

# Chatham News + Record

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## Chatham adopts LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham County commissioners approved a LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance at their meeting Monday night — making Chatham the 12th local government to do so in North Carolina.

The policy, effective Oct. 1, prohibits discrimination in Chatham County in places of public accommodation and in employment on the

basis of race, natural hair or hairstyles, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, national ancestry, marital status, familial status, pregnancy, veteran status, religion, religious belief or non-belief, age or disability. The ordinance amends Title XI of the Chatham County Code of Ordinances.

“We now recognize with so many more voices participating in these spaces, that there is so much more nuance

and diversity to who we are,” Commissioner Karen Howard said before making a motion to adopt the ordinance.

“The fact that we are broadening this space to protect people in whatever incarnation they show up is so important to me,” she said. “And I’m very grateful to ... this board for engaging and being as progressive as this really is and saying that we want to be a county where people are treated fairly, equally, equitably and in a way that honors exactly who they believe

themselves to be.”

The ordinance was presented by County Attorney Bob Hagemann, who said Chatham’s policy was modeled after Chapel Hill’s, which was approved in January. In the state ordinances he reviewed, Hagemann noted that Carrboro was the only neighboring government to protect natural hair and hairstyles; Chapel Hill and Hillsborough’s policies did not. In January, Durham and Greensboro both

See **ORDINANCE**, page A12

## Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club reaches critical funding goal

BY D. LARS DOLDER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro’s budding Boys & Girls Club has reached its minimum required funding threshold to begin operations and will likely open its doors to area youth soon after the 2021-22 school year begins, according to group representatives.

The new club, which will be Chatham’s second in addition to a long-established Siler City location, has been in development since early 2020. Club leaders hoped to open the Pittsboro location at several times since, but the COVID-19 pandemic and funding shortfalls prevented it.

“Originally, I figured, ‘Oh, we’ll just get our money and we’d open in December of last year,’” said Pittsboro Commissioner Kyle Shipp, who has been the driving force behind the club’s formation. “And, you know, of course we didn’t.”

To open a new club, even with support from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina — a three-county organization based in Sanford that will oversee Pittsboro’s location — Shipp and other organizers needed to raise at least \$220,000.

“And as I learned more and more about doing this thing — and I’ve never done this before — of opening a club,” Shipp said, “that seemed pretty daunting.”

Even after launching a dedicated effort to raise funds, donations were slow in coming. In June, the club had only about \$50,000. A month later, however, Shipp and his club partners hosted a “Pancakes Pave the Way” fundraising event at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, and momentum began to shift.

“A lot of the early stuff was

See **GOAL**, page A7

## Flipping for football season



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

High school football in Chatham County officially kicks off Friday. But local teams took part in the annual Jack Shaner Jamboree last Friday at Northwood High School, where the Chargers’ Nick Coats upended Southern Alamance’s quarterback. Read a report from the jamboree and local prep previews in this week’s sports section, beginning on page B1.

### ‘A VERY, VERY SPECIAL JOY’



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Literacy’s staff, including, from left, Joselyn Villaseñor, Vicki Newell and Leslie Ocampo pose outside the nonprofit’s Siler City office.

## Chatham Literacy helps immigrants achieve citizenship

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — After three decades in the United States, Guatemalan native Dora Interiano finally achieved last December what she’d spent over a year working toward: U.S. citizenship.

To her, it makes a world of difference.

“I’m from Guatemala, but now I’m from here,” she told

the News + Record in Spanish, smiling. “... [Becoming a citizen] meant a lot. I felt like a weight had lifted off my shoulders. It was something that, well, can’t be explained very well, but it was a very, very special joy.”

It’s a joy she feels she owes to Chatham County Literacy Council, a Siler City nonprofit that offers free basic education

See **LITERACY**, page A3

### CHATHAM’S WESLEY HART

## WWII veteran awarded France’s most prestigious honor

BY D. LARS DOLDER

News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Wesley Hart didn’t speak at the ceremony last Thursday during which he was awarded the French Legion of Honor.

He didn’t have to. The 102-year-old Chathamite’s service during World War II said plenty.

More than 100 people gathered at New Salem Church on Old Graham Road in Pittsboro to see the Chapel Ridge resident accept France’s highest decoration of distinction for those in military and civilian life.

To date only about 92,000 have received the award, which Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte himself introduced in 1802. Most Legion of Honor recipients, by far, have been French nationals. But Hart joined an exclusive list of American awardees, including such prominent figures as former Army Gen-

See **HONOR**, page A8



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Wesley Hart, a 102-year-old Chatham County resident, is awarded the French Legion of Honor from Vincent Hommeril of the French consulate in Atlanta. Hart’s ceremony took place last Thursday at New Salem Church in Pittsboro.



# 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 **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will host its regular meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 23 via Zoom.

## OTHER

**Okra Fest**, scheduled for Sunday, August 22, has been postponed.

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

**Siler City Parks and Recreation** invites you to start your days off 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 masks are encouraged. For more information, visit [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org) or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org).

## THURSDAY

**Pittsboro Farmers Market** is open 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.

**Chatham Chamber of Commerce** and Perch Coworking, Ribbon

**Cutting and Open House** - from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 1, celebrating their grand opening at 102 Hill-sboro Street in Pittsboro. The Ribbon Cutting will begin at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to [Cheryll@ccucc.net](mailto:Cheryll@ccucc.net).

**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/](http://www.cccc.edu/blet/). For more information, contact Neil Ambrose at 919-777-7774 or email to [lamb287@cccc.edu](mailto:lamb287@cccc.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](http://ncbionetwork.org/biowork). For more information, contact Zack Ledwell at 919-777-7711 or email [zledwell@cccc.edu](mailto:zledwell@cccc.edu).

**The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department** announces the Bray Park Aquatic Facility is currently open 7-days a week from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. With the return of the school year, the hours of operations will change beginning Monday, August 23, to Monday through Friday, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The final day of the 2021 pool season is Labor Day Monday,

September 6, where the facility will be open 12 p.m. to 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 ages 50 or better receive a 50% discount. To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines, masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons when in the bathroom 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. Please be advised, operations are subject to change in accordance to Executive Orders and guidelines.

**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. Sto-

ry 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](http://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](http://www.chathamCBA.com).

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

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

## Scout News

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

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

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Celebrating Women of Chatham: 'Conversations with Women Making a Difference'

PITTSBORO — Beginning September 2021, Chatham Community Library will host a series of quarterly discussions highlighting women changemakers in Chatham County. The series will address areas of interest to county residents, viewed from the perspective of women engaged in both traditional and non-traditional careers including agriculture, entrepreneurship, education, the arts, law enforcement, and social activism.

The first virtual program will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on

Saturday, Sept. 18. The panel will feature Chatham County farmers, including:

- Tiffany Cooper, Bee Hoppy Farm, Pittsboro
- Emily Boynton, Fiddlehead Farm, Pittsboro
- Tenita Solanto, Green Panda Farms, Siler City
- Karen Jordan, Brush Creek Swiss Farms, Siler City
- Patricia Parker, In Good Heart Farm, Pittsboro
- McKenzie Withington, Lilly Den Farm, Goldston
- N.C. Cooperative Extension Agent Debbie Roos of the Chatham County Center will moderate the panel. Panelists will discuss the challenges and rewards of being a woman farmer in Chatham among other aspects.

This virtual event is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants

should register online to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or [rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

The Celebrating Women of Chatham series was created in response to the library's March 2021 virtual forum celebrating Women's History Month: "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: A Woman's Perspective of Chatham County." A recording of this program is available on the library's YouTube channel.

**Chatham Community Library presents virtual film screening of 'Don't Tell Anyone'**

PITTSBORO — Cha-

tham Community Library will host a virtual screening of the documentary "Don't Tell Anyone" (No Le Digas a Nadie) beginning Thursday, Sept. 16, and continuing through Sept. 23. This program is free and open to the public.

The film follows the story of Angy, whose mother made the ultimate sacrifice for them and fled to the United States when facing a grim future in a country devastated by civil war. For the past 19 years, Angy has lived with a secret that has threatened to upend her life in the only country she has ever called home: she is undocumented.

Don't Tell Anyone follows Angy's story as an activist for the rights of undocumented youths, working together with other inspiring individ-

uals as they navigate the perils of a life led in the shadows.

Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Sept. 16 by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/dont-tell-anyone-watch-page-chatham-commu->

nity-library. A password is required at the time of viewing. Those who are interested may contact [social.library@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:social.library@chathamlibraries.org) to request the password or for additional information.

— CN+R staff reports

**Chatham County Council on Aging**

## WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

*Q: What "I Can See Clearly Now" singer was born on this day in 1940?*

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

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## CLARIFICATION

A story in the Aug. 12-18 edition of the News + Record ("CCS to require universal masking for 5-day in-person school this fall, BOE decides") stated that Chatham County Board of Edu-

cation member David Hamm attended the meeting by phone call. In fact, he started the meeting by calling in, but was present for the majority of the meeting in person, including the vote.

## CORRECTION

In the story, "New Salvation Army director says 'whack-a-mole' method won't get clients to self-sufficiency" (News + Record, Aug. 12-18 edition), Donna

Smith was identified as a part-time employee of the agency. She is actually a full-time employee. The News + Record regrets the error.

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# Could you pass the U.S. Citizenship test?

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

Besides testing your English, the U.S. citizenship exam tests you on how well you know U.S. history and government. During your citizenship interview, immigration officials will ask 10 questions drawn from a pool of 100, which all ask about some aspect of U.S. history or government. Aspiring citizens have to answer six correctly to pass. You've got your English down pat, but could you pass this test?

1. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
2. What stops one branch of

government from becoming too powerful?

3. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

4. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

5. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

6. When was the Constitution written?

7. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

8. What is one thing Benjamin

Franklin is famous for?

9. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

10. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

Answers:

1. Speech, religion, assembly, press or petition the government
2. Checks and balances or separation of powers
3. 435
4. Provide schooling and education; provide protection (police); provide safety (fire departments), give a driver's license; or approve zoning and land use.
5. Citizens 18 and older can vote; you don't have to pay (a

poll tax) to vote; any citizen (man or woman) can vote; or a male citizen of any race can vote.

6. 1787

7. James Madison; Alexander Hamilton; John Jay; or Publius.

8. U.S. diplomat; oldest member of the Constitutional Convention; first Postmaster General of the United States; writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"; or started the first free libraries.

9. War of 1812; Mexican-American War; Civil War; or the Spanish-American War.

10. Cherokee; Navajo; Sioux; Chippewa; Choctaw; Pueblo; Apache; Iroquois; Creek; Blackfeet; Seminole; Cheyenne;

Arawak; Shawnee; Mohegan; Huron; Oneida; Lakota; Crow; Teton; Hopi or Inuit.

Out of 1,000 Americans, a 2018 national survey found that only one in three, or 36%, could pass a multiple choice test of questions from the U.S. Citizenship Test, according to the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Per the results, 72% of respondents either couldn't identify which states were part of the 13 colonies, and only 24% knew why the colonists fought the British. The results also indicated an age gap: Those 65 years and older scored the best, while only 19% of those under age 45 passed the exam.

## LITERACY

Continued from page A1

to adults living in Chatham County, with the help of volunteer tutors. Throughout its decade-long history, the nonprofit's free citizenship preparation program has helped dozens of Chatham immigrants apply for citizenship and pass the test with flying colors — including Interiano and her husband José.

"The teachers were great people to us. They helped us a lot," said Interiano, 50, adding, "Mainly thanks to God and thanks to them, we have citizenship. If it hadn't been for them, I think we still wouldn't have anything."

Free to all, Chatham Literacy's program teaches immigrants the basics of U.S. history and government, shores up their English-language skills and prepares them to ace the citizenship test, a multi-part interview conducted entirely in English, with few exceptions. Once students go through the class, staff and tutors also help them fill out the citizenship application form.

"We're trained by USCIS [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services] themselves on how to complete the application," Chatham Literacy's Leslie Ocampo told the News + Record. She manages the citizenship preparation program as the nonprofit's program coordinator.

"We've been trained by the (USCIS) office in Charlotte on how to fill out the (application) and what kind of things the interviewers are looking out for on civic education for citizenship applicants," she added, "you know, materials, things like that."

Right now, Chatham Literacy offers three citizenship group classes, plus one-on-one tutoring sessions for those who need individualized attention. During the pandemic, classes went remote, and some have stayed remote, though students now have the option to resume in-person sessions.

"There's preferences," Ocampo said. "Some people don't feel comfortable learning in a group, and some people do better in a group because they're more talkative. They interact more, participate more, whatever. I think it's great that we have options now."

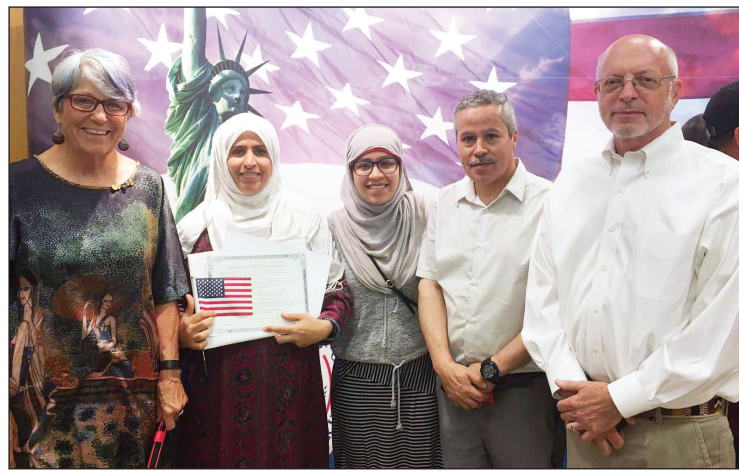
Right now, the program serves 19 students of various ages and backgrounds. Most come from Latin American countries, though they've had various students from the Middle East as well.

The citizenship program has several volunteer tutors, who teach at night or during the weekend depending on their availability.

To sign up for the program, aspiring students can call 919-742-0578 and schedule an appointment. Staff will ask for students' basic contact information, educational background and availability to match them with tutors. Only adults 18 years and up who live or work in Chatham County are eligible for services.

Incoming students will also need to take literacy tests so that staff can place them in the appropriate classes or with the appropriate tutors.

"With those assessments ... we establish a baseline where they can work from, and then we also match them with the appropriate materials," Ocampo said. "If they are going to be in a group, it's easier to divide students up based on their English



Submitted photo

**Suryah Zahmadi poses with her tutor Joanne Caye (left), her daughter Shaimaa, her husband Abdul and mock examiner Dan Freehling (right) on July 19, 2019, the day she took her oath of allegiance as a new U.S. citizen. Zahmadi lives in Siler City with her family.**

literacy level, rather than just put everybody together. Well, if everybody's together, then some people get left behind."

### 'To become citizens'

Chatham Literacy's citizenship preparation program officially began in 2009, but its roots first began sprouting about three years earlier when a poll worker noticed a big problem.

That poll worker was Bonnie Bechard, Chatham Literacy's former executive director.

"She realized that there was this population that could not understand the voting sheets, and they couldn't understand anybody who could help them," Chatham Literacy's executive director, Vicki Newell, told the News + Record. "And so she's like, 'You know what? We need to have some literacy programs, and we need to help people to be able to become citizens. We need to help people to understand what their right is to be able to really make informed decisions when they actually get there.'"

Bechard soon found out one such program already existed, but had since gone dormant. She decided to rectify that: In 2008, she and others reorganized and reinvented Chatham Literacy. This new incarnation strove for a different and more encompassing sort of literacy — the kind that provides people with the tools to make informed decisions.

"Literacy back in the day was truly reading the printed word, and that no longer is true," Newell said. "It is really about being able to understand, being able to process, being able to make informed decisions, being able to communicate ... being able to advocate for yourself — all of that is literacy."

In May of 2009, the citizenship program received its first student, and to date, Chatham Literacy has helped 125 people become U.S. citizens — and not a single one has failed to pass the exam on their initial application.

To become U.S. citizens, immigrants must go through a four-part process and meet a series of requirements. First up? Filling in a 20-page citizenship application called the N-400.

"It asks (for) five years of history — where you've lived, where you've gone to school, your kids, your spouse, have you ever been divorced, your ex-wife, your ex-husband, all of that good stuff," Ocampo said, "and we help students fill it out, free of charge."

But to even be eligible for that step, aspiring citizens must first have lived in the U.S. as permanent residents for at least five years. As part of the

application process, people must also submit to a fingerprint-based background check. Upon submitting the N-400 and undergoing a biometric background check, aspiring citizens will then receive a test, or interview, date.

"So in that interview, they sit down with a United States immigration official and basically go over that entire application, and the immigration official asks questions about the history," Ocampo said. "You know, 'I see you've done this, I see you've done that,' and they also have to answer 10 questions about the history of the United States, civic history as well."

All 10 will come from a pool of about 100 questions for which aspiring citizens must learn the answers. Out of those 10 questions, applicants have to correctly answer six to pass. After that, they must then read three sentences in English and write another three thereafter.

"Now, it's not just any three, you know," said Joanne Caye, a tutor who's been with Chatham Literacy since the citizenship program first began. "You can't pick up Dickens and say, 'Here read this.' There are words that they are told that they have to know, and so the sentences usually include those words."

Once the interview's complete, applicants will know whether they passed right then and there.

"The interviewer will say, 'Congratulations, you're becoming a citizen. You've got all your questions. You answered whatever,'" Ocampo said. "It used to be pre-pandemic that they'll send you a later date for the ceremony, and in the ceremony, you get your little flag, you get your certificate, you can take pictures, and it's a huge group that becomes citizens at that single ceremony."

To file the application and therefore jumpstart the process, applicants must pay a \$725 fee. They then have two chances to pass the interview without paying another \$725 or resubmitting the application.

"So say they didn't get all the questions right on the first try," Ocampo said. "The official or the interviewer will be like, 'OK, I see that you're not ready. Let's try again in three months,' and automatically gives them another date to try again in three months without having to pay more than the application fee that they already paid or submit another application."

That's what Chatham Literacy's program seeks to prevent. To prepare students for success, tutors help students learn all 100 questions, plus enough English to pass the interview. Tutors also teach basic interviewing skills and hold mock interviews for practice.

For adult learners who



Submitted photo

**Suryah Zahmadi with her Chatham Literacy citizenship tutor, Joanne Caye, in front of the Raleigh-Durham USCIS office on June 10, 2019, the day she passed her citizenship exam.**

don't speak fluent English, they'll go over basic English literacy skills. Sometimes, that might mean starting from scratch.

Crucially, tutors also make sure students understand and can answer questions about their applications. Immigration officials will ask applicants to confirm or explain details they put down on their application forms, and one small slip-up can cost them the interview.

One question, for instance, asks applicants whether they've ever been detained by a police officer for any reason, Ocampo said. Sometimes, applicants won't realize that may include a simple traffic stop, and that can cause trouble.

"So people's automatic instinct is to say, 'No, I've never been stopped,' but then the interviewer will be like, 'Well, I see on here that you have been stopped. Why did you just lie to me?'" she said. "That's kind of a worst case scenario, but that's why we've prepared students to learn to identify that language."

Depending on each student's literacy baseline and dedication, Newell said it may take students between six months to a year to complete the class. On top of that, the application process may stretch out that time even further, especially now. Before the pandemic, the entire process, from filing the application to the interview, usually took three to four months. With the pandemic, however, that wait time has turned into a six-month backlog.

"Usually, it's a month's wait between each stage because you've got two important dates; you've got your biometrics date, and you've got your interview date," Ocampo said. "So it's about a month's wait between those three to four months, but now we're sitting on six months of waiting for even a biometric date here."

