I wouldn't be where I am today," Johnson said. "(Those that play) in college are a small percentage, so I was lucky enough and blessed enough to do that, but I don't think I could've done it without my coaches."

Now, he'll be on the sideline in a different role, but his passion remains the same.

"This is not a stepping stone job for me, this is my heart," Johnson said. "Blood, sweat and tears.

You talk about pride, those guys that played before them for the Jets, I was one of those guys."

Even though it's been two decades, the memories of his career at J-M keep flooding back. And his coaching staff acts as one of his biggest reminders.

"Coach (Trazon) Mason (linebackers coach), who I retained on my staff, actually coached me, so one of the coaches that coached me is on my staff, so that's crazy," Johnson said, chuckling. "I walk into the locker room and onto the field and practice field and a lot of things have changed, but a lot of things have stayed the same."

"In 17 years, I've given back to other communities, but there's something special about giving back to your own community, where you grew up," Johnson added. "You can go to McDonald's and Burger King and the stores are still open 21 years later, where you used to hang out, and on the streets you used to ride down bumping loud music, kids are still doing the same thing today. They're just great memories."

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

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On July 28, Erica Leigh Willard, 36, of 2059 Sanders Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady on a warrant for another jurisdiction and failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on August 23.

On July 28, Carlos Junior Mendoza, 24, of 2389 Bear Creek Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy David Nixon for possession of methamphetamine, possession with intent to sell/deliver marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and violation of pretrial release. He was issued a \$30,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 2.

On July 29, Erica Leigh Wil-

lard, 36, of 2059 Sanders Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for trafficking opium/heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and felony possession of a schedule II controlled substance. She was issued a \$200,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 2.

On July 29, Samuel Alan Baggett, 29, of 1820 James Street, Durham, was arrested by Deputy John Beach for domestic violence protective order violation. He was issued a written promise to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on August 26.

On July 29, Jenna Alyss Andrews, 28, of 7892 Siler City Glendon Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Investigator

Chris Massey for failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 22.

On August 2, Valeriana Fayer, 46, of 1315 Hodge Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued a \$4,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on August 24.

On August 3, Ryan Joseph Quinn, 40, of 295 McDougal Street, Cameron, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on August 20.

On August 3, Phillip Andrew Jones Jr., 40, of 255 Culberson Drive, Siler City, was arrest-

ed by Deputy Rami Amer for obtaining property by false pretense. He was issued a written promise to appear and is scheduled to appear in Rowan County District Court in Salisbury on September 1.

On August 3, Breannah Williams, 20, of 797 John Horton Road, Apex, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for abuse of a disabled/elderly person inflicting serious injury and exploitation of a disabled/elderly person's trust. She was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on August 13.

On August 3, Kama Tripp Williams, 43, of 297 John Horton Road, Apex, was arrested by Cpl. Michael Cox for abuse of a disabled/elderly person inflicting serious injury and exploitation of a disabled/elderly person's trust. She was issued a written promise to

appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on August 18.

On August 4, James Burns, 57, of 100 Piney Bluff, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for communicating threats, injury to personal property, assault on a female and assault by pointing a gun. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 24.

On August 4, Cathy Falls Jenkins, 51, of 100 Piney Bluff, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for communicating threats, simple assault and assault by pointing a gun. She was held on a 48 hours domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 24.

A pesky summer cold, or breakthrough COVID-19? CN+R's Kim Hawks finds out.

BY KIM HAWKS
News + Record Staff

Earlier this week, I started feeling sluggish with cold-like symptoms. I brushed it off as a "summer cold."

After all, I had my required two jabs of Moderna last March and April. Then it hit me — my symptoms sounded a little like breakthrough COVID-19.

As a photographer for the Chatham News + Record, I'm out and about the county taking photos for various Chatham-centric assignments. I wear a mask when in public places, especially indoors. Still, self-doubt began to creep in.

Shortly after, I called a friend and told her I was going to get a COVID-19 test and that I couldn't see her until I knew my health status for sure. Then, I canceled another engagement. I realized I would never forgive myself if I unknowingly infected my friends or family with COVID-19. I self-quarantined. I learned quickly isolation



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Cynthia Hargett, family nurse practitioner at Pittsboro Urgent Care.

is not much fun.

I needed to get tested. My first approach was to go to the Walgreens COVID-19 website and sign up at one of their locations for a COVID shot. They give an option of three different choices: a Rapid Diagnostic Test (results in 20-30 mins), a Diagnostic Lab Test

(result time varies) and a Rapid Antigen test (results in as little as an hour). I searched Walgreens from Siler City to Pittsboro, to Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Durham, Cary, Raleigh and beyond.

I finally got an appointment in Durham for service two days from then for the Diagnostic

Lab Test. In general, the only open options were a Diagnostic Test, "result times vary." This reminded me of last January, when pre-vaccination, I'd been looking day after day for an opening for a COVID-19 shot. Bottom line, there are a still a lot of people getting tests to see if they have been infected.

A friend suggested I try Urgent Care in Pittsboro (628 East Street; 919-542-4450) for a speedier result. They took my name, insurance info and told me they had an opening the same day — all I needed to do was name my time. I was there in an hour.

They greeted me at my car and did the good ole' "Covid-Swab." Good news: they no longer need to jab the Q-tip up your nose to your brain. It is much gentler!

Just 20 minutes later, they came back outside to tell me the best news: I was negative for COVID-19. WHEW! Huge sigh of relief. You might want to file

DC guidelines for those who are fully vaccinated

- Follow guidance at your workplace and local businesses.

- Wear a mask indoors in public if in an area of substantial or high transmission (like Chatham) to maximize protection from the Delta variant

- Watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others. If your test is positive, isolate at home for 10 days.