### 'Becoming involved in their community'

At first glance, the program may seem like it just teaches to the test, Newell said. That's how she first viewed it when she arrived at Chatham Literacy a decade ago.

But now, a decade later, she said she knows that's just not true: Many students walk away empowered with lifelong friendships as well as a deeper understanding of and commitment to their community.

"It's truly building our citizens so that they become engaged — it's a lot about civic

engagement in the community," she said. "So what we see as a result is adults becoming involved in their community because they want to, coming back to learn English because they want to become part of a community. They vote because they now have a voice. So those are very powerful things."

Siler City resident Suryah Zahmadi became a U.S. citizen in June of 2019 after nine months of hard work and one-on-one tutoring with Caye. She's since exercised her right to vote in the past few elections.

"I like to vote," she said with a smile.

Originally from Yemen, Zahmadi first came to the U.S. in 2007 with her family. When she first arrived at Chatham Literacy, she didn't speak much English, only Arabic. While she was growing up in Yemen, women weren't allowed to go to school.

"She couldn't read. The first alphabet she has learned is English," Caye said, "and so she speaks Arabic, but where we are now, we worked and we worked and she got those questions right. And in fact, I went with her when she took her test. ... When the examiner came out, he looked at me and said she was an honor to meet."

Smiling, Caye added, "I'm so proud of her."

Now, Zahmadi's working with Caye to improve her English. Among her goals for the future? Master English so she can help teach it to others. She also wants to learn how to drive.

"I can do some things. I can answer in the telephone. I can now go to the doctor. Before, nothing," Zahmadi told the News + Record. She added: "I was scared to go outside. ... I see people who speak to me. I (don't) understand."

Likewise, Interiano's looking forward to voting in her first U.S. election — and beyond that, she also plans to continue improving her English so that she can change jobs.

Looking back, she remembers attending citizenship class two times a week at night right after she got off work. Sometimes, she'd stay up late writing, reading and listening to the 100 civics questions — and despite how difficult it was, she'd do it all over again.

"It's worth it," she said. "It doesn't matter what sacrifice you have to make."

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# VIEWPOINTS

THE CN+R EDITORIAL

## N.C.'s Education Lottery falls way short of its promise

Is it the time to call the N.C. "Education" Lottery what it is? Because it's certainly not about education.

To be fair, it was never really about education to begin with. While the long title of the bill included some language about "Further the Goal of Providing Enhanced Educational Opportunities" and making sure "All Students in the Public Schools Can Achieve Their Full Potential," one look at the financial plan from the beginning shows it wasn't.

From a story we wrote in 2019: "The revenues were to be allocated, 'to the extent practicable,' the bill stated, in the following manner: at least 50 percent to the public in the form of prizes; at least 35 percent to educational purposes;

es; no more than 8 percent for expenses, including no more than 1 percent for advertising; and no more than 7 percent for compensation to retailers. The allocation language was changed in 2007 to state the percentages were 'guidelines' to which the lottery commission 'shall adhere...to the extent practicable.'"

Earlier this month, the N.C. "Education" Lottery showed once again how far it has fallen from its original "purpose." The lottery reported a record of \$3.8 billion in sales. Earnings for education, a press release stated, amounted to just \$936 million, while more than \$2.4 billion went to lottery winners. Translation — approximately 63% to winners, around 24.6% to education.

A long way from those original standards, standards loosened by the 2007 language change to "guidelines." And this isn't new. From that 2019 story:

"In the first full year of the lottery's existence, that guideline was stuck to — 51% of ticket sales (\$451.7 million) went to prize money and 35% went to education funding (\$315.3 million). But as the years have progressed, the percentages have shifted greatly. In fiscal year 2018, 63.2% of ticket sales went to prizes and 25.9% went to education."

How are we going to call this an "Education" lottery if the majority of the funds go to prizes, if the advertisements we see on TV are all about winning a jackpot or funding

your kid's college or buying a fun toy, and funds allocated to schools shrink?

Yes, money does go to education, and that is a good thing. Our public schools and their teachers, administrators, professional staff and students all need more support, and that support starts with money investments in their school infrastructure — buildings, people, curricula and other resources. But it may not even really be helping. From a 2019 article from Education NC:

"When the lottery legislation was first written, it stated, 'The net revenues generated by the lottery shall not supplant revenues already expended or projected to be expended for those public purposes, and lottery net revenues shall supplement

rather than be used as substitute funds for the total amount of money allocated for those public purposes.' However, this sentence was removed right before voting, opening the door for legislators to use lottery revenues as a replacement for state funding."

That same year, Chatham County Schools Chief Financial Officer Tony Messer told us that while lottery funds do aid the schools and Chatham County in paying off debt on school construction, it "hasn't really impacted our financial operations," and has supplanted money previously supplied from the state.

It's time to call this the North Carolina Prize Lottery. At least then it would be more reflective of what the funds mostly go toward.

## Chatham's government needs to offer Spanish-language services. Here's why.

Even three years after my time abroad in Spain ended, I can still remember sitting inside a Pamplona brewery feeling like I'd been served a Molotov cocktail.

It was Sept. 10, 2018, and the brewery was a Spanish chain called 100 Montaditos. I'd arrived in Pamplona, Spain, only a couple of weeks earlier, and classes at my host university, the University of Navarra, had just begun — along with my legal problems.

To study in Spain for a year, I had to apply for a permanent residency card called a T.I.E., but I didn't have all the documents I needed, nor did I know how to get them. That's why I was at the brewery — not to drink my sorrows away, but to meet a law student who had agreed to help me obtain the sublease agreement I needed to receive my T.I.E.

At that point, I spoke Spanish. I'd taken six years of it in school, and after a few weeks in Pamplona, I knew how to handle myself. I'd even reached out to that law student in Spanish. But sitting there in 100 Montaditos, I couldn't even begin to understand the legalese she threw at me in breakneck Spanish.

Last week, my colleague Hannah McClellan and I wrote an article examining the county's efforts to expand Spanish-language services and hire more bilingual staff. Immediately thereafter, people began to ask us: Why don't these people learn English? Are the county's efforts really necessary?

Yes, they are. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, any entity that receives federal funds must take reasonable steps to ensure those with limited English proficiency have meaningful access to their services.

But more than necessary, Chatham County's efforts to expand Spanish-language services are indispensable. Immigrants should learn English, but it can take years for adult learners to reach native-level fluency. Even for those proficient in English, conversational fluency often doesn't cut it when you're trying to file immigration paperwork or apply for county building permits.

Take it from someone who knows. I entered Spain with what the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages called "upper intermediate" Spanish fluency — so, essentially conversational fluency. I could tell you about my day, order food and complain about my homework in Spanish, no problem. But I couldn't negotiate a complex sublease.

I knew what a contrato was. I even knew what arrendamiento and subarrendamiento were. I didn't, however, have any idea what a DNI was. At that point, I didn't even know how to say "real estate agency," much less how to negotiate a sublease contract with one.

That day in 100 Montaditos, as that law student began referencing all of these terms and processes I'd never heard in my life, all I could do was sit there, stare and inwardly implode.

Thankfully, she noticed pretty quickly, and switched to English for my benefit. But if she hadn't, I don't know what I would have done. I accompanied her to the real estate agency in charge of the apartment — or piso — to write the agreement, and to this day, I'm not entirely sure what they said.

Noe Briones Licon, a Ramseur resident I spoke to two weeks ago, summed it up perfectly:

"There are words in English that I've never heard in my life," he told me in

Spanish. "Perhaps they're objects or things I've never seen. ... There are things that you just don't understand or know. Perhaps you understand more or less where the conversation's going, but if you don't know something, you're not going to know what it's called."

But I was a student who began learning Spanish — both everyday and academic — at age 14. The younger you are, generally the easier it is to learn a new language. The same goes for education: If you start from a higher literacy baseline with ingrained study habits, it'll likely be easier for you to learn a second or third language.

Now consider this: Many Latin Americans who immigrate to Chatham County are older adults. According to 2019 U.S. Census data, the median age of foreign-born citizens in Chatham County was 43. Many, too, come from areas of severe social and economic inequities where education may have been a privilege, not a right.

A couple of months ago, I was speaking to Jazmin Mendoza Sosa of Communities In Schools of Chatham County about school equity for Spanish-speaking parents. Today, she's a program director, but she used to be a student support specialist at Virginia Cross Elementary, where she supported 45 families who primarily spoke Spanish.

"We know that the key stakeholders are parents who are working many hours, who might not have formal education," she told me. "Some of them might not even be able to read."

During remote learning, Jazmin told me about one mother in particular with a 2nd grader and a 3rd grader who often sat in on her tutoring sessions to support her children's education in the few ways she could.

"We were doing something on the whiteboard," she told me last year. "Mom would erase the stuff that we did on the whiteboard, and then the little girl would continue working. I know erasing the whiteboard might not seem a lot to people, but that's a lot for a mother who doesn't know how to read and write ... in English or Spanish."

Last year, I also spoke with a wonderful lady in her mid-70s who overcame all obstacles to gain U.S. citizenship. She's originally from Mexico, where she told me she didn't have the opportunity to go through much schooling.

"I don't know how to read," she told me in Spanish. "I can hardly write my name. I don't know how to read letters."

Imagine how hard it might be to learn to read, speak and write another language fluently — much less discuss esoteric topics like building permits — when you're not fully literate in your own language.

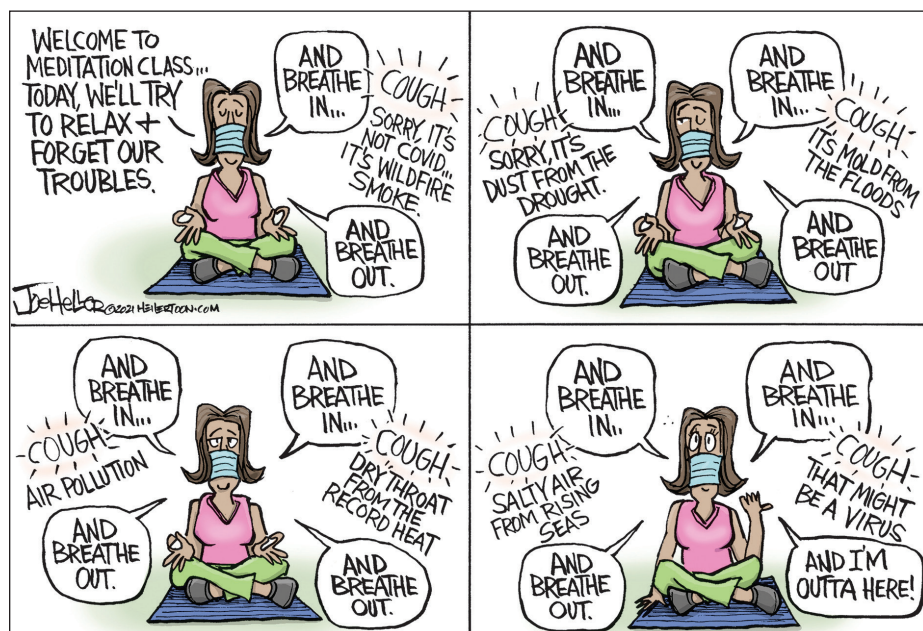
But that's not to say that immigrants aren't trying to learn English. Many want to and are learning. In fact, a Mexican immigrant in her 40s told me last year she began attending an English class at Central Carolina Community College the day after she'd first arrived in Chatham seven or eight years ago.

"I didn't understand a word in English," she told me in Spanish, "so for me, my challenge was 'I have to learn' because I don't want to be asking people all the time, 'Can you tell me what he said?' ... No, I don't want to depend on anyone."

As of last year, her English had improved, but she said she was still learning.

Language acquisition just takes time — especially if you're starting from a lower literacy baseline. That's why, in the meantime, Chatham County must have Spanish-language services and resources to serve those who can't or just haven't yet got there.

Victoria Johnson is the News + Record's La Voz de Chatham reporter. She can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).



## A breath of fresh air. A filter. Some perspective.

The picture accompanying this column was taken at an overlook near Cataloochee Valley in North Carolina's Great Smoky Mountains. My wife and I had a weekend getaway to the Maggie Valley area recently and on that Saturday evening, we drove up and over a mountain — on the narrow, nerve-racking, switchback-filled Cove Creek Road, which featured three miles of a washboard, pothole-filled gravel "two-lane" (and a Bigfoot statue) — to the valley itself.

We wanted to check out the wild elk herd which comes out at dusk to graze on the grasses of the valley floor. Seeing them up close, with just a few other onlookers, was a rare treat and worth the white-knuckle drive.

This picture — which I took with my iPhone — was enhanced with some editing: I boosted the color, did some sharpening and added a frame, all in an effort to make it look better.

I enjoy seeing great shots on my friends' Instagram pages with the "#nofilter" hashtag, which is a way of saying: "What I'm sharing with you is so spectacular it doesn't need a filter." But sometimes a filter, or a little enhancement, improves a two-dimensional photo — like this one — to make it more representative of what you'd see, and experience, in person.

I was reminded of that when I awoke one morning a few days later to a text message from a friend asking me about Chatham County's new mask mandate. He read (not in the News + Record) that the county had announced the public mandate effective at 5 p.m. that day, and that as of that time, if you went indoors in a public place, face coverings would be required.

That couldn't be true, I told him. I said that yes, the county was (as of that day) asking vaccinated and unvaccinated people entering county government facilities to mask up, but as of yet, Chatham had *not* announced a return to the kind of mandates we had earlier this year.

Apparently, the source my friend read had put its own filter on a piece of news, leading to an inadvertent misinterpretation.

Many of us have been pulling together our face coverings (mine have been



stuffed inside my car's front console) in preparation for masking-up requests by some businesses and potential new mandates.

Masks are a form of a filter, too, of course. And we know that mixed messages, and misinformation — other forms of filters — are rampant.

Chatham County commissioners met on Monday night; a mask mandate issue wasn't on the agenda, which was a surprise given that more and more municipalities and counties are announcing them. The meeting ultimately adjourned without any new announcements, but still, they may come.

In the meantime, we ask: To mask or not? To filter or not?

Many days, I have exchanges with #nofilter friends and family members about COVID, the vaccines, masks and mandates. A year into this, I've not persuaded anyone whose opinions differ from mine to change their mind on those subjects. Nor has anyone with whom I've disagreed swayed me.

But what has become clear is the fact that most of us develop our views on such things based on information we've filtered through our own pre-COVID biases and narratives. We apply our own spin, our own filter, to what we believe to be true. And what we believe to be true is often filtered itself by the time it reaches us.

Filters can be helpful. Sometimes they enhance the picture, clarify it. But choosing to apply them haphazardly to those with whom we disagree — whilst simultaneously ignoring our own carefully-chosen filters — doesn't always sharpen the picture.

So choose them wisely.

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# VIEWPOINTS

## The days — and times — of our lives come and go with special meanings

There are, it seems to me, certain times of the year — and certain years in our lives — that are special because of what they stand for, what they traditionally mean and what happens at, in or during them.

For instance, there's the year we begin our formal education. It used to be our sixth one but that was before kindergarten, pre-kindergarten, pre-pre-kindergarten and hospital newborn nursery pre-school.

Later on, there's the 16th, the year you once could get your driver's license, provided you could find the friction point of the clutch so you didn't roll back down the hill or burn it up double-clutch-

ing and speed-shifting. I still don't understand why today's driver's training programs use cars with automatic transmissions instead of straight drive or even four-speeds but that's another story and column.

I remember the day I turned 18 and Uncle Sam said I had to register for the draft. I did and they told me when I finished high school and went to college that if I stayed in school, I probably wouldn't have to do a tour of duty. But the day I rode the bus to Raleigh with 40 of Chatham County's finest at 5 in the morning after I flunked out of college for the fourth time came all too soon. Also, standing around in my birthday suit with 149 other equally-clad young men was not the highlight of my life.

Later that day, Uncle Sam decided to pass on me for the time being and said he'd get back to me if he needed me. Still, it was

a momentous day.

Sometime after that in the dark ages I turned 21 and signed up for the privilege to vote. As I get older, I'm coming to understand it really isn't a right but a privilege. Now the voting age is 18; sometimes I think it should be 35 or 47 or 118, hopefully maybe after we have enough life experiences to have learned some sense.

And there are others — for me and for you. But of all the times and days and years of our lives, it's dang near impossible to beat the significance of the start of a new school year. The 2021-22 year kicks off in a few days; faculty and staff are already at work; stores have been advertising "Back to School" since July 4th. (Many of those stores, by the way, are already advertising stuff for Halloween but that's another story.) Of course, another story is what will this year be like with folks wearing masks and

all that's going on now and may yet come about.

Anyway, it's been a loooooooong time since I walked the halls of the old school building and went from room to room to find the piece of paper with my name on it stuck to the door frame of what would be "mine" for that year.

But I still can feel that feeling — the excitement, the anticipation, and all that goes with it. Would I be with my running buddies from last year, or had word gotten around and our gang been broken up? Would I be in Miss Grundy's class, the ol' gal who could put the fear of death in you if you so much as breathed? Would I finally be near enough to Katy Sue McGillicutty to get her to at least acknowledge my existence?

The excitement of those first few moments, mixed in with the smell of just-sharpened No. 2 pencils, fresh notebook paper with the blue horse head on

the outer wrapping and new blue jeans was a moment that's worth reliving again, if we but could. And those smells... If they could somehow be captured in glass and sprayed across our furrowed brows, Polo (or whatever the odor of the day is) would pale in comparison.

The year is new. The pages are blank; the future is stretched out ahead.

Isn't it grand? But still I wonder — whatever happened to Katy Sue ...

*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.*



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

## 'The blame of those ye better ...'

Another high-flying experiment in colonialism came crashing back to earth this past week in Afghanistan.

We should not be surprised. It is a story as old as The Crusades. In the short term the effort is often a success; in the long run it is always a failure.

To most Americans, the Kingdom of Jerusalem or the siege of Acre are nothing but ancient history, but the Crusades remain vivid in the collective memory of Islam. Among the sons of the Prophet, it is remembered that men came from afar with religious purpose and sanction to take up the land. It continued to be feared that one day they would come back. I suppose it inevitable that we are viewed with hostility. To them, we are just another marauding tribe of Frankish knights.

The history of colonialism shows us again and again that the governing of a geographically remote or ethnically alien culture by a distant power always comes to an end. In the modern world this end comes less as a result of the rising power of the subjugated people than of the weakening of the will of their foreign rulers. Usually, the end is chaotic and bloody, such as the British partition of India, or the French evacuation of Algeria, where whole populations were massacred or uprooted in the anarchic rush to escape. No, the only surprise is the speed with which the hapless Afghan forces fell to the Taliban. It took two years of hard fighting before the North Vietnamese overwhelmed the weak, corrupt administration in Saigon. The Kabul government fell in a matter of days. The only thing we have to show for 20 years expenditure of blood and treasure in this savage war of peace is Rudyard Kipling's old reward of "The blame of those ye better, the hate of those ye guard."

As an eyewitness to and survivor of the attack on the World Trade Center, I vocally supported the war in Afghanistan. For myself, and for many people younger than me at that time, the war against the Taliban became what F. Scott Fitzgerald called our "love battle." In his book "Tender is the Night," Fitzgerald wrote about the survivors of World War I, describing how young men of his generation found the courage to go "over the top" of the trenches and into murderous machine-gun fire for "King and Country" or "Kaiser and Reich," describing how "this took religion and years of plenty and the tremendous sureties and the exact relation that existed between the classes... You had to have a whole-souled sentimental equipment going back further than you could remember."