People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken the immune system, should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.

this info in your COVID file or whatever time sensitive phone lists you have. (The Urgent Care was not busy — there was one customer there when I arrived and no one came while I was there.) While health experts

say breakthrough COVID-19 cases are rare, they also recommend getting tested if you start feeling COVID-like symptoms. Plus, if you're anything like me, a negative test will give you a whole lot of peace of mind.

Blunt and Rock repartee not enough to carry off-course 'Jungle Cruise'

In "Jungle Cruise," Dwayne Johnson plays a wisecracking, muscle-bound mariner who teams with a young woman to embark on a boating expedition to retrieve a relic that he believes will provide personal salvation and she believes will save her people.

If that sounds a lot like "Moana," another Johnson vehicle, then you should know that isn't the most audacious cribbing that occurs in a film already adapted from ... [sigh] ... a venerable Disney theme park ride.

With Johnson donning oversized Charlie Allnut cosplay and Emily Blunt clad in Burberry, "Jungle Cruise" is the Disneyfied second cousin thrice removed of "The African Queen," filtered through

the mise en scène of a bad "Pirates of the Caribbean" sequel.



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

Turner, and there are undead swashbucklers, all run through a series of Rube Goldberg-esque action exercises.

Blunt plays Dr. Lily Houghton, a scientist of some sort in search of a mystical tree that bears magical healing petals known as the Tears of the Moon. Assisting Lily is her brother McGregor (Jack Whitenall), a gay character in all but name only — "My interests happily lay elsewhere," he confesses about past broken engagements to women, which I guess in Disney-speak is a baby step forward from LeFou in the live action "Beauty and the Beast."

Lily enlists the services of Frank (Johnson), a steamboat skipper whose penchant for cracking bad puns for the tourists is the most notable carryover from the actual Disney amusement park ride. Frank navigates Lily and McGregor down the Amazon River into the heart of not darkness but instead a milieu of green

screen and CGI wildlife. They are pursued by villain du jour Prince Joachim, a European aristocrat played by Jesse Plemons, sporting the most indescribable and incomprehensible accent this side of Jon Voight in "Anaconda." Joachim's backstory is as murky as his motives, but his real purpose is to play the foil.

The real race in "Jungle Cruise" isn't to be the first to find a pink-hued strain of the Tree of Souls from "Avatar," but rather to see you lose track or lose interest in the plot first. The film's opening half subsists on the surprisingly easy and engaging rapport between Blunt and Johnson. There is pal-

table comedic chemistry between the two that director Jaume Collet-Serra only faintly allows to drift into romance.

But even the Blunt/Rock repartee peters out after 80 minutes of the needless two-hour-plus running time. Collet-Serra and a trio of screenwriters (who rewrote an original script by two other writers) launch into a new line

of exposition about undead Spanish conquistadors with a connection to Frank while the narrative veers to-and-fro.

Jungle Cruise runs around not on its charming silliness, but on its failure to craft and execute a compelling story. Like most park rides, it's fun at first but you're soon eager to hop off.



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! !!

N.C. A&T, CCCC sign credit-transfer agreements

From Central Carolina
Community College

New agreements will help graduates of the sustainable agriculture program at Central Carolina Community College transfer credits and pursue bachelor's degrees in agricultural education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

The articulation agreements guarantee admission to N.C. A&T and the transfer of up to 64 credits for students graduating from CCCC with an associate of applied science degree in sustainable agriculture as they earn bachelor's degrees in agricultural education with a concentration in either professional service or secondary education.

The bachelor's degree in agricultural education at A&T with a concentration in agricultural professional service prepares students for careers in Cooperative Extension, government agencies, non-profit organizations or agribusiness. The concentration in secondary education readies students to teach agriscience in middle or high school.

"These agreements provide a pathway for students from Chatham County and the surrounding Piedmont regions to further their career goals of becoming agricultural leaders, equipped with the skill set to make an impact on the agricultural industry and society," said Antoine J. Alston, Ph.D., associate dean for academic studies in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at A&T. "We are truly excited to provide this educational opportunity for students to matriculate to the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at N.C. A&T."

"Post-secondary education is tremen-



Courtesy of CCCC

The Central Carolina Community College Student Farm is located on the CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro.

dously important to students and the communities they serve," said Kenrett Jefferson-Moore, Ph.D., chairwoman of the Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education at A&T. "Public-to-public partnerships like this one expand affordability and access for students as we support agriculture, the state's largest industry."

The associate of applied science degree in sustainable agriculture at CCCC prepares students for work in a variety of food and sustainability fields, including farm management, advocacy

and education, work in wholesale and retail produce, as well as the option to transfer to university agroecology and sustainability programs.

CCCC, located in Central North Carolina, offers a wide variety of programs, as students can earn associate degrees or college transfer credits, diplomas, or certificates. CCCC also offers instruction in such areas as short-term job training, college and career readiness, personal interests, business & industry, and emergency services training.

CCCC has been ranked among the Top 50 community colleges in the

nation in 2020 by College Consensus, a unique college ratings website that aggregates publisher rankings and student reviews. In addition, CCCC was nationally ranked as No. 25 in The Best Community Colleges & Trade Schools of 2020 by BestColleges. Previously, CCCC was ranked first in the Niche 2020 Best Community Colleges in North Carolina rankings.

"We are so pleased with this addition to our partnership agreements with N.C. A&T State University," said Lisa M. Chapman, Ed.D., president of CCCC. "Strengthening the alignment of agriculture programs ensures that our local residents have more seamless and more affordable opportunities to continue their education in a career field that continues to serve as an important economic driver in our region."

The agreements were also welcomed by CCCC leaders Robin Kohanowich, coordinator – sustainable agriculture, and Andrew McMahan, chairperson – Department of Sustainability.

"CCCC Sustainable Agriculture students have chosen N.C. A&T as the next step in their agricultural education in the past; it's great to now have two pathways and formalized agreements with N.C. A&T," Kohanowich said. "Students will benefit by having a seamless transition to further their degree with these valuable options."

"We are incredibly excited for the opportunity to expand our relationship with N.C. A&T and to provide our Sustainable Agriculture students with new educational pathways," McMahan said.

The agreements have been signed by Chapman and N.C. A&T Chancellor Harold L. Martin Sr., Ph.D.

Public decries proposed development agreement for Chatham Park

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A request from Chatham Park

Investors for approval of a sweeping development agreement was met with considerable community push-back at the board of

commissioners' regular meeting Monday. The agreement, which the commissioners

entertained in a public hearing, would cover the entirety of the Chatham Park Planned Development District.

A broad range of residential, institutional and commercial land uses are already authorized in Chatham Park's master plan, including up to 22,000 residences and 22,000,000 square feet of nonresidential uses, according to a written synopsis by Town Manager Chris Kennedy, included in the meeting agenda. But the development agreement "lock(s) in the standards applicable to the subject property, the entirety of the Chatham Park PDD."

The development agreement would define and guarantee several features of CPI's future building plans. Its "unquestionably most important" function, Kennedy wrote, is "to guide and direct development within Chatham Park for the duration of the agreement."

"The purpose of a development agreement is so they have a general idea how to move forward," he added at Monday's meeting. "Otherwise it doesn't serve that much of a purpose. They want assurances as to how they can develop."

More than 10 members of the public attended the hearing to comment on the proposed agreement. All of them voiced strong reservations, mostly with respect to the document's

duration as requested by Chatham Park: 40 years.

"Who will be at the helm in 40 years?" said Susie Crate, a Bynum resident and professor of environmental science and policy at George Mason University. "Most of us here tonight will not be. Shouldn't we allow for the creativity and innovation of the next generations to respond more appropriately to the changes? Think of your grandchildren and whether you want them to have their hands tied about the future of their lands and waterways or have the choice to make their own decisions for their families and communities."

In response, Mac McCarley, a lawyer representing CPI, argued 40 years was within the reasonable expectation for a development as expansive as Chatham Park.

"The statute says a development agreement can have any reasonable term," he said. "In this case you're looking at a relatively large and long build-out for this development. The statute used to be limited to 20 years and it specifically said you had to have at least a 25-acre development. So if you're looking at 20 years as a reasonable amount of time to do a 25-acre development, what would we say is a reasonable time for a 7,000-plus-acre development?"

CPI projections estimate development of the

entire Chatham Park complex will take 35 to 40 years. But the commissioners and staff were loath to quickly support or denounce CPI's request.

"I don't disagree that the duration of 40 years may seem excessive," Kennedy said. "I will personally work with (CPI) and discuss if there's another alternative series of times, perhaps a schedule for revisiting the tenure of it."

Other commenters expressed apprehension with respect to Chatham Park's substantial infrastructure needs, its infringement upon the town's natural resources and CPI's impact on older, established neighborhoods. Their point was not to stop Chatham Park's development, some emphasized, but to request the company operate under clearer standards with all of Pittsboro's residents in mind.


"Let me say I am not anti-development nor anti-change," Ron Hatley, a Pittsboro resident said. "But if either of those harms the environment or our citizens, it is our joint responsibility to address those concerns."

The public hearing will continue at the board's next regular meeting on August 23.

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


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SHOP Local

CHATHAM PARKS & RECREATION

In-person programs and events announced

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Parks and Recreation is thrilled to announce it will offer many in-person programing and events this fall at the Chatham Grove Community Center, Northeast District Park and The Park at Briar Chapel.

Chatham Grove Community Center

Chatham County Parks and Recreation will offer Zumba, yoga, chair yoga for seniors (free), youth jump rope, youth art class, and indoor open adult pickleball at the Chatham Grove Community Center.

community Center located at 1301 Andrews Store Rd., Pittsboro. The Chatham Grove Community Center is Chatham County's first joint-use recreation center with a school and is open for select hours and programming.

Northeast District Park

Chatham County Parks and Recreation will offer tennis lessons, pickleball lessons and a co-ed adult softball league at Northeast District Park located at 5408 Big Woods Rd., Chapel Hill.

The Park at Briar Chapel

Chatham County Parks and Recreation's outdoor movie series Movies in the Park will take place at The Park at

Briar Chapel located at 1015 Andrews Store Rd., Pittsboro. Movies will be shown on Friday evenings (with rain date on Saturdays). Residents should save the following dates: Aug. 27, Sept. 11 and Sept. 25. Movies will be announced at a later time.

"We are excited to be able to offer much of our programming for Chatham County families once again this fall, after many months of restrictions and cancellations due to the pandemic," said Chatham County Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Burnett. "We are also thankful for the opportunity to offer limited programs in our first community center located at Chatham Grove Elementary School and

look forward to Chatham residents enjoying this great facility for years to come."

All events and programs will adhere to the latest COVID-19 guidelines, and programs are subject to change.

For more information or to register for these upcoming events and programs, visit the Chatham County Parks and Recreation website at chathamcountync.gov/parks-recreation, or contact Parks and Recreation at 919-545-8551 or recreation@chathamcountync.gov. Information and updates will also be shared on Chatham County Parks and Recreation's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram).

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THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

Find Kid Scoop on Facebook

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Lemur Rescue

Replace the missing words in this news story.

- raccoons.

awarded

critter

spotted

asked,

believe

calmly.

experts

leaped

missing

Lookalike Lemurs

Can you find the lemur that looks different from all the others?