Gertrude Stein called them a lost generation; yet, decades later, William Manchester wrote of World War II using similar terms in his memoir "Goodbye, Darkness." He writes: "You felt sure that all lands, given our democracy and our know-how, could shine as radiantly as we did ... Wickedness was attributed to flaws in individual characters, not society's shortcomings ... All these and 'God Bless America' and Christmas or Hanukkah and the certitude that victory in the war would assure their continuance into perpetuity."

So in the autumn of 2001 another American generation went to war armored with Christmas mornings and high school sweethearts and Saturday nights uptown and paydays. It takes 20 years, but every generation has its love battle. Mine is over, and my American flag lapel pin won't get me into heaven anymore.

Not many people on either side of the Atlantic know that Rudyard Kipling, whose wife was American, lived four happy years in a large house he had built in southern Vermont. No one had written more about colonialism than he, no one celebrated it more powerfully, or warned more trenchantly of its dangers. Perhaps we as a nation should remember the words of Rudyard Kipling when we think of the catastrophe that is called Afghanistan:

"When you're wounded and left on Afghanistan's plains,  
And the women come out to cut up what remains,  
Jest roll to your rifle and blow out your brains  
An' go to your Gawd like a soldier."

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



**DWAYNE WALLS JR.**  
The Roundabout



### LETTERS

#### When it comes to climate change, what can we do?

TO THE EDITOR:

"What can I do?" Anything. The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) about the future of life on earth if we don't immediately move away from burning fossil fuels was sobering and terrifying. We have no time to wait. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said this is a "code red for humanity." The daily reports of heatwaves, forest fires and sea level rise can feel overwhelming.

But the future is not yet written. Each one of us can do something to speed the change we need. Emily Atkin, who writes the informative newsletter "HEATED" answers the question "What can I do? Anything" at <https://heated.world/p/what-can-i-do-anything>.

There are many groups we can join to take action, including N.C. Warn and Oil Change International. We can act with others to magnify our voices. We can donate to climate groups that focus on our issues. We can contact our representatives at least monthly to let them know the climate crisis is a priority. Rep.

David Price recently conducted a survey on priority issues for his constituents. Climate change came out on top. Senators Burr and Tillis need to hear from us that the climate crisis is bearing down on us now — not a problem for the future. We can comment on proposed utility regulations. We can talk with our friends and family about our hopes and fears. We can subscribe to newsletters that direct us to calls for action. This is a partial list — there is much more that each of us can do.

What can I do? Anything.  
**Vickie Atkinson**  
Chapel Hill



#### What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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



# VIEWPOINTS

## Everyone favors limits on democracy

Why won't North Carolina Democrats accept the results of an election? Don't they believe in democracy?

In 2018, North Carolinians went to the polls to cast ballots for congressional, legislative and local candidates. They also voted on several constitutional amendments. One of them required the presentation of a photo ID in order to vote. The measure was extensively debated for months. Some 1.6 million voted against it. Just over 2 million voted for it. By a 55% to 45% margin, North Carolinians added a photo-ID requirement to the state constitution.

But it has never been implemented. Democratic politicians and progressive activists refused to let the majority have

its say. They sued. The issue remains in litigation.

Now, let me answer those initial questions. First, why won't North Carolina Democrats accept the results of that 2018 election? Because they don't like the outcome.

Second, does resorting to court challenge mean that these Democrats and activists don't believe in democracy? No. They believe that in a free society, direct democracy must face some constraints. They believe that even if a majority of the population favors a particular policy, that shouldn't necessarily lead to the policy being implemented.

I don't agree with them about requiring photo IDs to vote. It's a reasonable, low-cost precaution against a low-probability but potentially outrageous result: fraudulent votes determining the outcome of an election. But I do agree with them about the underlying principle of necessary constraints on democracy. You do, too, though you may not

have thought about the issue in those terms.

That is, if you believe in America's system of constitutional government, you think a mix of democratic and non-democratic elements is better than a simple majoritarian democracy. You favor checks and balances, including checks on the power of elected lawmakers and balancing popular will with individual rights. You aren't just comfortable with judges (including appointed ones) striking down laws that most voters favor. You'd be upset if judges didn't exercise such a power.

Consider the Bill of Rights. The First Amendment states that "Congress shall make no law" abridging the freedoms of religious exercise, speech, press, assembly and petition. The argument was never that restricting core freedoms is OK as long as it's the majority who does it.

During segregation, the right of African-Americans to vote in federal, state, and local

elections was routinely denied in many places. But even if it hadn't been, even if Black people had been voting in those places at rates compared to white people, the latter would often have prevailed in democratic elections. That wouldn't have given white-run governments the moral authority to infringe on the personal and economic freedoms of their black neighbors. Nor would it have rescued such Jim Crow policies from being overturned by federal judges in defense of constitutional rights.

In Aristotle's classic work *Politics*, he articulates two different definitions of freedom. "One principle of liberty," he writes in Part 2 of Book 6, "is for all to rule and be ruled in turn," by which he means that "the majority must be supreme, and that whatever the majority approve must be the end and the just." But that is only "one note of liberty which all democrats affirm to be the principle of their state," he continues. "Another is that a

man should live as he likes."

There's an inherent tension here, as Aristotle recognized thousands of years ago and that we still see and experience today. Majority wins (or, at least, plurality wins) is the proper decision rule for electing politicians and settling some other questions. It is not the only proper decision rule in a constitutional republic, however. Constitutions are essentially supermajority requirements that constrain government action. Some progressives, exhibiting either bad faith or an embarrassing lack of self-awareness, accuse conservatives of being "against democracy" when we make procedural arguments or file lawsuits challenging a policy that was enacted by a majoritarian institution.

It's a silly claim. And they don't really mean it.

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



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

## Good news for Trump?

There is some surprisingly good news for Donald Trump in a new book that, ironically, aims to demonstrate the former president's incompetence.

"Landslide: The Final Days of the Trump White House," by Michael Wolff, follows Trump and his campaign from July 2020 through his departure for Mar-a-Lago on January 20, 2021.

Wolff is the author of two earlier bestselling books about the Trump presidency. "Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House" (2018) is an account of the first six months of Trump's Presidency. "Siege: Trump Under Fire" (2019) begins in February 2018 and ends with the release of the Mueller Report in March 2019.

In the weeks before the 2020 election, Wolff writes, "the calamitous nature of the Trump campaign, handicapped by both the candidate and organization" convinced liberals that "a landslide was coming for the Democrats."

But in the last days before the election, the tide turned, and Trump was convinced "that he was absolutely going to win."

On election night, the early returns seemingly confirmed Trump's hope that he would win in a landslide. Good results in key states pointed towards a big win. He was joyous until Fox News announced later in the evening that it was calling Arizona for Biden.

Trump was shocked and unbelieving.

When later returns gave Biden the win, Trump convinced himself that a broad voter fraud robbed him of his victory. Subsequently, he spent all his time and energy trying to convince others that the election had been stolen and plotting courses of action to reverse his loss.

When his close advisors came to tell him there was no chance of winning, he rejected their conclusion, telling them, "You've got to fight harder. You're not fighting hard enough. They stole it."

The one person who would fight was Rudy Giuliani, the former New York City mayor. His barrage of lawsuits and Trump's pressure on local officials did not change any results.

"Giuliani had failed in every single instance of legal strategy and positioning in the election challenge and now he put all his eggs into the Pence basket," Wolff writes.

They would persuade Vice President Pence that, when he was presiding over the electoral vote count in Congress on Jan. 6, he could somehow declare Trump the victor or send back the ballots to the states for further action or, at the very least, postpone final action.

Pence was not persuadable. And "to the extent, as the media darkly warned, that there was an extraordinary plot to hold onto power, there were only two plotters" — Trump and Giuliani — "and no one to back them up."

They were at the conclusion "of a two-month battle in which he had considered little else and on which both his immediate future and his place in history depended. But other than via his own tweets and fulminations and his meeting the day before with the vice president, nobody in the White House was much participating or even present in this fight."

What about the Capitol Hill riot on Jan. 6? Didn't Trump send the mob from a rally at the Ellipse across from the White House to the Capitol, even saying, "I'll be with you"?

What is the good news for Trump in all this?

Wolff's account shows Trump did not organize the riot at the Capitol. Instead, Wolff explains that Trump's incompetence kept him from knowing even what was going on with the rioters. According to Wolff, Trump was not the leader or even a plotter in the attack on the Capitol.

If investigators from the U.S. House Select Committee on the Jan. 6th attack agree with Wolff's finding, they will not hold Trump responsible for planning the attack.

That is the good news for Trump. His bad news is there is still much more for which he will have to account.

*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.*



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

## Healing happens when we think of others first

GUEST COLUMN | PAUL ISOM

I felt angry when I first read of people choosing not to get the

COVID-19 vaccine. As this newspaper recently reported, 91% of confirmed COVID cases in Chatham County, where I shop and attend church, were diagnosed among those not fully vaccinated

since May 1.

Then I realized those people reminded me of me.

I went many years choosing not to get another vaccine against another killer disease — the flu. I had lots of reasons. First, I rarely had more than the sniffles. Plus, I had a private belief that I could overcome sickness by mere force of will. And finally, I never really liked getting shots. So all of those reasons and justifications kept me out of the pharmacy and a needle out of my arm for years.

Sure enough, the flu swept through every year, and most years I avoided it — until 2010 when I missed almost a week of work barely able to move, unable to eat and suffering all of the other associated symptoms. But that wasn't the worst of it.

I was binge-watching television to distract me from my aching body when I heard a rap on the front door. Through the glass panes I could see my 95-year-old neighbor. He had noticed I hadn't gone to work for a few days, deduced I was sick and had brought me some home-cooked food. Through the door, he couldn't quite

hear me telling him I had the flu. He insisted on coming in to make sure I got the food. We visited for a few minutes and he left. It was several weeks later that I learned he contracted the flu as well. He recovered, but I was guilt-stricken that I had given it to someone so vulnerable.

Yet, I still hadn't gotten the message and didn't until 2018 when I read a column by Dr. Aaron Carroll titled, "Still not convinced you need a flu shot? First, it's not all about you."

In it, Carroll pointed out most flu deaths happen to children and the elderly. That's part of the reason it's fairly common for people my age to think they have nothing to worry about when it comes to the flu. In fact, those were the writer's exact words. "If you fall into one of the lower-risk groups (i.e., adults age 18-50), you might still think that the flu isn't such a big deal, and that you don't need to worry much."

He followed those words with the ones that changed my mind: "You don't get immunized just to protect yourself. You also get immunized to protect those who can't protect themselves."

And clearly, what Carroll wrote in 2018 about flu applies today for COVID-19 as Chatham County's case count per 100,000 population has doubled in the past week and a half, according to the county public health director.

Yet, there are still people out there who openly resist getting the vaccine. And that's frustrating to those of us who realize the vaccine can help avoid lockdowns, open schools,

save lives and end the pandemic. But the Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman, whose column space I'm inadequately filling today, helped me turn my frustration into something more hopeful in a recent sermon. While it's painful to watch the hostility over the vaccine and the lack of unity regarding what is clearly the common good, that's no excuse for inaction. He cited Psalm 130 that illustrates a community acting together for the good of all people.

"There are as many reasons for hope as there are people who are willing to be courageous ... and seek healing and wholeness," Taylor-Troutman said. "We find the courage to do this even when it is painful."

So, if I'm honest with myself, I understand how people may feel they have a defense against contracting the coronavirus. Maybe they're in a low-risk group. Maybe they protect themselves in other ways. Maybe they're just busy. Or maybe they don't like needles.

But the more hopeful, helpful message is the same one the columnist made about the flu. The COVID-19 vaccine is not primarily for me as a healthy, middle-aged man. We get vaccinated to protect children and babies. We get vaccinated to protect our older parents, grandparents and friends.

We get the vaccine for our 95-year-old neighbor who we want to be able to welcome into our home without fear of making him sick — or worse.

*Paul Isom lives in Chapel Hill and teaches journalism at N.C. State.*

GUEST COLUMN | JEAN RANC

## Hate thy neighbor? Some notes on vaccine hesitancy

Tom Campbell's sermon ("An altar call for the unvaccinated," News + Record, Aug. 5-12) completely ignores the courageous citizens who wrestled with COVID-19 and won the prize — natural immunity — as well as others who have followed the real science and declined to serve as "guinea pigs" in this COVID "research project."

So before Campbell's "Spin" inspires a Soviet-style police state, with the National Guard going door-to-door to search out The Unvaccinated (which is already happening in some communities, per same News + Record edition, page A3) let's look at some of the adverse reactions and deaths caused by these experimental injections, as reported by the Swiss Policy Research: "Covid Vaccines: the Good, the Bad & the Ugly" (found at <https://swprs.org/covid-vaccines-the-good-the-bad-the-ugly/>):

- Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS): "increased rates of post-vaccination GBS (an auto-immune neurological disease causing paralysis)." "In the UK alone, more than 400 cases of post-vaccination GBS have already been reported (as of 8/2021). On July 12, the U.S. FDA confirmed an increased risk of GBS, especially after the J&J vaccine. SPR estimates that there may already be a few thousand cases of post-vaccination GBS in the U.S."
- Pregnant women and breastfeed-

ing mothers: "U.S. authorities have argued that COVID vaccines 'appear to be completely safe for pregnant women' (NIH) and are 'thought not to be a risk to lactating people or their breastfeeding babies' (CDC). But these assessments may be questionable: The U.S. VAERS system counts already 650 post-vaccination miscarriages, and it has been known since March that covid mRNA vaccines, or the coronavirus spike protein they produce, may get into breast milk and, thus enter, sicken and kill a baby."

- Heart muscle inflammation and heart attacks: "Back in March, SPR first covered a 'murky wave of heart attacks' and an increase in post-vaccination all-cause mortality in Israel. In early June, Israel confirmed that mRNA vaccines may cause heart inflammation and heart attacks, especially in young people." ... "On June 11, the U.S. CDC announced an 'emergency meeting' to discuss post-vaccination heart inflammation in young people."
- Blood clots: "Blood clots, cerebral venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism continue to be major vaccine adverse events, especially after adenovector covid vaccines (AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson). Several countries have already stopped the use of adenovector vaccines altogether or in non-senior citizens. Most recently, Italy took this decision, too, after

several young women died." ... "A 44 y/o BBC moderator died due to blood clots and cerebral bleeding caused by the AstraZeneca vaccine. Several cases of leg amputations due to vaccine-induced blood clots have also been reported."

Note: in the full online article there are links to document all of the above and more. Also, on the [www.swprs.org](http://www.swprs.org) site, one can find published and peer-reviewed research revealing that the cloth masks are ineffective for protecting either the wearer or those around her/him.

Even so, Big Brother Tech has just censored Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul (also an M.D.) for citing some of this research to document his statements that the cloth masks are ineffective.

Finally, if Tom Campbell were my psychotherapy patient, before he adds any more to the delusional mainstream media disinformation, fear-mongering and hate, I would recommend that he read, "Why Don't They Believe Us? You're struggling to understand where all this vaccine hesitancy comes from. Let me help you," by Konstantin Kisin, at <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/vaccines-konstantin-kisin>

*Jean Ranc is a psychologist retired from the Department of Psychiatry at UNC-Chapel Hill. She lives in Pittsboro.*



THE CN+R Q&A | ERIC WOLAK, CHATHAM HOSPITAL

# As COVID cases surge, health expert weighs in on Delta, vaccine and more

CN+R Staff Report

As COVID-19 cases surge, Chatham County's total case count since the start of the pandemic has soared past 5,000.

There was a lull in the spring; from March 12 until July 28, Chatham didn't see a single day with 10 or more newly diagnosed cases of the coronavirus. There have been no deaths from COVID since May. But since Aug. 1, Chatham has seen nearly 300 new diagnoses, an average of almost 19 cases per day, according to the N.C. Division of Health and Human Services.

So the News + Record reached out to Chatham Hospital's Eric Wolak with questions about the Delta variant, the skepticism of some medical experts about "lockdown" policies, and more in the way of an update.

Wolak, DNP, MHA, RN, NEA-BC, is the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nurse Officer for Chatham Hospital. He has more than 20 years of healthcare experience, having worked various positions as a nurse and as a hospital administrator. Wolak holds a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University

of Washington and a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from the UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Why is the Delta variant so contagious?**

Data shows that the Delta variant creates a viral load (that is the amount of virus in your body) that is about 1,000 times higher than the previous variants of the virus. This very high viral load, it is believed, is what causes the virus to be so contagious and make people, even younger people, sick.

**Are the vaccines effective against the Delta variant?**

Yes, they are very effective. While people who are vaccinated can still get infected with COVID, it's a much smaller chance (only about 1%) compared to those unvaccinated. Additionally, those vaccinated do not get so sick that they need hospitalization. Only about 1% of those hospitalized are fully vaccinated. This means of the 2,500 people hospitalized with COVID in North Carolina today, only about 25 are probably vaccinated, and those individuals probably have significant underlying medical conditions

**What else should the community know about the Delta variant?**

The Delta variant is a mutated version of the COVID virus. We have learned that it is much more transmissible. The original virus would

infect about four people for every person who had it; the Delta variant can infect about eight people from one person. We are also learning that it makes people much sicker. Data shows that those who are infected with the Delta variant (which now makes up more than 90% of all COVID infections in North Carolina) carry much more of the virus (about 1,000 times more) and get much sicker. This includes even younger people, who were minimally affected from the original COVID virus.

**What can people do to protect themselves from the variant?**

First and foremost, get vaccinated. Also, wear a mask whenever you are indoors in a public setting (grocery store, etc) and/or when you are around known people whom you do not know their vaccination status. Physical distancing (6 feet or greater) and good hand washing continue to be very important in preventing the spread of COVID.

**What should someone who is hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine know?**

I think it's important to know that without being vaccinated your chances of getting the virus and getting sick from the virus is much, much greater. There is also a much higher likelihood that you are passing the

virus on to someone else, who may get sick and possibly die.

**If someone has already had COVID-19, should they still get the vaccine?**

Yes, the CDC recommends even those who have had COVID should get vaccinated. While they may have some form of immunity, there is no guarantee that they won't get sick and/or pass the virus on to others again. Vaccinations have tremendous ability to significantly reduce re-infections and transmission.

**Is it possible for the COVID-19 vaccine to impact fertility?**

No; this is a false rumor that is unfortunately out there. There is no indication whatsoever that COVID-19 vaccines impact fertility. Additionally, it is now recommended that pregnant woman and nursing mothers also get vaccinated.

**Why would you recommend getting the COVID-19 vaccine?**

If you want to keep yourself, your family, and others around you safe from COVID, then one of the three available vaccines is your option.

**There's a lot of emphasis on vaccinations, but what role does natural immunity play in us collectively getting past this pandemic?**

I'm sure there is a role in natural immunity, but

at what cost? Currently, about 10% of the U.S. population has had COVID. That means 90% (about 297 million people) have not had it and do not have natural immunity. This represents an incredibly large part of our population who are at risk of contracting COVID and potentially millions of deaths. Additionally, there has been recent evidence that those who have had COVID before are susceptible to the Delta variant. Those vaccinated, however, have a very low chance of contracting COVID, and an even lower chance of getting sick from it.

**We're looking at masking up again indoors with growing mandates — should we be wearing N95 masks, or are most commonly-available masks OK?**

You should be wearing commonly-available masks. The N95 masks are designed to prevent airborne disease. COVID is mostly transmitted by saliva/droplets. Wearing masks (commonly available ones) prevents one's saliva from traveling from your body to another's while talking/breathing. (Typically saliva can travel up to 6 feet with normal conversations held indoors).