Monkeys in the Mirror?

Are ring-tailed lemurs monkeys? Clip this coupon and hold it up to a mirror to reveal the answer.

It's an easy mistake to think lemurs are monkeys. They have many things in common. Both belong to the primate order which is made up of monkeys, apes and humans. Lemurs are primates which are different from monkeys. They are not monkeys.

THE FLYSPECK FLYER

Five-Year Old Saves Lemur

By Nellie Fly
STAFF REPORTER

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – In October of 2020, five-year-old James Trinh a lemur in his school's parking lot. He pointed and said, "There's a lemur! There's a lemur!"

At first the adults didn't James. The school often had visits from skunks, coyotes and

The director of the school "Are you sure that's not a raccoon?"

The started leaping and leaping into the school's playground. This was definitely not a raccoon.

In the playground, the animal into a playhouse to hide. James knew just what to do.

"Call the Zoo!" he yelled.

Everyone said James was right. This little animal was a lemur named Maki that was from the San Francisco Zoo.

Zoo and local animal control came and coaxed Maki into a cage to take him back to the Zoo. He went quite

James was a lifetime membership to the Zoo, where he will be able to visit Maki often.

Photo: Shutterstock

Maki Mystery

San Francisco Zoo workers are not sure how Maki got out. There were signs that someone had broken into the primate enclosure. Was Maki stolen? Or did he escape during a burglary? The police have arrested a suspect and are working to find out what happened.

Maki was 21-years old when he got away, making him one of the older lemurs at the Zoo. He might have been easily captured because he was older and slower than the other lemurs.

There are nearly 100 types of lemurs. The smallest is the pygmy mouse lemur which weighs just one ounce!

How many lemurs can you find on this page?

Extra! Extra!

Animals in the News

Look through today's newspaper. How many pictures, photos or articles about animals can you find? Discuss why each animal is in the newspaper.

Standards Link: Read from a variety of text including newspapers.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Ring-Tailed Lemur Facts

Which of these statements about ring-tailed lemurs are true? Do the math to find out. If the sum of the math problem is even, the statement is true.

The lemur's tail is longer than its body.
2 + 8 + 2 =

Lemurs like to bask in the sun in the morning.
6 + 6 =

Male ring-tailed lemurs put smells, from glands in their bottoms, on their tail and wave it at rivals. It's known as 'stink fighting'!
3 + 3 + 3 + 1 =

Ring-tailed lemurs come from Madagascar.
7 + 3 + 8 =

A group of lemurs is called a troop.
8 + 9 + 3 =

Standards Link: Math: Calculate sums to twenty.

Double Double Word Search

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

PROSIMIANS

DIRECTOR

BURGLARY

CRITTER

EXPERTS

MONKEYS

PRIMATE

LEMUR

MOUSE

PYGMY

MAKI

APES

TAIL

BASK

EASY

S Y E K N O M M A D

A R R O T C E R I D

E A E P Y G M Y M E

T L A T A I L A O X

A G S G T A K A U P


M R Y S P I K A S E

I U L E M U R N E R

R B S K S A B C S T

P R O S I M I A N S

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



Kid Scoop Together:

Nellie Fly's News Scoop

Nellie Fly is the world's smallest reporter. Today's *Kid Scoop* page has an article by her called, "Five-Year Old Saves Lemur."

Read the article and answer the questions below.

Who is the article about?

What did he do?

Where did the event in the article take place?

When did the event take place?


How was the lemur saved?

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For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit kidscoopnews.org



Write On!



That's Strange

What is one of the strangest things you have ever heard about? Write about it!



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EVICTIONS IN N.C.

Changes to eviction in our state: Frequently asked questions

A reinstatement of the CDC moratorium and expanded state financial assistance aids tenants struggling to pay rent during the pandemic. Here are answers to questions about the programs.

BY LAURA LEE
Carolina Public Press

CDC eviction moratorium

Who is eligible?

Under the new CDC order, a renter who meets the following conditions is eligible for the moratorium:

- Has an annual income of \$99,000 or less for an individual or \$198,000 or less for joint filers.

- Has used best efforts to obtain government assistance for rent or housing.

- Has lost income (may be hours or wages) or has extraordinary medical expenses.

- Is using best efforts to make partial payments on time that are as close to full payments as circumstances allow.

- For whom eviction would likely make the person homeless or forced to move into a shared or congregate living situation.

- Lives in a county with “substantial” or “high” levels of community transmission of COVID-19.

How does this moratorium differ from prior orders?

The coverage area is narrower than previous orders, Sturgill said. Under prior orders, tenants needed to meet five of the six requirements above. Now, tenants must meet all the prior requirements and live in areas with “substantial” or “high” levels of community transmission to qualify.

Which North Carolina counties currently have

“substantial” or “high” levels of community transmission of COVID-19?

Ninety-six of the state’s 100 counties have “substantial” or “high” levels of community transmission as of Aug. 3.

At present, the order does not apply to Bertie, Hertford, Hyde or Warren counties, according to Sturgill.

Is the moratorium automatic if I qualify?

No. Tenants who believe they qualify must complete the CDC declaration form and present it to their landlord.

What if I signed a declaration and gave it to my landlord earlier? Do I need a new one?

No. “If a tenant has previously signed a declaration and given it to their landlord, they don’t need to do a new one,” Sturgill said.

If I am a landlord, does this order prevent me from evicting any and all tenants?

No. Landlords are still permitted to evict tenants in certain circumstances. “Evictions, for example, for criminal activity of threatening behavior, property destruction, or violation of health safety codes, or breaches of the lease other than nonpayment ... can still move forward,” Sturgill said.

Can my landlord still file an eviction claim against me?