**The Great Barrington Declaration is a document which expresses what it describes as "grave concerns about the damaging**

**physical and mental health impacts of the prevailing COVID-19 policies." It says, among other things: "As immunity builds in the population, the risk of infection to all — including the vulnerable — falls. We know that all populations will eventually reach herd immunity — i.e. the point at which the rate of new infections is stable — and that this can be assisted by (but is not dependent upon) a vaccine. Our goal should therefore be to minimize mortality and social harm until we reach herd immunity." Any response or thoughts about those points?**

I think it is vital to emphasize that COVID vaccination is a safe way to reach herd immunity. And it can be done while saving lives.

My concern with the above statement from the Great Barrington Declaration is that it seems to indicate that getting sick with is COVID is inevitable and that we should just let the virus run its course. The consequence to that is potentially millions of deaths and even more millions of very sick people crowding our hospitals.

We can reach herd immunity by getting the vaccine and, by doing so, reach it without unnecessary death and sickness.

*Have questions about COVID-19? Send them to news@chathamnr.com and we'll pose them to area health and medical officials.*

## GOAL

Continued from page A1 from individual donors,

smaller donations," Shipp said. "And then really what really took us over the top was that event and large dona-

tions from either families or companies." In the last few weeks, the club has received several donations of

\$5,000 and \$10,000, plus \$25,000 and \$50,000 donations from XXX and XXX respectively.

"It really did surprise me by how quickly it came together," Shipp said. "It felt like we were pushing the rolling coaster up the hill for a while, but now we've got it over the top."

With the requisite funds in tow, Shipp estimates the club can open by October pending final approval from the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina. Until now, the Pittsboro club has operated unofficially under a memorandum of understanding with BGCC, which required collection of the minimum funding goal.

"And so Thursday we have the board meeting where we hope to get the final sign-off on creating the new club," Shipp said. "So that'll officially create the club."

Next will come the hiring process for a full-time club director and several part-time staffers.

"The director will be the big one," Shipp said, "but what we've kind of

seen in the other clubs is the part-time positions are our most critical to the continued operation of the club, and particularly now that clubs are back to not having volunteers because of COVID risk. And so the staff is even more important than when we're able to have volunteers as well."

Even after opening, though, Shipp hopes the community will continue its financial support to ensure the club can maintain operations in years to come. Ideally, the club would hold \$220,000 in the bank as a "reserve fund" and use new donations to pay for the \$175,000 a year in expected operational expenses.

"The goal would be to cover the operational costs as they come along, and then have the operational reserve to be financially strong as well," Shipp said. "So we're glad to talk to anybody interested in helping with financial support, but also we've had a lot of people volunteer to help teach or provide materials or provide different things like that. There's all kinds of ways

that the community can help."

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a national organization founded in 1860 "to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens." The Pittsboro location will open in a dedicated building at George Moses Horton Middle School and host about 80 children, according to Shipp. So far, about 45 families have expressed interest in joining the club.

To express your interest in having a child or children join the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club, fill out the survey at <http://qrco.de/PBGC-survey>.

To make a donation to the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club, visit <https://qrco.de/PittsboroBGC> or send your contribution to PO Box 551, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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## 529 Plans: Not Just For College

If you've heard of 529 plans, you might think they can only be used to help pay for college. And you wouldn't be alone: Less than one-third of adults properly identified that a 529 plan can be used for more than just higher education, according to a survey by Morning Consult and Edward Jones. But what are these other expenses?

Before we get to them, let's review the main benefits of 529 plans. Contribution limits are high and earnings can grow tax-free if withdrawals are used for qualified education expenses such as tuition and room and board. (Withdrawals for nonqualified distributions are subject to taxes and a 10% penalty on the earnings portion.) Plus, as the account owner, you maintain control of the plan, so you can switch beneficiaries to another qualified family member, if necessary.

Now, let's consider the other uses of 529 plans, which have been made possible by various pieces of legislation over the past few years:

**Student loan repayments** – The average amount of student loan debt per borrower is well over \$32,000, according to the Federal Reserve. So, many people welcomed the news that 529 plans could be used to repay student loans. There's an aggregate lifetime limit of \$10,000 in qualified student loan repayments per 529 plan beneficiary, plus \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings. Being able to use 529 plans to repay student loans gives you some flexibility if your family members have excess balances in their accounts.

**K-12 expenses** – A 529 plan can now be used to pay up to \$10,000 per year in tuition expenses at private, public and religious elementary and secondary schools. This amount is per student, not per account. However, not all states allow 529 plans to be used for K-12 expenses – or to be technical, some states consider

K-12 tuition to be a nonqualified 529 plan expense, which means the earnings portion of a 529 plan is subject to state income taxes and possibly a "recapture" of other state income tax breaks connected with 529 plan withdrawals. So, make sure you understand your state's rules on K-12 expenses before taking money out of your 529 plan.

**Apprenticeships** – Not every child wants or needs to attend a college or university. And now, 529 funds can be used to pay for apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. These types of programs, which combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction, are offered at community colleges and trade schools. Once students complete their apprenticeships, they often go on to well-paying careers in a variety of fields. And since these types of programs are typically far less expensive than a four-year college degree, a 529 plan can have a particularly long reach.

The tax treatment of 529 plans for all these expenses can vary from state to state, so, if you move to another state after you've established your plan, you'll want to know the rules. Even if you don't move, it's still a good idea to consult with your tax advisor about how 529 plan withdrawals will be treated.

Nonetheless, a 529 plan could be valuable to you in many ways. Consider how you might want to put it to work for you and your family.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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# HONOR

Continued from page A1

eral George S. Patton, former Army General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower and aviator Charles Lindbergh.

“As these veterans go on and age, (the award) is given less and less,” French Consul General Vincent Hommeril told the News + Record. “... The ambassadors, the French consuls abroad, are tasked to give these medals to foreign soldiers who landed in France in order to help liberate France, and it’s a real honor for us. It’s always a pleasure. As you can see, it’s a very good day for everybody.”

Hommeril, who is based at the French embassy in Atlanta, presented Hart with the medal for his service in France following 1944’s D-Day. Hart served with both the 44th Infantry and 102nd Infantry divisions on active duty from September 1942 through February 1946. He’s also a Bronze Star recipient for his service during the Battle of the Bulge in the winter of 1944-45.

For his “heroic actions and extraordinary accomplishments,” Hommeril said, Hart “was nominated to the Legion of Honor by French President Emmanuel Macron with the rank of knight.”

To Hommeril, it was a personal honor to meet Hart and offer his gratitude.

“It’s special for me personally because I was born in Normandy,” Hommeril said. “So I know what the war did to France. And so for me, it’s a personal blessing to be able to do that because it’s a kind of recognition to these veterans who helped liberate French soil — and my soil. I’m really blessed to be able to do that professionally and personally.”

For Hart’s family, the award represents more than just his service in World War II, but recognition of the character and decency with which Hart has always lived his life.

“I’m just so happy for dad,” Lynn Dyer, one of Hart’s



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Wesley Hart, a 102-year-old Chatham County resident, poses following his bestowal with the French Legion of Honor. From left, daughters Lynne Dyer and Kathy Wakeman, Hart and Vincent Hommeril of the French consulate in Atlanta.**

daughters, told the News + Record after the ceremony. “I think the outpouring of volunteers and the excitement from people that we don’t even know is so touching. Our dad has always been an outstanding person and has done so much putting other people first. And I mean, we need these kinds of things to celebrate together.”

About three years ago, Dyer and her sister, Kathy Wakeman, began the Legion of Honor application process after a fellow church-goer and Veterans of Foreign Wars member, Phil Bienvenue, tipped them off to the opportunity.

“Like most veterans, he didn’t want to talk about his experiences for a long time,” Bienvenue, a Vietnam War veteran, said of Hart. “But what I was saying to his daughters was, ‘This is too important. We can’t let this kind of history die.’”

The sisters gathered documentation to prove their father’s service history and filled out the lengthy application. They submitted it to the French consulate in Atlanta,

and then they waited — for two years.

“We really didn’t think anything was going to come of it,” Wakeman said at the ceremony. “It’s surreal now to think we’re actually here and dad has gotten the recognition he deserves.”

His daughters always knew their father had served with honor. But for most of his life, Hart was silent on details of his time in war-torn Europe. After beginning the Legion of Honor application process, though, something changed. Now, more than a year later and with some help from Dyer and Wakeman, Hart has inscribed his story for all posterity in a 54-page, self-published book, “WWII: In My Words.”

In the concise and matter-of-fact style his daughters know so well, Hart recounts the story of his wartime experience: from his time in England at the major staging area for the June 6 invasion of Normandy, to his own landing on Omaha Beach shortly thereafter and his later role in the Battle of the Bulge.

Besides first-person histo-

ry of the war’s major events, “WWII: In My Words” is filled with Hart’s insights, observations and personal recollections. In a section about the Battle of the Bulge, for example, Hart writes that his company was stationed near a railroad bridge in Düsseldorf, Germany, which had been destroyed. In the railroad yard “were three flatbed cars loaded with German rocket bombs.”

“Our General wanted to know if the bombs could be fired back at the Germans,” Hart writes. “It became my job as the Division Administration Officer to find a way to do just that. I enlisted the help of two other officers, and we found a building in the brickyard in where there was a bomb shelter. There was also a large bomb crater in the yard. The bombs were 18” in diameter and about four feet long and housed in a crate that had a hinged front end that opened. With wire and detonators, we were able to fire a single rocket bomb from the shelter. It went over the Rhine River just as we had planned.”

That sort of ingenuity and dedication — in the face of certain danger — typifies the man Hart’s daughters have known their entire lives. In her speech at Thursday’s ceremony, Dyer quickly deviated from the script she’d prepared, overcome with emotion.

“That’s just the kind of person dad is,” she said, “he’s always shared his many talents and he did so generously ... Oh, I could go on and on. There’s so much more to tell you about our amazing dad. He is certainly a man to be admired, a friend forever, treasured — a dad unmatched by any other. We love you dad for being our example, teaching us skills and loving us unconditionally.”

Other ceremony attendees included N.C. Senator Valerie Foushee, Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy, Chatham Sheriff Mike Roberson and a regional representative from U.S. Senator Thom Tillis’ office. Mike Fenley, a field representative for U.S. Senator Richard Burr, presented Hart with a flag flown over the United States Capitol to commemorate the army captain’s service.

“I’ve been to a lot of awards ceremonies,” Fenley told the News + Record after, “but I’ve never been to one of these. These are pretty rare.”

To Hart — who jokes that “at 40 I always said, ‘I hope I can live to be 70’” — the medal is a moving tribute, and he’s glad to have lived long enough to see it.

“I feel wonderful,” he said after the ceremony. “I never thought I’d be bestowed something like this.”

But even more touching, he said, was to see the many friends, family and members of the public who gathered in his honor.

“I’m just surprised they all came,” he said. “My two daughters, they did a great job of trying to get this thing coordinated ... I’m really grateful to them.”

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'AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO SUPPORT STUDENTS'

# CCS's Chris Poston to lead district's equity efforts in new role

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — After 25 years in education — 14 of them in Chatham — Chris Poston will soon be starting a new role: Chatham County Schools' Executive Director for Excellence and Opportunity.

Poston has served as executive director for elementary and middle grades education since 2018, a position he will continue in until a new director is named. His new role, also brand new to the district, will involve leading efforts to implement the district's equity plans, which have formally been in place for the last five years.

"I'm extremely excited about being named Excellence and Opportunity Director for the district," Poston told the News + Record. "It's just an opportunity for us to support students, and support students in a real systematic



Staff Photo by Simon Barbre / Staff Graphic by Hannah McClellan

**The Chatham County Schools Board of Education selected Chris Poston, the current executive director for elementary and middle grades education, to lead the district's equity efforts as CCS's Executive Director for Excellence and Opportunity.**

and thoughtful way." The CCS Board of Education approved Poston for the role on June 29. Though he won't fully start until another K-8 director is named, he's started planning for increased student support at schools, as students and teachers alike work

to recover from remote learning challenges — something he said will be an important part of equity work moving forward.

The district's Equity and Excellence for Everyone (E3) team — of which Poston is a founding member — focuses on supporting students by eliminating barriers for student groups as well as by using and providing culturally relevant resources across the system.

Work by the E3 team in the last few years has led to the district revising various policies, such as dress code and discipline, making language on district forms more gender inclusive and adding more diverse texts

and curriculum to classrooms. Last semester, the group launched its two-year equity training and assessment efforts with a group called The Equity Collaborative.

In his new role, Poston will work with the E3 team, principals, curriculum coaches and senior leadership to implement CCS's equity agenda. Recently, the district launched focus groups at some of its high schools to hear student concerns and ideas more directly.

"That's been really powerful," Poston said. "... We are a diverse community. So I think listening and taking in the perspectives of students across our community — from

rural Chatham County to the northern part of Chatham County — making sure we really listen to our students and to our teachers and to our community (is important.)"

Several community members and CCS employees congratulated Poston on Twitter after he shared the news.

"Time to celebrate!" tweeted Dr. Amanda Moran (Hartness), who is assistant superintendent for academic services and instructional support and has helped lead the district's equity efforts. "We've been dreaming of this role for 7 years! My heart is happy."

"Mr. Poston, I cannot think of a better person," N.C. State's Director of Technology for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs Keith Medlin added. "Your community ties, obvious deep care for children, and passion for ensuring that every student succeeds is evident in all you do. Congratulations!"

Poston previously worked as an elementary classroom teacher, assistant principal and principal. In 2015, he was named the Wells Fargo Region V Principal of the Year, and selected as CCS's principal of the year in 2015 and 2017.

He grew up in Chatham, attending Pittsboro Elementary, Horton Middle and Northwood High — he graduated from there — so he's uniquely positioned

to know and respond to community needs.

Looking ahead, he's thinking about how to create "a culture of love," something new Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson has been challenging staff to do as a part of the district's theme for the year: getting to the heart of CCS.

How can teachers and administrators help students feel safe and welcomed at every school? How can they provide a rigorous curriculum and also remove barriers for students, whether it's internet access, technology devices or social/emotional support? Those are questions Poston will focus on answering in his new role, particularly after the pandemic has exacerbated many pre-existing challenges for students.

"Whether it's in the classroom or barriers in some systems that are set up, we make sure that every kid can reach his or her potential," Poston said. "We want to make sure that we are being really thoughtful about our policies that really impact our students. It was a perfect opportunity to create this position — I'm just thankful to have an opportunity to serve."

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



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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Gold Awards

Criteria: Rate of days away from work, job transfer or restriction must be at least 50% below the industry average.

First Year: Chandler Concrete Co. Inc., Pittsboro Plant No. 111; Chatham County, Buildings and Grounds; Chatham County Recreation

Third Consecutive Year: Chandler Concrete Co. Inc., Siler City Plant No. 109;

Chatham County Department of Social Services; Chatham County Waste Management

Fifth Consecutive Year: Chatham County Water and Water Treatment Plant; Gregory Poole Equipment Co., Pittsboro Branch

Eighth Consecutive Year: Chatham County Library; Chatham County Management Information Systems (MIS); Chatham County Tax; Office Chatham County Telecommunications.

#### Chatham Chamber to host open house at Perch Coworking

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting and open house from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1, to celebrate the opening of the Chamber's new Pittsboro office.

The office is within Perch Coworking at 102 Hillsboro St. in Pittsboro. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to [Cheryll@ccucc.net](mailto:Cheryll@ccucc.net).

The Pittsboro office space is an important step towards expanding the Chamber's ability to better serve the business community and the county at large. The Chamber also has an office location at 531 East 3rd St. in Siler City.

Perch Coworking is a locally-owned boutique office sharing space with flex space allowing members a place to collaborate, be productive, and form friendships.



# OBITUARIES

## ALMA SANDERS ARNOLD



Alma Sanders Arnold, age 92, of Chapel Hill, N.C., died peacefully with her daughter by her side, on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Chatham Ridge Assisted Living, a place where she called home for many years.

Alma was born March 1, 1929, in Chatham County, N.C., to the late Laura Annie and Clen Sanders. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her seven brothers; Carden, Bim, Bernice, Ernest, John

Basil, Clem and Lester; two sisters; Thelma Goodman and Christine Mitchell; and a very special daughter-in-law, Evelyn Frye, who always made her feel special sending cards and bringing gifts.

Surviving relatives include her sons; Scottie Frye of Moncure, Wayne Frye of Sanford; her daughter, Marilyn Grant (Warren) of Apex; grandsons, Kevin Spivey (Natasha) of Sanford, and Bruce Colmon Collins III of Chapel Hill; granddaughters, Victoria Cotten (Jamie) of Pittsboro, and Mandy Frye of Siler City; two step-granddaughters, Melissa Martinez (Chilco) of Burlington, and Abby Atkins (Ken) of Louisburg; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Alma was a homemaker most of her life and also worked at The Holiday Inn in Chapel Hill for many years. She loved and cared for many children in her home. She had a love of cooking for family and friends. Knowing her meant that you have a memory of cooking with her or eating something that she poured her heart into. Those famous biscuits, fatback, cabbage, beef and gravy, fried apple pies, chocolate and coconut pies, banana cake and chicken and dumplings, just to name a few. She fed many of her grandchildren's friends or they left with a jar of canned tomatoes that she gave them as they walked out the door.

The love that she had for her family was evident in all that she did. Her family was her heart and soul!

If you learn anything from her example, always treat others the way you want to be treated, be kind and always do good for others.

A service was held 11 a.m., Friday, August 13, 2021, at Solid Rock Baptist Church with her nephew, Pastor Jerry Sanders and her daughter, Marilyn Grant, presiding.

Burial followed at Hanks Chapel Cemetery, Pittsboro, with a beautiful butterfly release tribute.

## IRVING 'LEE' STILLMAN

Irving "Lee" Stillman, age 97, of Pittsboro, North Carolina, passed away on Saturday, August 14, 2021.

Mr. Stillman had been a resident of Galloway Ridge Retirement Community in Chatham County, N.C., since March 2006.

He was the third child of George Raymond and Lois Ruth (McKee) Stillman of East Aurora, N.Y. After graduating from high school there, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 until 1946. He then attended Purdue University, receiving his B.S.E.E. Degree in February 1950. One week later, on February 11, 1950, he and the love of his life, Lois H. Buzzard were married in the Methodist Church at Friendship, N.Y.

After a year of employment with RCA Corporation, he was employed by Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory (later to become Calspan Corp.) near Buffalo, N.Y. After 28 years there he had attained the position of Senior Research Engineer. During that time he and Lois adopted three infant girls, Ruth Ann, Beverly Jean and Carol Louise. and they owned a home in Clarence, N.Y.

In 1979 Mr. Stillman resigned from Calspan Corp. and took a position with Georgia Tech. Research Institute in Atlanta, Georgia, where the family then owned a home in East Cobb County. There he also attained the position of Senior Research Engineer before retiring in 1992.

Besides the welfare and happiness of his wife and family, Mr. Stillman's interests were in travel (domestic and abroad), music (popular and classical) and genealogy.

Irving (Lee) is survived by two daughters, Beverly (Carlisle) Craig and Carol (Bill) Manning, nine grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Lois, who died July 31, 2005, in East Cobb County, Georgia. He was also predeceased by his two brothers and their wives; Neil and Nora Stillman, Barton and Patrecia Stillman and his sister; Rowena (Stillman-Hequembourg) Annunziato and her two husbands. He also was predeceased by two nephews; Donald Hequembourg and James Stillman.