Yes. “This moratorium is not going to stop the

filing of cases necessarily,” Sturgill said. “It just says for the tenants that are covered, the landlord cannot go through the actual lockout, the actual eviction itself, if the tenant is protected.”

What if my county was one of the four that did not initially qualify but later has “substantial” or “high” community transmission levels?

If a county that does not currently qualify becomes eligible, residents may then apply for the moratorium. If a county currently qualified reaches levels below “substantial” or “high” for 14 consecutive days, then the order will no longer apply.

What if my landlord has already filed an eviction? What if there is a judgment but I have not yet been removed?

“For people that have been filed on and still have a court date pending, this may help them stop the process,” Sturgill said. “Even for people that have already had a judgment entered against them but the lockout has not occurred yet, those people would fall within the scope of this order.”

If I use the CDC moratorium, when will it end?

The order is set to expire on Oct. 3.

HOPE program

What is the HOPE Program?

The Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions Program began in October 2020 to address financial challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program offers funds to help North Carolinian renters and is funded by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant–Coronavirus funds and U.S. Department of Treasury Coronavirus Relief funds, according to a press release from the governor’s office.

Who is eligible for HOPE funds?

Applicants must have “a household income that is less than or equal to

80% of the area median income for the county where they live,” according to the program’s website.

Applicants must also be a resident of one of the 88 counties served by HOPE.

What if I do not live in one of the 88 counties served by the program?

Residents of the 12 counties not served by the program are eligible to apply for local rental assistance and utility assistance programs, said Laura Hogshead, chief operating officer the N.C. Office of Recovery and Resilience.

In addition, five tribal governments in the state (Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians, Co-harie Tribe, Haliwa-Saponi Tribe, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and Waccamaw-Siouan Tribe) are offering assistance separate from the HOPE program.

How much assistance can I receive through HOPE?

“Eligible applicants may receive up to 12 months of rent assistance, which may include up to nine months of past-due rent,” according to the program website.

What is the maximum amount of rent that will be paid by the program?

The maximum amount of rent is the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom unit in your county. Applicants can determine the fair-market rent using the online HUD Fair Market Rent Documentation System.

The allowable amount increased since the program was announced. “The monthly rent award limit has increased by 30% and the utility award limit has increased by 100% for all new applications as of Aug. 1,” Hogshead said.

How do I get the funds?

Funds for rent are paid directly to the landlord, and utility assistance is paid directly to the utility provider.

Does acceptance in the program keep my landlord from evicting me?

“Landlords that accept this phase of HOPE funds agree to not evict the ap-

plicant for nonpayment of rent during the period of assistance and for at least 60 days after that period ends,” according to the website.

How do I apply for HOPE program?

Applications are available through the website hope.nc.gov or by calling 888-9-ASK-HOPE.

Once I apply for HOPE funds, how long will it take?

“The turnaround time from application to payment is typically 14 to 18 days, so assistance for renters and landlords will come quickly,” Hogshead said.

I am already behind on rent. Can I still apply?

Yes. Funds are available for up to nine months of past-due rent.

Can I apply for utility assistance?

Yes, if you qualify for rental assistance.

Utility assistance is available for the following:

- Electricity: up to \$510.
- Natural gas, propane or heating oil: up to \$135.
- Water: up to \$105.
- Wastewater: up to \$120.

Applications for utility-only assistance are not accepted.

I applied in the first round. Can I apply again?

Yes, but rent assistance provided during the first phase of the HOPE Program counts toward the nine months of past-due rent assistance that an applicant can receive.

I am a landlord, and my tenant is unable to pay rent. What can I do?

The HOPE program recently added a feature to allow landlords to refer tenants. A program representative will reach out to the tenant about applying.

How much money has the program distributed?

“Since the HOPE program opened last fall, more than \$328 million has been awarded to help North Carolina families and over \$234 million have already been paid to landlords and utility providers statewide,” Gov. Cooper said.

Developer proposes new 55+ community in Pittsboro

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro could be getting a new 700-plus-acre, age-restricted neighborhood if the town’s board of commissioners elects to approve a developer’s rezoning request and issue a special use permit.

The commissioners entertained two public hearings in their regular meeting Monday to discuss potential for the 55+ community off U.S. Hwy. 15-501, south of the Moncure Pittsboro Road. The future Chatham Park Way would bisect the neighborhood, which would also encompass part of Sanford Road.

Jamie Schwedler, a partner at Raleigh’s Parker Poe Attorneys & Counselors at Law, filed the petition as a representative of PulteGroup Inc. and other vested parties.

The land — about 741 acres — is now zoned for heavy industrial and residential-agricultural uses. Schwedler has requested the property be rezoned as low-density residential. She has also petitioned the board for a special use permit to build a planned-unit development including no more than 2,223 one-family detached residences and townhomes, club houses and other amenity buildings.

Chris Raughley, vice president of land entitlements and development at PulteGroup — the country’s third largest home construction company ranked by closings — attended the hearings

to explain why Pittsboro might benefit from an age-restricted community.

“In Pittsboro, there’s a significant aging population,” he said. “And persons 55 and older are expected to continue to move to the area.”

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, which Raughley shared in his presentation, the median age in Pittsboro is 42.8 — 10% higher than elsewhere across the greater Triangle area and North Carolina as a whole. About 14% of Pittsboro residents are between 60 and 69 years old, and 10% are 80 years old and older; “more than double the rate for Durham/Chapel Hill, and more than double the rate for North Carolina as a whole,” Raughley said.

“So based on the trends and our experience in anticipating demand in the active adult housing market,” he added, “the project will meet the growing need for active adult housing in Pittsboro by providing multiple housing types in a location convenient to downtown Pittsboro.”

The rezoning and permit requests were each the subject of a dedicated public hearing, both of which the board voted to continue in its next meeting on Aug. 23. The commissioners and members of the public expressed tentative support, but floated several potential amendments to be further discussed when the hearings resume.

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



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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

HOUSE RENTALS

SMALL ONE-BEDROOM HOUSE just outside city limits, \$350 plus security, Call Marci to view. Au12,19,2tp

RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

AUCTIONEERS

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, My6,tfnc

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, My6,tfnc

SERVICES

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

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card

accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

HELP WANTED

METAL SHOP ASSISTANT - Sheet Metal Fabricator located in Pittsboro is hiring full time shop workers. Must have a valid DL, dependable vehicle of your own. Starting position - room to grow. Apply at Metal Impressions, 290 East Street, Suite 107, Pittsboro, NC. 919-542-4655 Au5,12,2tc

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

MISCELLANEOUS

INTERESTED IN OWNING your own business? For interview, please call 919-346-4019 for further details. Jy15,22,29,Au5,12,5tp

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 345

All persons having claims against **JAMES HENRY BUTCHER**, 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. James Jeffrey Butcher, Executor 8 Piedmont Lane Palmyra, VA 22963 Jy22,Jy29,Au5,Au12,4tp

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,Au12,4tp

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,Au12,4tp

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,Au12,4tp

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,Au5,Au12,4tc

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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

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

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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,Au12,4tp

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,Au12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **JOHN RICHARD SEED aka JOHN R. SEED** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 18th day of December, 2020, are notified to present them to David R. Seed, Executor of the Estate of John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before November 4, 2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of John Richard Seed aka John R. Seed are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.
Dean P. Broz
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203
Exchange West at Meadowmont
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 438
All persons having claims against **LYNN M. SULLIVAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 29th day of July, 2021.
Lauren Ann Cox-Fazio, Executrix
85 McCormack Road
Slingerlands, NY 12159
c/o Becker Law Offices, PC
Diane Becker, Esquire
6030 Creedmoor Road, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27612
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 436
All persons having claims against **MELVIN S. MCMANUS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 29th day of July, 2021.

Marjorie Ann McManus Bona-gura, Executrix
7351 Watkins Ford Rd,
Kernersville, NC 27284
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 425
All persons having claims against **PEGGY STALEY THREADGILL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 29th day of July, 2021.
Chad Threadgill, Administrator
1128 Brooklyn Ave, Ext. Ramseur, NC 27316
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 434
All persons having claims against **EDWARD P. LEWY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 29th day of July, 2021.
Stephen W. Hoover, Executor
c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Ct. STE 200
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 426
All persons having claims against **PEGGY SMITH ANDREWS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 29th day of July, 2021.
Diane Rives, Executor
3205 Mockingbird Ln.
Sanford, NC 27330
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 432N
All persons having claims against **JIANMIN WANG**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 29th day of July, 2021.
Co-Administrators:
Austin Wang
28 Evandale Lane
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Oliver Wang
28 Evandale Lane
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Jy29,Au5,Au12,Au19,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
A public hearing will be held by the **Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, August 16, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** The hearing will be held in the **courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro**, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham-countync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:
Legislative Request:

1. A legislative public hearing for a request by the Vickers Bennett Group LLC for text and map amendments to the Chatham County Compact Community Ordinance specifically Section 6.1, p 3 for an expansion of the CCO map and text amendments to support the expansion of area request.
2. A legislative public hearing for a request by the Vickers Bennett Group LLC for a Conditional District Rezoning from R-1 Residential to CD-CCO Compact Community being approximately 101.8 acres located off US 15-501 between Vicker's Rd and Jack Bennett roads, Williams Township.
3. A legislative public hearing for a request by Congruus LLC for a map amendment to the Chatham County Compact Community boundary map specifically Section 6.1, p 3-4 for an expansion of the CCO map to include an additional 184.04 acres off Parker Hern-don and Morris roads, Baldwin Township.
Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item:
Quasi-Judicial Request:
1. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by the Conservancy Real Estate Group LLC for a Special Use Permit to allow a public golf course utilizing approximately five acres to be located within a proposed conservation subdivision located off New Elam Church Rd and Rush Rd, Cape Fear Township.
Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.
Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **WILLIAM BOBBY JUSTICE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to Trudy D. Justice, Administrator, c/o Keith E. Hartley, Resident Process Agent, P.O. Box 52396, Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396, on or before the 5th day of November, 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 5th day of August, 2021.
Trudy D. Justice, Administrator of the Estate of William Bobby Justice
c/o Keith E. Hartley
Resident Process Agent
P.O. Box 52396
Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396
c/o Keith E. Hartley, Esquire
Maxwell, Freeman & Bowman, P. A.
Post Office Box 52396
Durham, North Carolina 27717-2396
Telephone: (919) 493-6464
Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 452
All persons having claims against **VIVIAN ANN MANESS DUNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 5th day of August, 2021.