The cremated remains of Mr. Stillman and his wife, Lois will be buried at a later date at their grave marker in Maple Grove Cemetery at Friendship, N.Y.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.apexfuneral.net](http://www.apexfuneral.net) for the Stillman family.

## RACHEL DENISE FIELDS

Rachel Denise Fields, 24, of Snow Camp, died Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at Alamance Regional Hospital.

A graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, August 15, 2021, at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church with Rev. Dan Robinson officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Rachel was born in Durham County, on June 23, 1997, to David Fields and Diane Woody Ramsey. Rachel was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, James and Helen Woody.

She is survived by one son, Kellan Jay Shepherd of Snow Camp; and one brother, Matthew Caddell of Raleigh.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Rachel's memory to ASPCA, P.O. Box 96929, Washington, D.C. 20090-6929.

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

## JAMES HOWARD QUICK

James Howard Quick, 64, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Genesis Healthcare in Siler City. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## BRENDA RAYE PARRISH MADDOX

Brenda Raye Parrish Maddox, 76, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A graveside service was held Sunday, August 15, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Poplar Springs U.M.C. Cemetery with Rev. Fallon Melvin officiating.

Brenda was born in Lee County on July 18, 1945, to the late Preston Thomas Parrish and Mollie Stone Parrish. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Mildred Parrish and brothers, William "Buddy" Parrish and Preston "Pap" Parrish Jr. After graduating from Deep River High School, Brenda attended Hank Hannah Beauty School, then worked as a beautician.

Brenda is survived by her husband, Guy Maddox; daughter, Misty Dawn Maddox of Los Angeles, California; two sisters, Linda Parrish Cox and Eleanor Parrish Yarborough.

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

## MICHAEL WAYNE SLOAN



Michael Wayne Sloan, age 64, died peacefully with his wife by his side on August 14, 2021, at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC Health Care in Pittsboro, N.C.

Mike, born January 10, 1957, in Beckley, West Virginia, to the late Norman and Mary Sloan, was the youngest of seven sons. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers Charles Joseph (Joe) and James Edward (Jimmy) Sloan, both of Beckley.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; sons, Antonio and Tanner Sloan of Pittsboro; brothers, John "Sonny" and wife Carol Sloan of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Seibert and wife Sharon Sloan of Millersville, Maryland, Billy and wife Brenda Sloan of Beckley, Robert "Bobby" and wife Diana Sloan of Glen Daniel, West Virginia; and many nieces, nephews and their children.

Mike graduated from West Virginia Institute of Technology with a degree in engineering. He began his career with D'Appolonia Consulting Engineers in Beckley, then worked for Almes & Associates Inc. Consulting Engineers of Beckley, and spent the last 20 years with Froehling & Robertson Inc. in Greenville, S.C., Hickory, N.C., and Raleigh, N.C.

His greatest pleasure was spending time with his family and friends. He enjoyed trips to the beach and to the mountains of West Virginia. The game of golf was his favorite pastime, playing with his brothers and friends. He also enjoyed playing pool with his son, Antonio, in a couple of different leagues. He also made trips to Las Vegas to play in the APA annual tournament. Mike loved WVU football and basketball, Alabama Crimson Tide football, and Kentucky basketball. When his sons were in high school, he spent many hours at band competitions with Antonio and cross country and track meets with Tanner.

A funeral service was held at Donaldson Funeral Home in Pittsboro on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 2 p.m. with the Reverend Val Chadwick officiating. Burial and a graveside service will be held at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens in Beckley, West Virginia, on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 1 p.m.

## JOHNNIE CLIFTON FOGLEMAN JR.



Johnnie Clifton Fogleman Jr., 78, of Siler City passed away on Monday, August 16, 2021, at UNC Hospice, Pittsboro.

Johnnie was born in Granville County on May 11, 1943, the son of Johnnie Clifton Fogleman Sr. and Carrie Gunter. He was a member of Hickory Mountain Baptist Church, where he previously served as a Deacon and Sunday School Teacher. Johnnie was a proud U.S. Army Veteran. He worked for Hart's Furniture

as a truck driver for 30 years before retiring and tending to his farm. He loved farming and taking care of his cows and chickens. Johnnie enjoyed spending his free time fishing and hunting. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather, and was an advocate of always doing what was right. In addition to his parents, Johnnie is preceded in death by his sister, Alca Fogleman Oldham and brother, Jim Fogleman.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jane Johnson Fogleman; daughter, Sandi Fogleman Moore of Bonlee; son, Johnnie Clifton "Cliff" Fogleman III of Siler City; sister, Rachel Elkins of Pittsboro; and grandchildren, John Thomas, Matti and Michael Moore, and Cashton and Cali Cockman.

The family will receive friends Thursday, August 19, 2021, from 12 to 1:45 p.m. at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church, and other times at the family home. The funeral will follow at 2 p.m. at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church with Rev. Casey Rayfield and Rev. Val Chadwick officiating. Burial will be in Hickory Mountain Baptist Cemetery, Siler City. The family requests that masks are worn during the service.

Memorials may be made to Hickory Mountain Baptist Church, 1094 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Fogleman family.

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

## RITCHIE RAY PHILLIPS

Ritchie Ray Phillips, 52, of Bennett, passed away on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at Chatham Hospital.

Due to COVID, the service has been cancelled. Friends were able to sign the register at Joyce Brady Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. Social distancing and masks were encouraged.

Ritchie was born in Chatham County on September 27, 1968, to Herman Ray and Carol Lee Brewer Phillips. He worked in the furniture industry. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and his father, Herman Ray Phillips.

He is survived by his children, Jacob Ray Phillips, of Bennett, Katie Lee Phillips, of Siler City and Sadie Faye Phillips, of Bennett; mother, Carol Lee Phillips; and one grandchild.

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

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

## AMOS MAYNARD THORNE

Amos Maynard Thorne, 89, of Broadway, died Monday, August 9, 2021, at his home.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the Holly Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Parsons and Rev. Scott Yow

officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born in Athens, Alabama, son of the late Joseph Q. Thorne and Delia Weir "Penny" Thorne. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Mavis McNeill Thorne, eight brothers and sisters and his grandson. Amos was a veteran of the United States Army, a barber by trade and retired from GKN. He was past president of the Broadway Lions Club and served the Cape Fear Fire Department for many years. Amos was a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church where he had served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, a member of the Baptist Men's group and was involved with their mission work.

Surviving is his daughter, Penny Thorne Howard of Broadway; son, Michael Scott Thorne of Sanford; sister, Clarice Smith of St. Louis, Missouri; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com).

## JEREMIAH JOSEPH MCDUGALD

Jeremiah Joseph McDougald, 67, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at his residence.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 14, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

## GERALD ALLEN MCLEAN SR.

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

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Friday, August 13, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

## JEREMIAH JOSEPH MCDUGALD

Jeremiah Joseph McDougald, 67, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, August 4, 2021, at his residence.

The funeral was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, August 14, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

## EDNA DOROTHY BOYD COBB WILLETT

Edna Dorothy Boyd Cobb Willett, 97, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 9, 2021, at Liberty Commons Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.

A graveside service was held Friday, August 13, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Lemon Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Thearon Willis officiating.

Mrs. Willett was born in Caswell County on June 17, 1924, to the late Julious Cobb and Laura Somers Cobb. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Max S. Willett Sr. and daughter, Wanda Gail Willett Perry. Edna was a member of Lemon Springs U.M.C.

She is survived by her sons, Max S. Willett Jr. of Cary, J.L. Willett of Morton, Illinois, Ronald R. Willett of Sanford; sister, Hazel Cobb Walker; and five grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Lemon Springs U.M.C., P.O. Box 129, Lemon Springs, N.C. 28355.

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

## ESTHER LOGAN HOWELL

Esther Logan Howell, 96, of Pittsboro passed away on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at UNC Hospice.

A graveside service was held at 3 p.m. on Friday, August 13, 2021, at Chatham Memorial Park, with Gerald Baker officiating.

Mrs. Howell was born in Chavuma, Zambia, on January 16, 1925, the daughter of Wallace F. and Ruth Sacher Logan. She served as a missionary alongside her husband in Zambia and South Africa for more than 50 years. In addition to her parents, Esther is preceded in death by her husband, Michael Howell; twin sister, Frances Iler; sisters, Viola Young and Grace Croudace; and brothers, Paul and David Logan.

Survivors include her daughters, Sharon Geesey of Dover, Pennsylvania, Beth Helmly of Fredericksburg, Virginia; son, Steve Howell of Seattle, Washington.; sister, Eleanor Sims of Pittsboro; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Pittsboro Christian Village, 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

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

## BRENDA KAY DENTON

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

A graveside service was held at Lee Memory Gardens on Saturday, August 14, 2021, at 3 p.m. with Rev. Curtis Norris officiating.

## CHARLENE DENISE (WICKER) MCLEAN

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

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, August 12, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

## DRUCILLA (DOWNEY) ALLRED

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

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 13, 2021, at Lee Memory Garden.



CHURCH NEWS

ROCKY RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH

The Harvesters will be in concert at 6 p.m. on on Sunday, August 22, in the Fellowship Hall at Rocky River Baptist

Church. There will be no admission charge but a love offering will be taken. All will be welcome. The church is located at 4436 Siler City-Snow Camp Rd.

# Chatham school board meetings to return to courthouse on Sept. 13

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education will resume meeting at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse for its next regular meeting on Sept. 13.

Over the course of the pandemic, the board has met at George Moses Horton Middle School and the Central Services Office building.

The district will continue livestreaming its meetings, the board decided at its regular meeting last Thursday at Horton Middle. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent gathering size limits, district board meetings were not streamed online.

“There’s an opportunity for us to expand our public engagement,” Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said of the future move to the courthouse. “Before we incur those expenses, (administration) wants to know that the will of the board at this point to continue moving forward with that setting to be able to livestream the meetings from that space.”

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners also meets at the Pittsboro courthouse; it moved back to the courthouse in June after meeting at the Agriculture and Conference Center because of COVID-19 meeting restrictions. The county is using a pre-pandemic system, which uses courthouse cameras, to stream meetings — after using video platform GoToWebinar during the pandemic.

North Carolina law concerning the meetings of public bodies requires official business of a public body to be open to the public, with any person entitled to attend such a meeting. That law also requires remote meetings to be open to the public, though it does not require remote meetings to be offered. So while streaming meetings is not legally required, many bodies are opting to continue to do so after offering them for so long due to COVID-19 meeting restrictions.

“That would be for me consistent with access and wanting the public to have access and be really transparent about our processes and all of that,” board member Jane Allen Wilson said regarding the streaming of meetings. “I know that we’re not the only ones too, the county commissioners also use the space — so I wonder if there’s an effort to collaborate around that.”

Jackson said the district plans to see if collaborative streaming efforts are possible.

“It may well be just moving in equipment like we do here and keeping it going. I’m just not sure what’s available at the space,” he said. “So we just want to make sure that you’re clear that it may take some additional resources.”

Other meeting business

The board also on Thursday approved a district contract with Weststaff, a professional staffing agency that will serve as an additional source for securing temporary employees in office

support positions in which CCS staff members are on extended leave.

“Whenever possible, we identify former district employees to provide this assistance,” the district’s agenda document says. “However, candidates are not always available.”

CCS will be billed based on time worked by the employees, at the hourly rate determined by the district plus 42% for staffing costs. The district’s human resources division will determine needs on a case-by-case basis, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources Janice Frazier told the board.

The contract requires that CCS pay a fee of 20% if it hires a Weststaff employee during their term of service or within six months of their assignment, Frazier said. The district could hire the individual without any fees after they’ve worked 90 days.

“Additionally, if we encourage or facilitate a temporary employee to leave Weststaff to work for us through another staffing agency,” the agenda document says, “we agree to pay a fee of 10% of the individual’s estimated wages.”

The contract started June 24 and will continue until June 24, 2024, the contract says, “after which point this Service Letter will renew on a month-to-month basis until terminated by either party.”

In its consent agenda, the board also approved an amended budget for the 2020-21 school year, which now totals \$154 million. That budget included increased total state revenue, additional funding to cover state paid employee benefits and an increase in capital outlay funds revenue for Seaforth High School, Chatham Grove Elementary and the new central service building.

Related to the new central service building, the board also approved a contract with Summit Design and Engineering Services to provide engineering consultant services for the building project — not to exceed \$127,307.

Also as part of its consent agenda, the board approved a contract for mowing and spraying services at 15 of its schools — not to exceed the amount of \$205,700 — provided in lieu of additional custodial hours and mowing equipment or when schools have open custodial positions.

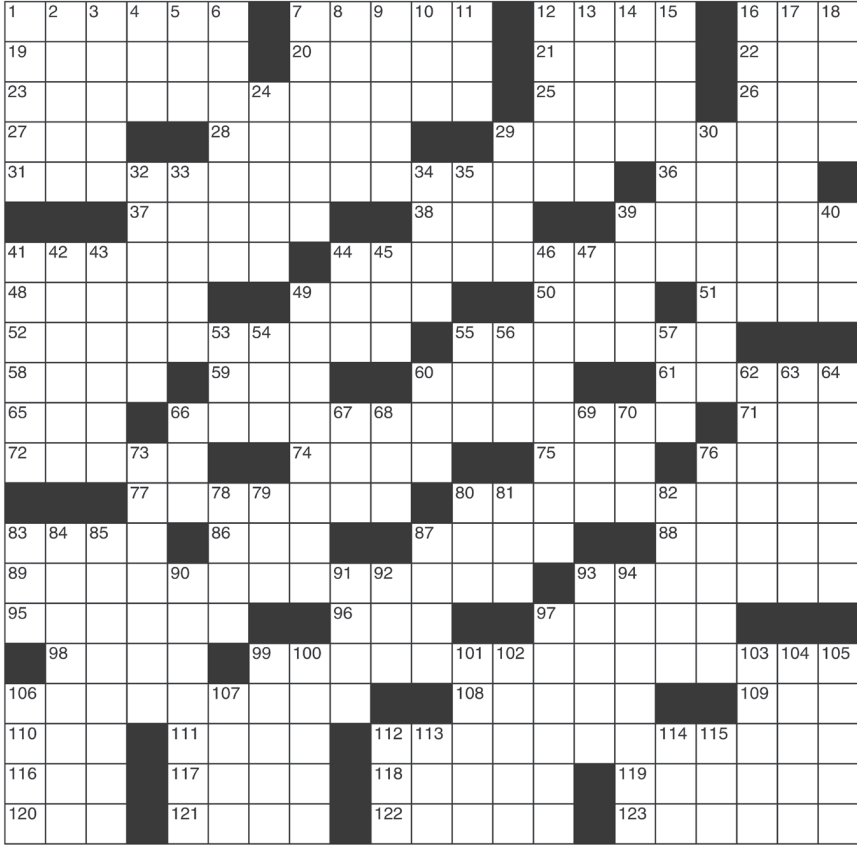
The board also approved contracts to replace the ramps for modular classrooms at Bennett, J.S. Waters, Siler City Elementary, and Silk Hope schools. The cost for the ramps, each purchased from the same provider, will be \$179,727 — budgeted through the district’s approved Capital Outlay Plan.

“These are aluminum ramps that will replace wooden ones that have been in place for several years,” the agenda document says. Although the ramps will be placed at different schools, they are all being purchased from the same provider.

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

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo IT’S MEANINGLESS

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- 93 Novelist Sidney
- 95 “Good Times” actor Walker
- 96 12, on some clocks
- 97 Speedskater
- 98 Ohno
- 98 Celine of pop
- 99 Part of many a kid’s lunchbox meal
- 106 Cow stomach, on a menu
- 108 Fix, as a knot
- 109 Xbox competitor
- 110 AOL competitor
- 111 Yoo- — (chocolate drinks)
- 112 10 answers in this puzzle have one
- 116 Tenth mo.
- 117 Guitar relative
- 118 Prickly shrub
- 119 State of hypnosis
- 120 Co. top dog
- 121 Pro votes
- 122 Pungent salad green
- 123 Gossipy meddlers
- DOWN**
- 1 James A. Garfield’s “A”
- 2 — -Seltzer
- 3 Occupy, as a desk
- 4 USN VIP
- 5 Become older
- 6 See
- 72-Across
- 7 — Fables
- 8 Sominex competitor
- 9 Have — with destiny
- 10 — Tin Tin
- 11 Got together
- 12 Old Mexican
- 13 Seven, in Seville
- 14 As to
- 15 Luxury Italian car
- 16 Second-largest city in Greece
- 17 Shut entirely
- 18 Tall
- 24 With an inky implement
- 29 Stage after larva
- 30 Bicycle pedal attachment
- 32 Soft felt hat
- 33 Actress
- Katey
- 34 Categorize
- 35 PD alert
- 39 Big oil gp.
- 40 College-level H.S. courses
- 41 Some vipers
- 42 “Skyfall” actress Harris
- 43 Writer Capote
- 44 Holster item
- 45 Invite (to)
- 46 Get reduced in price
- 47 Suffix with north
- 49 Surpass in competition
- 53 Wiggly fish
- 54 Sheep’s cry
- 55 Razor brand
- 56 Stephen of films
- 57 Weeding aid
- 60 Fly- — (pilots’ stunts)
- 62 Ran amok
- 63 Brand of bath additives
- 64 Actress Tippi
- 66 Slangy “sweetie”
- 67 Denver-to-Bismarck dir.
- 68 Call a halt to
- 69 Pull sharply
- 70 Size bigger than med.
- 73 Imagine
- 76 Young and in-experienced
- 78 Really weak
- 79 First lady McKinley
- 80 Stinging flier
- 81 Wall creeper
- 82 Hold and use
- 83 Part of many a kid’s lunchbox meal, for short
- 84 Shimmer, as an opal
- 85 It’s stuffed into an olive
- 87 Potato cover
- 90 After point number eight
- 91 Bar on a car
- 92 2016 Summer Olympics locale
- 93 1992 Summer Olympics locale
- 94 Frankness
- 97 Fall flowers
- 99 Regional life
- 100 Church parts
- 101 Bert’s bestie
- 102 Some RSVPs
- 103 Defiant kid’s declaration
- 104 About, timewise
- 105 Masks
- 106 College VIP
- 107 Rakish guy
- 112 “SNL” aier
- 113 NHL’s Bobby
- 114 Fore
- 115 Pale-looking



Solution for the puzzle in last week’s edition.



The Hispanic Liaison’s Ilana Dubester, Bryant Parroquin and Maria Gomez Flores (right) at St. Julia Catholic Church’s first drive-thru COVID-19 vaccination clinic at the end of March.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

# Hispanic Liaison’s COVID-19 Health Fair to offer vaccination incentives

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison’s COVID-19 Health Fair in September will now offer vaccination incentives, the Liaison’s executive director, Ilana Dubester, announced Friday in an email news release.

The health fair will be held outdoors from 2 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 11 in the Chatham Rabbit Cafe courtyard, where it’ll offer free COVID-19 vaccinations, testing and information booths staffed by various health organizations.

And now, prizes. Once jabbed, newly vaccinated participants will receive a \$100 visa gift card from the North Carolina Dept. of Health and Human Services, plus a box of food from CORA. Those who are already fully or partially vaccinated can benefit, too.

“If somebody brought somebody to get vaccinated and is vaccinated, they get a box, too, as their reward,” Dubester told the News + Record. “If they’re not vaccinated, no.”

To qualify, the vaccinated should bring proof of vaccination. The event will replace the Liaison’s annual Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, which the nonprofit decided to postpone thanks to the rising threat of the COVID-19 Delta variant.

At the health fair, 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 asks that people 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 told the News + Record last week. “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.”

To reserve a spot and a vaccine, call the Hispanic Liaison at 919-742-1448.

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





NEWS BRIEFS

Chatham experiences 17% growth since previous Census

New data released last week from the 2020 Census shows a 17% population increase from 2010. From its nationwide survey, the U.S. Census Bureau identified 74,740

Chathamites across the county's 681 square miles, compared to 63,505 residents 10 years ago. They make up 30,674 households. By area, Chatham is North Carolina's 18th-largest county. Chatham residents' median age is 47 years old. About 80% are 18 years or

older, but only 55.4% are employed — about three percentage points beneath the state employment rate. Median household income, however, is nearly \$10,000 higher than median household earnings statewide, \$66,857 compared to \$57,341. More Chathamites are college educated, as well. About 44% have a

Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 32% for all of N.C. About 86% of the county speak only English at home, while 12% speak Spanish and about 3% speak other languages.

— CN+R staff reports

ORDINANCE

Continued from page A1

protected natural hair in updates to their anti-discrimination ordinances. Back on July 19, commissioners asked county staff to look into writing a nondiscrimination policy to be presented to the board at this meeting.

"We want to do everything we can to provide protections against discrimination that reflect our community's shared values of equality, inclusion, and fair access; and to preserve the health, safety, and welfare of people regardless of their statuses or characteristics," board Chairperson Mike Dasher said in a county email on Tuesday. "As Chatham County continues to grow, we want to ensure residents, employees, and visitors that we are a welcoming and inclusive community."

On Monday, Winston-Salem's government also approved a nondiscrimination ordinance, meaning that 20% of North Carolinians now live in communities with LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination protections, according to an email from Campaign for Southern Equality following Winston-Salem and Chatham's votes.

"The passage of two amazing ordinances in Winston-Salem and Chatham County, sends a strong message: North Carolina cities and counties care deeply about racial and social justice," said Equality for North Carolina Executive Director Kendra R. Johnson in that email. "Momentum is building for protections on the local level, and we encourage more cities and counties to follow suit."

Federally, people are protected against discrimination through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, color and national origin. Title VII of that act also includes protections on the basis of sex, which the Supreme Court has since said includes protections for sexual orientation and gender identity, though not explicitly mentioned.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportuni-



Staff graphic by Hannah McClellan

ty Commission helps enforce federal protections and hears complaints in the case of companies that employ more than 15 people. Hagemann said that "if and when" the county receives a complaint about employment discrimination from someone who works for a company with more than 15 people, the county "may very well recommend and suggest that they pursue relief through the EEOC, under federal law, which has more robust remedies than our local ordinance would have."

"With regard to enforcement, we have no idea the volume of complaints we might receive," Hagemann said. "My understanding is in the other jurisdictions, it's been pretty quiet so far. But that can change, we'll have to monitor it."

Though complaints filed through the EEOC are not public record, complaints filed with the county will be, Hagemann

said. Remedies available under state and federal law all also still apply to Chatham employees and residents, he said, and would take precedent. (Previous state laws which preempted such local regulation of discrimination, like House Bill 142, since expired.)

The policy is decriminalized, meaning a violation of it will not constitute a misdemeanor or infraction. Enforcement could include mandatory or prohibitory injunctions "commanding the defendant to correct the conduct prohibited," the ordinance says.

If and when the county receives complaints, Hagemann said the county manager would direct staff to conduct an investigation and then engage in conciliation, an informal process that aims to resolve the matter by agreement. The next level of county enforcement would mean Hagemann going

to court and seeking an injunction or court order directing compliance with the ordinance.

The ordinance goes into effect Oct. 1 — a date Hagemann said he picked in order to give affected businesses time to be educated on the policy.

"The overall message is that this is an area of public concern, and that in the absence of state and an effective federal presence, we're establishing this standard of equal employment opportunity, period, end of story," Commissioner Jim Crawford said. "So, I wholeheartedly approve, but I know it's going to mean that this board in the future will inevitably have some hard cases — but that's what we're taking on."

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



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# CCCC's video game course could provide pipeline to cutting-edge jobs

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

Just a few days after graduating from Central Carolina Community College, alumnus Jayden Sansom started a final class at the college: video game art and design.

The class was offered for the first time at CCCC this summer by professional video game artist Bill Green as a part of the school's continuing education program. Sansom, who wants to work in video game design, couldn't pass up the opportunity.

"It was just perfect," she said. "It was really fun, all in all, to try to stretch beyond my bounds and do something that is similar to what I will be doing in the future, I thought was awesome. And especially because the teacher was great — he worked with us individually and as a group and taught us really well on how to actually do all the basics and then helped us individually do more complicated things."

CCCC's Jon Spoon, the college's Chatham County director of continuing education, said he was excited to develop a course in video game art and design. He hopes it will help accomplish the program's goal of creating "a mutually beneficial pipeline between talented local students and cutting-edge local employers."

Spoon met Green early

on in his role as director of continuing education, a position he started last semester, after previously working as the college's small business director.

"Bill had a clear vision for the kind of program he wanted to develop," Spoon said. "He has worked as a game developer for decades, but saw a disconcerting trend among new hires in the last few years."

Many students attending four-year university programs for game development became well-versed in the theory behind design, but often lacked the practical skills and work products to make themselves hireable, Green said.

"Bill wanted to develop a course that gives students experience with the actual tools they would be using as video game developers and help them build a portfolio of work that they could use to get a good job," Spoon told the News + Record. "I was immediately excited about the potential."

The video game design field is growing quickly, and nearby, Epic Games, the maker of Fortnite, recently acquired the former Cary Towne Center and plans to establish its headquarters there — a move that will create hundreds of news jobs, Spoon said.

"Hopefully, we can create an educational pathway at CCCC that will allow our students to develop rewarding careers without having to

leave the area," he added.

For Green, with more than 20 years of video game expertise, the course fulfilled a long-held goal. Green, an assistant track and field coach at Chatham Central who also works full-time at video game company Ubisoft, told the News + Record in November 2020 he hoped to launch an accessible, hyper-focused video game animation class in 2021, created and taught by him in downtown Siler City, for local teens.

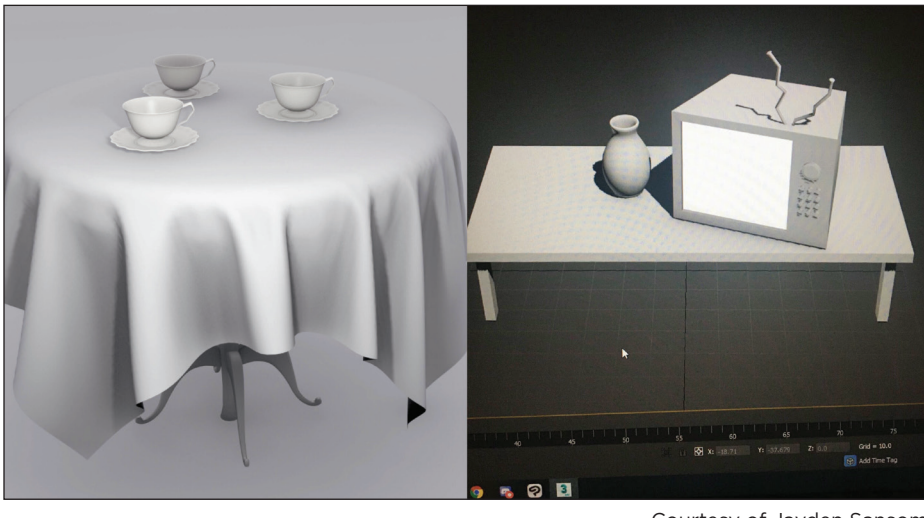
That course was meant to help prevent bad portfolios — ones containing poor animation or poor texturing.

"It just bothers me so much to see kids applying for jobs when they have horrible portfolios," Green said at the time. "And what bothers me the most is they owe \$100,000 back and they can't get a job."

Like he envisioned at the time, Green's video design course at CCCC focuses on learning the "right ways" to model, texture and create open worlds in standard video game environments.

The course is designed with people who are gamers or would like to work in game design, Green said, but have no experience. During the two-month class, he taught students how to 3D model using programs 3D Studio Max and Unreal Engine 4.

"It's just giving them an



Courtesy of Jayden Sansom

**Renderings made by recent CCCC alumus Jayden Sansom in the video game design course she took with the college this past summer. The course is being offered again this fall; registration closes Aug. 30.**

introduction to see if this piques your interest or not, without spending a lot of money," he said. "You can know in two months if it's something you're gonna want to do or not."

Sansom said the best part of the course was learning in part by seeing what everyone else was doing.

During her time in the class, Sansom saw classmates make the Colosseum, a gun and their classroom. She wanted to make a tailoring studio — cabinets, curtains and all — and by the end of the class, with help from Green, she did.

In future classes, Green said he plans to spend more time in the game engine and less time learning to model, as two months is too short of a time to really grasp that skill.

Students can still regis-

ter for the fall offering of the course, which begins Aug. 30.

"I think the class intimidates people, because they think, oh, I've got to program or something," Green said. "But it's basically just an art class. If you can draw, if you can send an email, you'll be fine. There's no grades or testing, it's just a skill to learn and to have fun — and it's really fun."

Though the program at CCCC is starting small, Spoon said he hopes it will continue to grow to meet the needs of students and local employers alike.

For some of the students who take the course, video game design will be an interesting hobby, Spoon said, but for others — like Sansom — it could be a professional calling.

"It's definitely a skill that is very niche, and to have someone to be able to teach that was really, really awesome," Sansom said of video game design. "All the classes I found before were online and it looked like you were just going to watch some videos and do some assignments that someone would take one glance at and grade it. It felt really awesome to have someone actually there and teach us."

To register for the class, visit: <https://www.cccc.edu/ecd/find-classes/index.php?PublicationDepartment=Computer%20Training>

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

## AUG. 26 FORUM | PFAS AND 1,4-DIOXANE

# 'How safe is Pittsboro's drinking water?'

## Haw River Assembly to host forum on town's water contamination

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Haw River Assembly — a 501(c)(3) non-profit citizens' group founded in 1982 to restore and protect the Haw River and Jordan Lake — will host a public forum next Thursday with the theme, 'How safe is Pittsboro's drinking water?'

The program will feature several distinguished speakers, including N.C. State Professor Detlef Knappe, who first discovered 1,4-Dioxane in the town's water about six years ago, and Duke University Professor Heather Stapleton, whose team is leading the investigation into Pittsboro's PFAS contamination. Representatives from the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality and the Town of Pittsboro will also speak.

To learn more about the program and what attendees can expect to hear, the News + Record spoke with Emily Sutton, the Haw River Assembly's Haw riverkeeper. Sutton joined the non-profit's staff in 2016 to manage citizen science projects and monitor the river's health. As riverkeeper, Sutton leads the organization's fight against pollution.


The free forum will in-person be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center. Masks are required for all attendees.

### What's the goal/objective of your Aug. 26 event?

Industrial pollution from upstream sources has been the cause of contaminated drinking water in Pittsboro for years. Though Haw River Assembly and many

**HOW SAFE IS PITTSBORO'S DRINKING WATER?**


\*MASKS REQUIRED FOR ALL ATTENDEES\*



**AUGUST 26 // 6-8PM**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND CONFERENCE CENTER**  
1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Join us for a conversation with the scientists, state agency staff, and toxicologists studying these contaminants to discuss the levels detected in the water and the risks.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**  
Dr. Detlef Knappe, NCSU  
Dr. Heather Stapleton Duke University  
Dr. Jane Hoppin, NCSU  
NC Department of Environmental Quality (TBD)  
Town of Pittsboro (TBD)  
Emily Sutton, Haw River Assembly

 **Haw River Assembly**  
Defending the river since 1982.

Courtesy of the Haw River Assembly

academic researchers and scientists have been reporting on this for years, so many Pittsboro residents are still unaware of the health risks of drinking Pittsboro's water. The town has taken steps to install treatment, but this is not a short term solution. Haw River Assembly hopes to inform the impacted community about PFAS pollution and potential solutions.

### From your viewpoint, what do people need to know about PFAS, and why is it such a concern for Pittsboro and Chatham residents?

PFAS compounds can result in long term health issues, including developmental effects in infants, lower infant birth weights, fertility issues, hypertension, increased cholesterol levels, weakened immune systems and increased risk of cancer. The levels of PFAS detected in the Town of Pittsboro's drinking water are among the highest levels in the state. The community of Pittsboro

also has the added risk of long-term exposure.

### And same question for 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a known carcinogen, and similar to PFAS, it does not break down or get removed in traditional drinking water treatment. Low level exposure to 1,4-Dioxane over a person's lifetime can increase the risk of cancer. Higher exposures over a shorter amount of time can damage cells in the liver, kidney and respiratory system. Though 1,4-dioxane is not always detected in the drinking water system, there have been significant levels released upstream that pass through Pittsboro's system. The N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality has set a standard of 0.35 micrograms per liter (ug/L) for surface water, however, levels discharged from Greensboro and Reidsville have been as high as 957ug/L and 1400ug/L, respectively.

### What's the Haw River Assembly's take on what the

### Town of Pittsboro is doing to address Pittsboro's water issues?

The Town of Pittsboro has taken steps in the right direction to install water treatment in the town's drinking water plant, but this comes only after four years of warnings and requests for action. This plant will not be in service until the end of 2021 at the earliest. In 2018, Mayor Cindy Perry began a Water Quality Task Force, which was charged with identifying short term and long term solutions for the drinking water contamination. The recommendations made by that group were not materialized. The recommendations included Reverse Osmosis water tanks for the most vulnerable populations in our town at health care centers and schools, and providing a stipend or drastically discounted in-home water treatment for Pittsboro's drinking water customers. The drinking water customers have not been provided with a full report of the total PFAS or 1,4-dioxane in their water supply, or the health risks associated with that exposure.

### And...same question for NCDEQ and the state of N.C. Has their response been sufficient?

The Clean Water Act requires all dischargers to disclose all contaminants being discharged into a waterbody. However, these PFAS compounds are not being tested for or disclosed on permits. NCDEQ has the authority to require disclosure, and to set a regulatory standard on these compounds as a class.

Based on the best available science, we have recommended a standard on the class of PFAS compounds set at no higher than 20 parts per trillion. NCDEQ has yet to set a standard for PFAS compounds in surface water, though North Carolina has been the focus

of PFAS contamination across the country. Last month, NCDEQ held an open comment period as a part of a triennial review process to propose new water quality standards, but the proposed standards made no mention of PFAS compounds. The lack of meaningful standards to regulate PFAS compounds in surface waters after years of data collection and public outcry is further contributing to the public's general distrust of our agencies to prioritize the health of our communities over the interest of industrial polluters.

We have seen common sense PFAS legislation proposed by a few state legislators in the Haw River watershed each session, including Rep. Pricey Harrison, Rep. Robert Reives II and Rep. Graig Meyer. However, these pieces of legislation rarely move through the chambers to reach the floor for a vote. These bills have included regulating discharges, eliminating its use in manufacturing and funding for impacted communities downstream of the polluters. We have to continue holding our state legislators accountable; our representatives must put the health of their communities above the conveniences for upstream polluters.

### Any thoughts about the sources of the PFAS and 1,4-dioxane (and what Greensboro and others are or aren't doing to protect downstream users)?

Haw River Assembly filed a Notice of Intent to sue the City of Burlington for PFAS dischargers in November of 2019. Since then, we have continued to work with Burlington to sample and identify all sources of PFAS within their wastewater system. Burlington has been open with us in these discussions and continues to act in good faith to identify all sources.

In Greensboro, we have challenged a proposed Special Order by Consent

(SOC) that would allow Greensboro to continue to discharge high levels of 1,4-Dioxane with no consequences for two years. The levels proposed in the SOC would result in levels much higher than the standard of 0.35ug/L miles downstream in Pittsboro. Greensboro has not agreed to meet the 0.35ug/L standard, citing concerns of costs and feasibility.

### Water is something many of us take for granted. What should we as consumers be thinking about in regards to our water supply? And how should we think about our sources here in Chatham County?

Much of the county gets their drinking water from groundwater wells. Though these sources do have potential to be contaminated from land-applied biosolids containing PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane, the levels in the Haw at Pittsboro's drinking water intake are a much higher concern. Until the town of Pittsboro can install treatment to supply all of its customers with safe drinking water, we recommend under-the-sink water treatment in homes.

### What can attendees expect to learn from the speakers?

The speakers will present on the health risks of PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane exposure, levels detected in Pittsboro's drinking water supply, potential solutions for community members and policy and legal solutions Haw River Assembly and state representatives are working on.

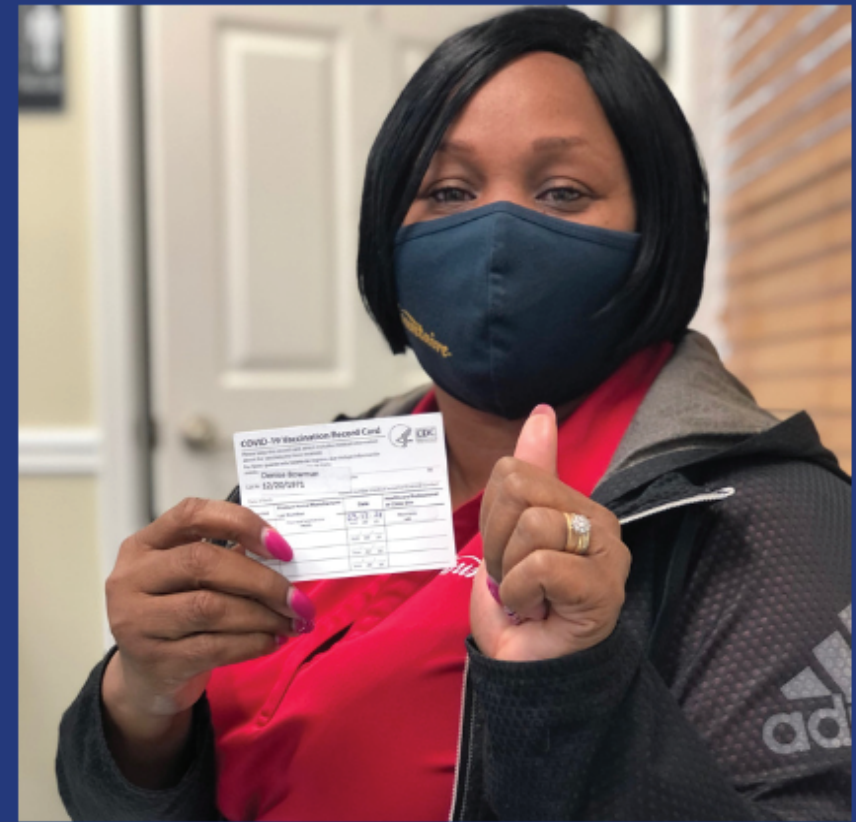
### What do people need to know about the work of the Haw River Assembly and the work you're doing to safeguard us?

Haw River Assembly is a member based non-profit whose mission is to protect the Haw, its tributaries and Jordan Lake and the communities in this watershed who deserve fishable, swimmable, drinkable water.





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# Proposed partnership between CCS, UNC Medicine would bring athletic trainers to J-M, Chatham Central

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Jordan-Matthews' and Chatham Central's athletic departments are slated to benefit from a new proposed partnership between Chatham County Schools and the UNC School of Medicine as early as this fall.

At the most recent Chatham County Board of Education meeting on Aug. 12, an agreement was presented between UNC-Chapel Hill and CCS that would provide two certified athletic trainers from the UNC School of Medicine to work in the athletic departments at both J-M and Chatham Central, providing much-needed medical services to athletes.