Limited Personal Representative,
Jackie Renee Dunn
4671 Silk Hope Liberty Road
Siler City, N 27344
c/o Lewis Fadely
119 N. Fir Avenue
Siler City, N 27344
Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc E

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 453
All persons having claims against **RUBY TYSOR HERITAGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 5th day of August, 2021.
Jane Tysor Tally, Administrator
2382 NC Hwy 42
Goldston, NC 27252
Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 459
The undersigned, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **GARY LYNN STONE**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 1325 Bennington Drive, NW, Concord, North Carolina, 28027, on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 2nd day of August, 2021.
Marlon Stone, Administrator
1325 Bennington Drive, NW
Concord, North Carolina 28027
c/o GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 457
All persons having claims against **TODD LAYMOND BROWN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 5th day of August, 2021.
Danna Yvette Brown, Administrator
401 Greenhill Drive
Siler City, NC 27344
Au5,Au12,Au19,Au26,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 2nd day of August 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **LUCILLE FRAZIER HAYES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.
This the 5th day of August, 2021.
W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Lucille Frazier Hayes
26 Frazier Store Road
Staley, NC 27355
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified on the 2nd day of August 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **JUN CHEN** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of November 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.
This the 5th day of August, 2021.
W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Jun Chen
918 Olde Thompson Creek
Apex, NC 27523
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
All persons having claims against **Judith M. Seed aka Judith Ann Seed aka Judith A. Seed** [hereinafter 'Judith M. Seed'] of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 16th day of May, 2021, are notified to present them to David R. Seed, Administrator of the Estate of Judith M. Seed in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before November 18,

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2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Administrator, and the devisees of Judith M. Seed. Those indebted to Judith M. Seed are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.
Dean P. Broz
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.
1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203
Exchange West at Meadowmont
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **RAYMOND A. MOREHEAD**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 12th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This 12th day of August, 2021.
Catherine P. Morehead,

Executor
Estate of Raymond A. Morehead
c/o Roberson Law Firm
1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
TOWN OF PITTSBORO
The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following **Public Hearing on Monday, August 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom** to consider the following items:

1. Proposed Rezoning: 879 & 881 Hillsboro Street (REZ-2021-04) Rezoning request for parcel 6622, totaling 0.78 acres, located on the western side of Hillsboro St just north of Pattisall Road, to change from R-10 (High Density Residential) to O-I (Office & Institutional).
2. Planning Staff is requesting text amendments to the Pittsboro Unified Development Ordinance including: Add Record of Amendments Chapter, Reorganize Sections and Chapters, Add new Development Incentives Chapter – to include

future Affordable Housing section & future Green Building Incentives section, Update performance guarantees, and Update townhouse standards. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendment may be made

following the public hearing. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.pittsboronc.gov. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on August 23rd, 2021.
Au12,Au19,2tc

It's not bananas

"It tastes like mofongo." — TV chef Guy Fieri on tasting mofongo for the first time. The line was funny, but also true. Nothing really tastes like that Caribbean dish made of fried plantains, or platanos (plah-tahnose), which are then mashed using a mortar and pestle, called a molcajete (mole-kah-hey-tay).
They are then mashed with garlic and chicharrones (chee-chah-rone-ays). If you've ever had chopped Eastern-style barbecue, you've had chicharrones. They're those lovely little luscious nuggets of crunchy, slow-cooked pork fat. Chicharrones are cracklings on a tropical beach, under a palm tree, if you will.
If mashed potatoes are Ginger Rogers made into food, mofongo are Carmen Miranda.
I discovered plantains when we lived in Puerto Rico.
One day, an angel descended from heaven, or a kitchen somewhere, and handed me a tostone. I was lost. They were salty and delicious, like French fries, but thick and chewy. From then on, every time I saw plantains, I ate them, which in Puerto Rico happened a lot.
Then one day I had dinner at my friend Mary Ann Diaz's house. Her parents were Cuban.
Cuban food is very similar except for the bean thing. In Puerto Rico they



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Plantain pork chops.

eat habichuelas (ah-bitch-whale-ahs) which are really tasty pink beans. In Cuba, they're all about black beans, and I don't approve.
Anyway, dinner at Mary Ann's ...
Her mom made us roast pork. And for a side, she made what I thought was some kind of yellow mashed potatoes.
Until I tasted them.
Mary Ann's mom was another plantain angel. Only she made mofongo. They were rich and salty, creamy and crunchy and a little lumpy. I grilled Mrs. Diaz all about mofongo. Made her show me her molcajete, and explain the entire procedure.
Then I asked for seconds.
Also while living in Puerto Rico, I discovered plantain chips. They're amazing. I still love them. For a long time, they were but a memory. But in the last few years, due to the diversifica-

tion of the area, snack options have expanded like a pregnant lady's waistline.
One day I decided to pour all the crumbs of all the plantain chips into a ziptop bag and sring it in the freezer while I decided what to do with them.
I make my own pork breader with bread and cracker leftovers. I was reaching into the freezer and side by side were the bag of breader crumbs and plantain chip crumbs. Well, it don't take a freezer full of starch to hit me in the head — I had an epiphany.
Thus, the plantain pork chop was born.
Thanks for your time
Contact me with questions or comments at dm@bullcity.mom.
(The tostone and mofongo recipe are from one of my prized possessions, Puerto Rican Cookery, by Carmen Aboy Valledjuli. The plantain pork chops are all mine.)

Tostones

3 green plantains and smashed for frying
4 cups water 2 tablespoons salt
2 cloves garlic, peeled Lard or vegetable oil
Peel plantains and cut into diagonal slices.
Add garlic and salt to water. Soak plantain slices for 15 minutes. Drain well.
Heat oil to 350°. In batches, fry plantains until light golden, about 7 minutes. Remove from pan and place on paper towels.
Set a small flat plate on top of each and mash until they're 1/4 - 1/2 inch thick. Dip into salted water and remove right away. Pat dry with a paper towel.
Raise oil temp to 375°.
Return plantains to oil and fry until lightly golden all over. Remove to paper towel and lightly salt.
Makes 12-18 tostones.