The agreement states that the two

athletic trainers will divide their time between working at a UNC Health Care Facility and performing after-school athletic trainer duties in Siler City and Bear Creek.

The county already has two high schools, Northwood and Seaforth, with certified athletic trainers employed via re-purposed teaching positions.

"Currently, we have full-time certified athletic trainers at Northwood and Seaforth and this will bridge the gap for us," Chris Blice, CCS Assistant Superintendent for Operations, said at last Thursday's meeting. "(This type of partnership is) very common across the state and in a number of school districts. But the opportunity just finally came our way and this is something we

didn't feel that we should pass up."

This partnership would bring to the table a plethora of benefits for athletes and coaches at both schools, including a chance for better communication about injuries, more accessible ways to treat them and, perhaps most importantly, takes the decision on whether an athlete can play with an injury out of the coach's hands.

"I've been pumped about it ever since we found out," J-M Athletic Director Josh Harris told the News + Record via text message on Monday. "(This) provides us with a direct medical source on campus consistently. ... You really need a trainer to help make those decisions, which will help protect athletes and coaches alike."

As of now, the contract between

UNC-Chapel Hill and CCS is under attorney review and it is expected that it'll be presented to the board for approval during the Sept. 13 meeting.

If approved, the athletic trainers — who have yet to be selected for the positions — would be expected to start soon, during the first semester of the 2021-22 academic year.

"(This is) much-needed for our student-athletes and will make their athletic experience and our athletic department multiple times better," Harris said. "(I'm) super excited about this possibility."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at [vhensley@chathamnr.com](mailto:vhensley@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@Freezeal33](https://twitter.com/Freezeal33).

## Football has a problem. Am I part of it?

I have a love-hate relationship with football. On one hand, it's a game I grew up adoring. Sorta.

I still remember, to this day, the time that elementary-aged Victor was so miserable at a Carolina Panthers game that his incessant begging and whining forced his mom to take him home at halftime.

Fast forward a few years and somehow, that kid who couldn't withstand another half of Panthers football became the biggest Baltimore Ravens fan in North Carolina. (And, from what I've found, one of the only Baltimore Ravens fans in N.C.)

The Ravens have caused me great sadness and even greater joy.

I bawled my eyes out when the Ravens lost a heartbreaking AFC Championship Game to the New England Patriots in 2011. And I'm not ashamed to admit it.

And I cried plenty of joyous tears when the Ravens outlasted the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XLVII a year later. I'm not ashamed to admit that, either.

See **FOOTBALL**, page B4



VICTOR HENSLEY  
Sports Editor

### HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Local teams impress at Northwood's annual Jack Shaner Jamboree



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**A swarm of Northwood defenders swallows a Southern Alamance ball carrier during a scrimmage at the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by the Chargers, last Friday.**

BY ATTICUS CROTHERS  
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The field may not have had hash marks or a chain gang yet, but the oppressive heat at Friday night's annual Jack Shaner Jamboree signaled one thing: high school football is back in Chatham County.

After the pandemic necessitated a bizarre spring season earlier this year, this set of 30-minute scrimmages

under the lights at Northwood High School helped six local teams get set for their first official games of the new campaign.

Green Hope, Southern Alamance and Trinity Christian joined Chatham's three varsity teams, Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews and Northwood, to kick off the 2021-22 season — proverbially, of course, given that Friday's scrimmages did not include the kicking game and most drives began 40 yards out from the end zone.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Chatham Central senior wide receiver Nick Jourdan (14) takes sweep play to the outside and gets a block from his teammate during the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by Northwood, last Friday.**

Below is a recap of how all of Chatham's teams fared just a week before the start of their seasons.

#### Chatham Central

After losing star quarterback Michael Moore to graduation, as well as three of their top-four receivers from last season, the Bears will feature several new starters on offense this fall.

But the new regulars seemed to be adjusting well Friday night, as Chatham Central had

a good deal of success getting to the outside on running plays, pitches and jet sweeps.

"We looked decent on both sides of the ball," Bears coach Sherman Howze said after the jamboree. "We're going to be all right. Everything's coming along just fine."

The Bears coach was also impressed with the play of his offensive linemen at the jamboree, an important thing to note as the Bears

See **JAMBOREE**, page B4

## How I'll remember my grandpa

Like seemingly every Jewish grandparent, Eugene and Brenda Solomon, my maternal grandparents, moved to Boca Raton, Florida, upon retirement. And, every winter break throughout

my childhood, our family flew from St. Louis to see them.

We didn't get there in 2020 because of COVID-19. So, I joked with my mom about how I would miss dinner conversations with my grandpa about so many topics: the destruction of monuments, the abolition of the electoral college, the mishandling of the pandemic, anything controversial.

But last month, my mom, sister and I made the pilgrimage to Florida. Aside from COVID-19 restrictions, it was a pretty standard visit. I played a few rounds of golf, worked out in the weight room and sat with my grandparents as they ate their classic 4 p.m. dinner.

So in the days following my grandpa's death last Thursday, one week before his 84th birthday, I'm grateful I got to spend that last bit of time with him.



Courtesy of the Baker family

**The author battles his grandpa, Gene Solomon, for the center of the chess board. After Solomon died, his daughter, Debba, found a yellow legal pad with pages of notes he'd been taking on chess openings.**

I hope to always remember his smile when I explained that I landed an internship to write for my hometown newspaper, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, during my upcoming senior year of college. And I hope to always remember the way he said "Way to go, Max" in his deep Brooklyn accent, when I showed him an article that I wrote about Mizzou football. He grew up rooting like crazy for the Dodgers the way that

I do for my hometown clubs. This love of sports connected me to Papa. We both understood the heartache of a team relocating to Los Angeles.

My grandpa researched and authored 11 books, was a Life Master in Bridge and a hardcore Miami Dolphins fan. An only child, he and his single mother, who emigrated from Poland, lived with the traumatic reverberations of the Holocaust. Their entire family,

my family, was killed, with the exception of one of my great-grandma's siblings: Max. I am his namesake.

My grandpa, who worked his way from welfare to Boca Raton, was the epitome of the American Dream.

Despite his great success and knowledge, he was always curious to learn from his eight grandchildren. He would ask our thoughts on everything, most recently, on the decisions of athletes such as Naomi Osaka and Simone Biles. "Do you think Osaka should be allowed to stage a media boycott?" he'd wonder.

He wasn't afraid to ask questions or to be wrong. He simply wanted to understand.

Perhaps it's that unique curiosity that I'll miss most about him.

He wanted to spread that spirit of inquiry. Grandpa always headed to Barnes and Noble with us to spring for new books. He wanted his grandchildren to be readers, to be learners, like him.

On the day that he died, my grandpa asked his son, my Uncle Andrew, what day it was.

"Thursday," Andrew replied. "No, the date," he said.

"The 12th."

"OK, two more days until the Dolphins game."

grandpa remained noncommittal about how good the Dolphins could be this season.

"The success of quarterback Tua Tagovailoa depends on the offensive line," he told Andrew. "It always depends on the offensive line."

He died that night at 11:13.

Before this past Saturday, I probably hadn't watched a pre-season football game in more than 10 years.

And I hadn't intended to watch the Dolphins vs. Bears until Andrew texted our family's group chat saying that he hammered a moneyline bet for the Fins.

"Root for the Dolphins today," Andrew typed. "I put a little something on the game to see if Gene's got (any magic) up there."

Thankfully, wherever he is now, it seems that my grandpa was probably off reading a book rather than agonizing over a preseason football game.

His team blew a 13-point lead and lost 20-13.

Had he been alive, my grandpa would have watched that game and, later, would have sent me an email with the subject line, "I'm Pushing for a Trade."

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2021-22 FOOTBALL PREVIEW | CHATHAM CENTRAL

# ‘We’re going to be some dogs this year’: Bears hope to avenge pandemic-ravaged season with new-look offense

**BY ATTICUS CROTHERS**  
News + Record Correspondent

BEAR CREEK — The 2020-21 spring football season wasn’t an easy one for the Chatham Central Bears. The pandemic ravaged their schedule and permitted them to play just four games. They won just once, scored more than eight points just once and allowed more points in one game (77) than they produced the entire season.

But as the Bears prepare to begin their new season this Friday, less than five months after the last one ended, there is hope in Bear Creek.

“We’ve got a lot of new faces,” senior defensive back Collin Lagenor said. “We’ve got more energy, more life, and I think we have a lot more chemistry than before. I think we can get the job done this year.”

Along with fellow senior Trey Clay and junior Hasten Paige, Lagenor will be tasked with stepping up to lead a unit that touched 10 rushing touchdowns (including a state-record-tying eight from North Moore’s Justice Dorsett) in Chatham Central’s final game last spring.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Trinity Christian sophomore running back Michael Ross (3) is stopped in his tracks by a duo of Chatham Central defenders during a game at the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by Northwood, last Friday.**

“A lot of work needs to be done,” Lagenor said. “But we’ve got a lot of potential.”

On the offensive side of the ball, Head Coach Sherman Howze will look for major contributions from his new signal caller, senior Colton McKeithan, along with starting running back Malachi Moore, who led the team with 378 all-purpose yards a season ago. Those two will have to help fill the void left by four-year starting quarterback Michael Moore, as well as Parker Crowley and Tyler Oldham, their top

two receivers from a season ago.

Despite those losses, Howze is excited by the addition of seniors Colby Williamson, Nick Jourdan and Joseph Craig, all of whom are new to the program.

“They’ve got speed,” Howze said. “We have more skill guys than we’ve ever had.”

That newfound quickness showed its benefits at last Friday’s Jack Shaner Jamboree at Northwood High School, where the Bears found success with plays that allowed



## CHATHAM CENTRAL FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

**HEAD COACH:** Sherman Howze, 6th season

**CONFERENCE:** Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

**SEASON-OPENER:** Aug. 20 at Trinity, 7:30 p.m.

**2020 RECORD:** 1-3 overall (1-3 in Yadkin Valley 1A, 6th place)

**BEST 2020 WIN:** 6-0 vs. Albemarle (1-2) on Feb. 26, 2021

### 2020 ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS:

- QB Michael Moore (graduated)
- WR Parker Crowley (graduated)
- DE/OL Wesley Buie (graduated)

their backs and receivers to get to the edge, including pitch plays and jet sweeps.

“That’s going to be one of our big packages,” Howze said of the jet sweep. “That’s going to be a plus for us because we’ve got speed now.”

One play in particular Friday night seemed to fire up the Chatham Central coach.

Near the end of the Bears’ first scrimmage against Trinity Christian, sophomore running back Devonte Johnson came in motion on a jet sweep, got to the left edge and danced down the sideline into the end zone.

A delighted Howze exclaimed “Yes sir! Yes sir!”

as he strutted toward his team to congratulate them.

“That’s the main thing I tell them all the time: ‘Just do your job and we’ll be fine,’” Howze said. “That was a play they did their job on.”

The play seemed emblematic of the kind of growth Howze hopes to see from his team this year.

The Chatham Central coach emphasized the need for the Bears to “just keep learning the game and doing everything right.”

“The main goal is to win the games that we should win,” Howze said. “There’s going to be some tough games, but in these

first four I’m looking for us to do something good.”

Those first four contests for the Bears will come against Trinity, South Davidson, North Stokes and Wheatmore, all teams with losing records from a season ago. League play could prove more challenging, however, as Chatham Central will be one of just two 1A teams in the new 1A/2A Mid-Carolina conference, along with inter-county rival Jordan-Matthews (2A).

“Every game we play is a playoff game,” Howze said. “The more we win, the more chances we have to get into the playoffs.”

The Bears appear confident heading into the new season, one they can only hope will be a bit more normal and include a few more games (10 are currently on the schedule). After a tough spring, they’re embracing the idea of this fall’s clean slate.

McKeithan and other players also voiced a goal to avenge last season’s loss to rival North Moore, who the Bears will meet in their regular season finale on Oct. 29.

“We’re going to be some dogs this year,” McKeithan said. “We’re going to work hard. Things are looking up.”

2021-22 FOOTBALL PREVIEW | NORTHWOOD

# Fresh off of stellar 2020-21 campaign, Chargers using offensive experience to make waves in new conference

**BY VICTOR HENSLEY**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When the Chargers open their football season against the Lee County Yellow Jackets on Friday, it will have been 119 days since their second-round defeat, 32-7, to the 3A runner-up Havelock Rams on April 23.

An offseason that lasts just under four months is unheard of for any high school sport, much less the most physically taxing of them all, one that is typically never played twice in the same calendar year.

While Northwood Head Coach Cullen Homolka said the team is feeling the quick turnaround, with a couple of players having sustained minor injuries during workouts this offseason, the real storyline isn’t physical recovery, it’s roster recovery.

Last season, in Homolka’s second year with the team, Northwood found both its rhythm and its identity en route to a 6-3 overall record, a Big Eight conference co-championship and a shutout first-round playoff win, 17-0, over West Carteret for the team’s first home postseason victory in over a decade.

“We tried to bring more of a mental toughness to practice than we did the year before and we changed our philosophy on offense to a more conservative, grind-it-out type of offense,” Homolka told the News + Record over the weekend. “Our team really started bonding and understanding the importance of a team in football success. I think that transition from what we were to that was huge.”

However, the key to the Chargers’ 2020-21 success wasn’t necessarily their newfound offensive mindset or even simple dumb luck. Instead, it was their tough-as-nails defense that was known for punishing opposing offensive players anytime they attempted to cross the line of scrimmage — and, sometimes, before they could even reach it.

Northwood boasted the second-stingiest defense in the Big Eight conference



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Northwood sophomore quarterback Carson Fortunes (5) runs a QB draw to the outside during a game against Southern Alamance at the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by the Chargers, last Friday.**

last season (allowing 15.0 points-per-game), just behind the Orange Panthers (12.3 ppg), and held five of its eight opponents to under 13 points. They won all five of those games.

What made that defense tick was its talent from front to back, ranging from the strong group of linebackers — including Aidan Laros and Jake Mann — to a formidable secondary with players like defensive backs Kentrell Edwards and Cam Entrekin to a massive presence up front from the sheer size of guys like defensive tackle Michael Anthony.

And then, graduation happened.

The Chargers will be heading into this season without Laros, Mann, Edwards, Entrekin, Anthony and plenty of other defensive (and offensive) players that were members of one of Northwood’s most formidable senior classes in recent memory.

Homolka has giant holes to fill.

But by the tone of his voice, it’s clear that he isn’t concerned.

“We lost about 8-9 starters on defense, but our offense actually went from a young, inexperienced offense to an extremely experienced one,” Homolka said. “Defensively, we’re going to make it to where they can be successful

and we’re not going to overcomplicate things.”

Last season, all the Chargers’ offense needed to do was put together just a couple of scoring drives — long or short — to win games. Their defense would take care of the rest and put opponents to bed.

Homolka said his goal for this season, however, is to flip that strategy.

He said he hopes his experienced offense will be able to take the reins, go on longer, 7-8 minute scoring drives to put up points and kick it back to a refreshed defense, which will do its best to keep them in the game.

While there aren’t any plans for a Homolka-led team to boast a high-flying, pass-first offense, he said he’s excited for the amount of athleticism on this year’s squad that could go a long way in improving upon the Chargers’ middle-of-the-road 20.8 points-per-game, which ranked third in the Big Eight last season.

“Offensively, we’re senior-heavy,” Homolka said. “But with our quarterback situation, we’ve got really two athletic kids that played on our J.V. team the year before and we’re expecting them to come out and help us this year, as well. I’m excited about them.”

Homolka is referring to Entrekin’s replacements at



## NORTHWOOD FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

**HEAD COACH:** Cullen Homolka, third season

**CONFERENCE:** Central 3A

**SEASON-OPENER:** Aug. 20 vs. Lee County, 7 p.m.

**2020 RECORD:** 6-3 overall (5-1 in Big Eight 3A, 1st place)

**BEST 2020 WIN:** 17-0 vs. West Carteret (5-3) on April 16, 2021 (playoffs, first-round)

### 2020 ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS:

- LB/RB/K Aidan Laros (graduated)
- LB/LS Jake Mann (graduated)
- QB/S Cam Entrekin (graduated)
- C Robbie Delgado (senior)
- T Christopher Poston (graduated)
- T Michael Anthony (graduated)
- TE/DB Kentrell Edwards (graduated)
- WR/SS Jack Vail (senior)
- LB/FB Will Lake (graduated)
- T Max Carr (senior)

quarterback, sophomore Carson Fortunes and junior Will Smith, both similar 6-foot-tall players that he said are also

“really good leaders that’ll both play on defense, too, because that’s just how good of athletes they are.”

The plan is for them to act as a two-headed monster, each getting into the game at quarterback, depending on the situation, instead of one being used as the backup to the other. Fortunes will also play outside linebacker, while Smith will double as a safety.

Pair the young athleticism of the Chargers’ dual quarterbacks with a duo of experienced running backs in Jalen Paige and Ryan Hilliard running behind an offensive line that Homolka said has “a workers mentality that makes them do whatever they’ve got to do to be successful,” and you have the recipe for a fun, gritty offense with lots of promise.

And despite the mountain of question marks on defense following the departure of around 70% of its starters from last season, the Chargers have plenty of reason for optimism.

Homolka singled out a couple of players to watch

on defense, including Pierce Cook, a 6-foot-5 senior linebacker that is capable of filling in for Mann.

“He can sink his hips and he can change direction better than any of them,” Homolka said. “He’ll be a Jake Mann-type kid that we’ll replace him with. The middle linebacker spots will be young, but we’re hoping he can fill in where Hue Jacobs was doing a really good job for us and be able to do the same thing.”

Another name to look out for is senior Stephen Lane, who Homolka said will likely lead the defense at linebacker after playing a few games at the position last season due to injuries.

There may be plenty of individuals that are slated to impress this season, but Homolka is — and always will be — focused on the defense as a whole.

“I’m just kind of excited to see how they’ll all work together because, across the board, they’re all in the same position as to what they can bring to the table and what they can do to help us,” Homolka said. “My philosophy is to always put our best players on defense. So they’re going to be athletic, they’re going to be able to

cover kids, they’re going to be able to come down and make good tackles. ... It’s not about individual effort, it’s about doing your job well enough to help the team.”

Northwood hopes to extend last season’s good fortune into the new Central 3A conference, which has the Chargers facing off against two familiar foes — Orange and Cedar Ridge — and four others, including Eastern and Western Alamance, Person and Williams.

Of the seven teams in the Central, three of them — Northwood, Eastern Alamance, Western Alamance — made the postseason in 2020-21.

“It’s more football friendly because of Western and Eastern Alamance, which are playoff teams every year,” Homolka said. “So we’ve got our hands full, especially with Orange, too. ... Orange is never easy and fun for us because it’s two similar teams with similar philosophies. I’m excited to play Alamance schools, too, because I know the kind of talent they are, that physicality. So that’ll be fun.”

This Friday, the Chargers have a tough season-opener at home against a Lee County team that has lost just four games over the last four seasons, all in the playoffs.

The last matchup between the Chargers and Cavaliers ended in a Lee County blowout win, 60-0, in 2019, but Homolka seems primed for a rematch.

“It’s going to be a challenge for us in a lot of ways, there’s going to be a lot of speed on their side and they’re a very confident team that believes they can win every game they play because they’re an established program,” Homolka said. “In the past, we’ve kind of just expected them to come out and take care of the job, get it done and move on. Now, I think we can at least compete in that game and get out of it 1-0 on our end. And our kids believe that.”