Mofongo

3 green plantains taste) large cloves of Enough lard or
1 quart water with garlic, peeled vegetable oil, for
2 tablespoons salt 1 tablespoon olive oil deep frying
added 1/2 pound very crisp Salt and pepper
3-6 (depending on pork cracklings
Prepare the plantains
Peel plantains into 1-inch diagonal slices. Soak in salt water for 15 minutes. Drain well.
Heat about three inches of oil in large heavy pot to 350°. Place in sliced plantains until they are very lightly golden and fork-tender (about 15 minutes). Remove from pan, place on paper towels to drain and lightly salt.
Add garlic to mortar and crush well. Add olive oil and a pinch of salt and pepper. Remove and set aside.
In batches, place cooked plantains into mortar and mash, adding part of the garlic and cracklings. Season to taste.
Traditionally served in molded mounds (use a small straight-sided bowl for this). Serves 6-8.

Plantain Pork Chops

4-1 1/2 inch thick pork pepper (available 3 1/2 cups plantain
loin chops online and in Hispanic chips, finely crushed
1 1/2 cups flour (I like grocer's) 1/4 cup vegetable oil
whole wheat here) 2 1/2 cups fat-free 2 tablespoons butter
2 teaspoons orange buttermilk
Make three part dredge:
1.) In a large zip top bag place flour and orange pepper.
2.) Pour buttermilk into a shallow dish.
3.) In a second dish place crushed plantain chips
Bread the chops; flour, buttermilk, chips, making sure to pat a thick coat all over the pork.
Place on a plate, cover loosely with plastic and refrigerate for an hour before cooking — this will make the coating adhere while cooking and eating.
Preheat oven to 375°.
Into the heaviest skillet you have (cast iron is best), put in oil and butter, and melt on medium. When the butter's melted and has stopped sizzling, place in well coated pork chops.
Cook on one side, flip and put pan in the oven.
Bake until the chops reach 142° on a meat thermometer, 10-13 minutes. Let rest five minutes before serving.

NEWS BRIEFS

Free deer hunting and processing webinars offered this September

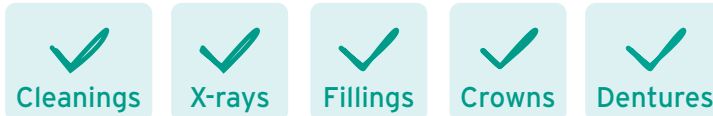
RALEIGH — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and the N.C. Wildlife Federation will offer two free online hunting-related webinars this fall. "Introduction to Deer Hunting" will be held on Sept. 14, and "Practical Deer Processing: From Field to Freezer" will be held on Sept. 16. Both classes will run from 7 – 8 p.m. and are open to anyone interested, especially individuals who have never hunted, are new to hunting or lack social support for hunting.
"Both webinars are intended to prepare new and novice hunters for the upcoming whitetail deer season, which opens with bow hunting on September 11th," said Walter "Deet" James, R3 hunting specialist at the Wildlife Commission. "It's a fantastic educational opportunity for people who may not have access to an existing hunting community of family members and friends. Each session will be followed by a 30-minute question and answer session lead by wildlife education specialists."
Topics at the "Introduction to Deer Hunting" webinar will include whitetail habits and habitats, scouting techniques, essential equipment, tree stand safety, effective shot placement, tracking techniques and field dressing. Topics at the "Practical Deer Processing: From Field to Freezer" webinar will include field dressing, skinning, safe meat handling and basic home processing.
Pre-registration is required at ncwildlife.org/sbs. A recording of the presentation will be available to all registrants afterwards. For additional information, contact James at 984-202-1387 or walter.james@ncwildlife.org.
The 2021-22 deer season dates are posted online at ncwildlife.org/hunting.
\$936 million raised — a new record — for education in North Carolina
RALEIGH — The N.C. Education Lottery raised \$936 million to support education programs in North Carolina in fiscal year 2021.
The record earnings for education result from record lottery ticket sales of \$3.8 billion, up 26 percent from the year before. Earnings for education jumped by \$206.6 million, or 28 percent. On average, the lottery generated

\$2.5 million a day for education in fiscal year 2021, according to unaudited year-end results.
Mark Michalko, executive director of the lottery, attributed the results to unique circumstances in the state's economy during the COVID-19 pandemic combined with exceptional performance of popular lottery games enjoyed by North Carolinians.
Michalko said consumers turned to lottery games during the times in the year when they had few other options for entertainment. He said lottery players found lots of ways to have fun, including with a new game called Fast Play, that provides both an instant prize and a progressive jackpot, major life-changing jackpots in Powerball and Mega Millions games, and an array of new scratch-off tickets.
"Just like other sales and marketing brands, we faced multiple challenges during these unusual times," Michalko said. "We succeeded thanks to the loyalty of lottery players, the support of our retailers all across our state, and a tremendous effort by the lottery staff to find ways to safely complete our mission in raising money for education."
Michalko said hitting those sales and profit records again this year will be a challenge as other competing entertainment options begin to reopen across the state, but that the lottery will stay focused on driving continued growth and success in its efforts to raise funds for education.
The additional dollars support education programs in all 100 counties of the state, as determined each year by legislators in the state budget. The money raised helped build and repair schools, make college more affordable through scholarships and grants based on financial need, support school systems with the costs of school workers and transportation, and support NC Pre-K, a free academic prekindergarten program for at-risk 4-year-olds.
North Carolinians won the most money ever in prizes, with the lottery paying out more than \$2.4 billion. Retailers across the state also earned \$262 million in commissions from lottery ticket sales, \$52.5 million more than the year before. With more than 7,000 retail locations, the commissions play an important role in the state's retail economy.
At the end of the fiscal year, the lottery's total contribution since inception in March 2006 exceeded \$8.2 billion.
— CN+R staff reports



Dental Insurance

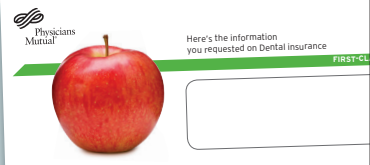
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