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2021-22 FOOTBALL PREVIEW | JORDAN-MATTHEWS

# ‘Call us the New Jets’: Under fresh leadership, J-M hopeful for success in team’s new era

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — In the couple of weeks since Ryan Johnson took over as the head coach of Jordan-Matthews football, he’s started to see J-M-related posts popping up on social media donning a promising hashtag: #NewEra.

His hiring — which handed the program’s keys over to an alumnus, a man who wore the same blue and gold uniforms more than two decades ago — is a signal that the Jets are trying to get back to old form, creating a newfound identity and improving on previous seasons of often underwhelming results.

In other words, the Jets are trying to start a new era. And Johnson doesn’t seem to mind.

“You can see it as a new era, but my vision is to get it back where it was,” Johnson said a day removed from his team’s appearance Friday in the Jack Shaner Jamboree at Northwood. “I guess you could call us the ‘New Jets’ because things are new and people are excited.”

The last couple of seasons haven’t been kind to the Jets. In last year’s pandemic-shortened campaign, the team finished 0-7 on the season and dead last in the PAC 7 2A Conference at 0-6.

The Jets scored just 64 total points and allowed 291 in seven games, losing all but two of them by at least 36 points.

After J-M’s season-opener, in which they lost a promising — but heartbreaking — game to T.W. Andrews by a touchdown, 34-26, the season (mostly) went downhill from there, including back-to-back losses to Eastern Randolph and Randleman by 49 and 50 points, respectively.

To put it into perspective, Jordan-Matthews hasn’t



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Jordan-Matthews’ sophomore quarterback Kelton Fuquay (14) drops back in the pocket while looking for an open receiver during a game at the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by Northwood, last Friday.**

won a game since Oct. 2019 — a 12-0 victory over Trinity. It’s been a long couple of seasons.

Last year’s struggles could be blamed on myriad factors, including the lack of an in-person offseason, pandemic-related academic ineligibility and injuries across the board.

Luckily for Johnson, many of those factors have gone away, paving way for a season of J-M football where the sky’s the limit.

“There’s two things you’re going to get from us: you’re going to get maximum effort and you’re going to be disciplined,” Johnson said. “What I took away (from watching last season’s film) was that a lot of times, on both sides of the ball, those weren’t really there. We’re not going to allow that to happen this year.”

Johnson had the opportunity to see his team in action twice last week in two different jamboree events, including the Friday event at Northwood, where the Jets struggled in their first game of the night, making plenty of mistakes along the way.

But as the night went on,

Johnson saw improvement in his team on nearly all fronts — and even more so



from Wednesday’s jamboree in Siler City, where the offense had at least seven false starts — evidence of a fast-learning group that he said has been soaking up information like sponges.

“In the first game, we came out a little shaky, but we stayed in the game,” Johnson said. “We showed a lot of heart and we fixed our mistakes from the first game and played a lot harder (the rest of the night), so I think that was a plus. ... It’s always good to see somebody in another jersey and a kind of evaluate where you are right now. I think there were some positive steps forward, but we’ve still got some work to do.”

A lot of the excitement surrounding the Jets comes from the offensive pieces — some younger, some older — that’ll be leading that side of the ball this season, including the “two-headed monster” at quarterback with senior Calvin Schwartz and sophomore Kelton Fuquay, according to Johnson. Schwartz’s athleticism

## JORDAN-MATTHEWS FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

**HEAD COACH:** Ryan Johnson, first season

**CONFERENCE:** Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

**SEASON-OPENER:** Aug. 20 vs. Southwestern Randolph, 7:30 p.m.

**2020 RECORD:** 0-7 overall (0-6 in PAC 7 2A, 7th place)

**BEST 2020 WIN:** N/A

**2020 ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS:**

- RB/LB Jacquez Thompson (graduated)
- TE/DE Eral Jones (graduated)
- WR/S Calvin Schwartz (senior)

will allow him not only to play quarterback, but also switch to receiver as needed, where he shined as a junior last season. He’ll also double as a safety, the same position at which he was a PAC 7 all-conference selection this past spring.

“(Schwartz) has been a leader since day one and he’s beginning to be a little bit more vocal,” Johnson said. “Calvin’s going to start for us, but as Kelton progresses — because he’s going to be our future, he’s a sophomore — he’s going to get a lot of playing time, as well. Those two are exciting to see.”

Johnson also singled out new senior starting running back Rayshawn Alston — whom he described as a hard runner despite not being the biggest athlete on the field — as another crucial part of the offensive puzzle. He’ll replace 2020-21 all-conference selection Jacquez Thompson, who graduated this summer, in the backfield.

Though, probably most exciting of all for Johnson is Dallas Richardson, a hybrid player who’ll take on most of the offensive skill-position roles, including wide receiver and running back, depending on where his

team needs him.

And despite having joined the team a little late, making him ineligible to compete in either of last week’s jamborees, Richardson has already gotten glowing reviews from his head coach.

“He’s probably the best athlete in Chatham County,” Johnson said. “He’s a playmaker.”

Those pieces, among others, will assemble an offense that aims to score more than the 64 points totaled by last year’s squad.

But, as illustrated by his job at Cummings as the defensive coordinator over the last three seasons, Johnson’s heart lies on the defensive side of the ball, which he also called his team’s strong point this season.

Few things excite him more than his defensive line.

He gushed over senior defensive end Toren Korpela, who had four sacks at last Friday’s jamboree thanks to his aggressive playing style.

“He’s a real gritty football player,” Johnson said. “If you saw him walking along the street, you wouldn’t know that, but he’s a really great football player and he’s done a great job for us so far.”

Trevor Woods, a freshman who stands about 6-foot-2, is slated to be another stand-out player on that defensive line, earning praise from Johnson for being a “grown man” in terms of his size and strength, despite being just 14 years old.

In an effort to fill one of the linebacker spots also left behind by Thompson’s departure, Johnson tabbed sophomore Tyler Poe as the hard-nosed, standout linebacker the team needs to tie the defense together.

“He will come up and light you up,” Johnson said, chuckling.

The Jets will take the field this season as a member of the newly constructed Mid-Carolina split 1A/2A conference, where they’ll be able to face-off against inter-county rivals Chatham Central and Seaforth (in J.V.) for years to come.

While Johnson will have only had 15 days with his team by the time the home season-opener against Southwestern Randolph rolls around on Friday — after being hired on Aug. 5 — he’s confident in what he’s seen over the last couple of weeks, as well as what his assistant coaches have been able to do with the team this offseason.

And what’s the first step toward that new era?

Earning the team’s first win in nearly two calendar years.

“We have a good idea of what we’re going to do, gameplan-wise, but this is for the kids because it’s the first home game and it’s a big deal for them,” Johnson said. “I’m so happy to be back. ... I’m just super excited. I probably won’t be able to sleep this week.”

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

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# JAMBOREE

Continued from page B1

transition to an almost entirely new offense.

“Everybody blocked,” Howze said. “We were skeptical about the offensive line, but I’m playing a bunch of young guys and they stepped up tonight.”

## Jordan-Matthews

The Jets started slowly in their first scrimmage against Trinity Christian, but looked better as the night went along.

“The first game was a little rusty but in that second game (against Green Hope), I saw a lot of heart,” Jets’ newly-hired head coach Ryan Johnson said. “It really showed me that against another color jersey, we can step up and be successful.”

One of the highlights of the night for Jordan-Matthews came in that

second game, when Jets quarterback Calvin Schwartz lined up as a wide receiver, caught a pass and ran down the sideline for a score.

“That was great,” Johnson said. “(Calvin) is one of our better athletes on the team so we’re going to move him around a little bit. A touchdown is always great, but to have mishaps and false starts and mistakes and then put it together and score a touchdown is really uplifting for your team.”

## Northwood

Coming off of a season that included a co-conference title and a trip to the 3A playoffs, the Chargers expressed frustration with some mental errors Friday night.

“I saw some good things and I saw some bad things,” senior linebacker Stephen Lane said. “I believe, physically, we can make it as a team, but mentally, we’re just not quite there yet.”

However, after struggling to convert in the red zone on earlier possessions, the jamboree ended on a positive note for the hosts as sophomore quarterback Carson Fortunes connected with senior Adam Laros for a touchdown pass on the Chargers’ final drive of the night.

“That should have happened the drive before and against every other team we played, but we finally figured it out and put it together so that was good,” Northwood Head Coach Cullen Homolka said. “It’s a good start to a season. I think there’s a lot to learn from the film we’ve put together so I’m excited about watching that.”

Homolka was also pleased with the opportunity that the jamboree gave Northwood to compete against 4A teams like Green Hope and Southern Alamance.

“There was a lot of good talent out here,” he said. “I think it’s going to be a fun year for a lot of schools.”

**Players from Jordan-Matthews (blue) and Northwood (green) take a knee while officials explain the rules of the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by Northwood, last Friday evening.**

Staff photo by Simon Barbre



**Northwood senior running back Jalen Paige takes a carry and dives into the gap for a 3-yard gain during a game against Southern Alamance at the Jack Shaner Jamboree, hosted by Northwood, last Friday.**

Staff photo by Simon Barbre



# FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

I’ve “wasted” countless hours, had countless heart palpitations and spent a countless amount of money because of my love for the Ravens.

I’ve met some of the coolest people thanks to them.

I’ve had some of the most memorable bonding moments with my family — all of them now-converted Ravens fans — thanks to them.

I’ve grown to love sports — and, thus, am here writing this today — thanks to them.

However, as another football season rolls around, with the NCHSAA football season kicking off this week and the NCAA and NFL starting up soon, I’m once again reminded of why the sport I love is also a sport I loathe.

Recently, I’ve gotten around to watching two recent football-related movies/documentaries for the first time:

- “Concussion,” starring Will Smith, about Dr. Bennet Omalu, the forensic pathologist/neuropathologist who discovered chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) and its link to football.
- “Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron Hernandez,” on Netflix, a three-episode deep-dive into the life of the former Patriots star who was convicted of murder in 2017 and was later found to have one of the most severe cases of CTE for a 27-year-old ever.

And after the credits began to roll on each of them, I came to the same conclusion that I do anytime I read/hear/watch anything that even briefly mentions CTE: I hate football.

More accurately, I guess, would be that I hate the NFL, primarily due to its continuous cover-up of the CTE crisis and football’s clear part in it, along with the way it treats most of its former players.

But concussions happen at all levels of the game. So do hard hits, constant head trauma and undiagnosed brain injuries. It’s just the nature of the sport.

There’s a powerful scene in “Concussion” where Omalu is explaining to neuroscientist Dr. Steven T. Dekosky why he believes football killed Hall of Famer Mike Webster, the Pittsburgh Steeler great who was the first person diagnosed with CTE after his death.

“(He used) the head as a weapon

on every single play of every single game, of every single practice, from the time he was a little boy to a college man, culminating in an 18-year professional career,” Omalu said. “By my calculations, Mike Webster sustained more than 70,000 blows to his head.”

When you hear things like that, it’s nearly impossible to deny any sort of link between football and CTE.

Other empirical data supports the link, too.

A 2017 study co-authored by Ann McKee, the director of Boston University’s CTE Center, found that 111 of the 112 brains of former NFL players studied had some form of CTE, suggesting the extreme likelihood that football and CTE are connected.

Since the “Concussion” movie was released, the NFL has acknowledged the link between football and CTE, yet has refused to admit any sort of real culpability on its part.

The league has also begun compensating former players involved in concussion lawsuits against the NFL, but according to a BBC article from June, only 600 of the more than 2,000 former players that have come forward with claims of dementia have received any form of compensation.

Across the country, from the lowest to the highest levels, rule and equipment changes are being made in an effort to make the game safer for its players.

But in the end, is there actually an effective way to make such a violent game safe?

I acknowledge all that football does for young men — and women — across the country, from creating a sense of community, belonging, comradery to providing college scholarship opportunities and once-in-a-lifetime careers for the best of the bunch.

I also acknowledge how fun it is to watch, how exciting it is to go to games with friends and how thrilling it can be to play. There’s a reason why it’s so ingrained in American culture.

Yet, even as I watch games across Chatham this fall or cheer on the Ravens from my couch, enjoying every second of America’s most popular sport, in the back of my head, I’ll be asking myself:

Am I part of the problem?

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



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725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: 919-542-7203 [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

Hours: MTWF 11a-5p • TH 11a-7p • SA 10a-2p

For a printable application, visit: [www.chathamsheriff.com](http://www.chathamsheriff.com)

## Household Hazardous Waste Events 2021

**Saturday, August 21**



9:00 am to 3:00 pm

28 County Services Road  
(6 miles west of Pittsboro, off Hwy 64)

Chatham County residents can bring household hazardous items such as

- chemicals • cleaners • solvents • paint
- pesticides • gasoline • antifreeze • electronics

For a complete list of items visit [www.chathamnc.org/hhw](http://www.chathamnc.org/hhw)

Future HHW events will be held the third Saturday of each month, through November.

**No trash or empty containers.  
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A: Johnny Nash

To enter the COA’s monthly drawing for a \$25 Visa Gift Card, call the COA at 919-542-4512, extension 223 and follow the prompts on the voicemail. August’s winner will be drawn from eligible entries provided by 8/31/2021. The August winner will be announced in a September issue of the Chatham News + Record. One entry per household, per week. Employees of the COA and their dependents not eligible.



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

August 19th through August 25th

### Thursday, August 19th

- [Body Conditioning with Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly](#) at 3:00 PM 📶

### Friday, August 20th

- [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 23rd

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

### Tuesday, August 24th

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

### Wednesday, August 25th

- [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 📶 🧘

📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

🧘 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**

💰 **Fee Required for Participation**

For more information or to register for these and other programs, visit our website: [chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/](http://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/)



## Now Accepting Vehicle Donations!

Your unwanted car, truck, boat, motorcycle, SUV or even plane can be accepted as a donation to the COA. Your generosity qualifies for a tax deduction and we’ll do all the heavy lifting. The pick-up is free and we’ll schedule it during a time that’s convenient for you. Call 855-500-RIDE (7433) or visit: [careasy.org/nonprofit/chathamcountycouncilonaginginc](http://careasy.org/nonprofit/chathamcountycouncilonaginginc) to get started!



## Volunteers Needed...

For Meals on Wheels Delivery & More!  
Contact Allison Andrews for more info: 919-542-4512  
or [allison.andrews@chathamcouncilonaging.org](mailto:allison.andrews@chathamcouncilonaging.org)

## The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at [chathamcoa.org](http://chathamcoa.org) or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

<b>Eastern Chatham Senior Center</b> 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512	<b>Western Chatham Senior Center</b> 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975
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THE CLIPBOARD | CAMERON ISENHOUR, NORTHWOOD CROSS COUNTRY

# Coming off of back-to-back 8th place finishes, Isenhour calls Chargers' 2021-22 state title chances 'very good'



Isenhour

In the pandemic-shortened, oddly timed 2020-21 season, Northwood cross country was one of the county's premier programs. The Chargers' men's team — consisting of junior Colin Henry, senior Malachi Levy, senior Glenn Porter, sophomore Christian Glick, senior Carter Pippin, sophomore Jackson Adams and junior Andrew Kimbrel — placed eighth in the state (1:28:03.52) for the second-straight year at the NCHSAA 3A Cross Country State Championships, while junior Caroline Murrell earned all-state honors by placing 10th on the women's side of the state meet.

With Northwood set to begin its 2021-22 cross country campaign on Aug. 26 in a home meet, the News + Record sat down with Chargers Head Coach Cameron Isenhour to discuss last year's success, how he plans to replace the now-graduated senior leaders and the chances that the women's team could make it to the state meet this year.

Isenhour competed in Division II track & field at Mars Hill University in 2013 before transferring to UNC-Greensboro, where he earned a degree in Business Administration. He's a USA Cross Country and USA Track & Field-certified coach

and has since coached at the youth, middle school, high school, NAIA and Division II levels. He was an assistant coach at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont prior to becoming Northwood's head cross country and track & field coach in 2018. He's entering his fourth season as the Chargers' head coach.

**Last year, Northwood's men's team placed eighth at the 3A cross country state meet, while Caroline Murrell placed 10th as an individual at the women's state meet. Looking back on last season, what were some of your favorite moments?**

CAMERON ISENHOUR: One of my favorite moments was definitely seeing the team all together again for the first practice. Even though they were in masks, they were excited to see each other, talking, interacting with each other and just having fun. We do an annual scavenger hunt and I always look forward to doing that. It's a little different in masks, but we made it work. And just seeing them grow and become better athletes and students was great.

**Overall, your team had a ton of success last year, so what do you believe were the keys to that success and making it as far as your runners did?**

The key to last season was making sure everybody was doing their part, whether that was our No. 1 runner going out with the lead pack or our three, four and five

runners sticking together. And what made it work was the consistency and the discipline in training, doing what we needed to do day-in and day-out to make the necessary progressions to get better. The boys do a phenomenal job pack running and that's one thing I stress and the reason we've been eighth in the state the past two years, thanks to our proximity of runners.

**You lost a few important seniors this offseason (Malachi Levy, Glenn Porter, among others), so what is your plan to fill the holes that they're leaving?**

With them leaving, our gap will close and we have very hungry underclassmen with Colin (Henry) doing a great job of leading and taking that No. 1 spot. and then Christian Glick, Jackson Adams and Matt Sullivan are all juniors who are sticking together, and then Andrew Kimbrel, who also does a great job of staying in that pack.

**Who are the individuals that you're intrigued or excited to see run this year, to see how they'll improve upon last season?**

On the men's side, I'm really excited to see Noah Nielson. He's a soccer player, basketball player and track runner. He moved to the area from Utah over the summer and he's currently our sixth guy, he's very athletic, very good and a good student, so I'm looking forward to seeing what he can do. The biggest surprise will probably be

Matthew Sullivan, who is in our top five. He has worked extremely hard, serving either as our eight or nine runner last year. And he's had a big summer. He's one of the best of the guys in terms of mileage, so I'm excited to see what he will do.

On the girls' side, I'm excited for Emma Serrano — she had a phenomenal outdoor track and field season, breaking 6:00 in the mile and 13:00 in the two-mile. Along with another senior, Ella Hennessey, she's really starting to get into shape and she actually had her best workout yet on Friday. And with the loss of Tessa Yell, that really hurt our leadership with her being an all-around student athlete and team leader, but her younger sister, who will now be a senior, is going to get back out there and as a 20:03 5ker, she can really push us along.

**Caroline Murrell, your top women's runner, came out last season and not only ran cross country, but also ran track and even became a state champion at the state meet in June. How has that track & field state championship win fueled her this offseason?**

I think she's gained a lot more confidence. She now knows what it takes to win a state championship against some of the best girls in the state. And the girls she competed against from Weddington, Cuthbertson, Chapel Hill and Topsail are all moving up to 4A. She'll have to learn how to run from the front, due to the caliber she is, and the realignment, but she's going to be phenomenal. I do expect her — I know it's early but — to win the 3A individual crown for the women in a really fast time. She also does a phenomenal job of being a leader for the girls, mentoring the younger ones and just serving as that role model and that liaison.

**With last season being as strange and unconventional as it was, running at a different time of the year, having plenty of COVID-related restrictions, among other changes, what will this season look like compared to last year's?**

Currently, there are not any restrictions for cross country. No masks, no pods. Last year, it was

difficult to put runners together, just because of the COVID-19 restrictions. At the state meet, the boys had to run in the slower heat, so now they'll be able to run against the best competition and, as you know, competition brings out competition. We're also able to be together more before the season.

Last season, we didn't have much time together. This year, we're also getting inside the weight room in the hallways and the gym, with masks on, of course, which is something we couldn't do last year. We can run together, we don't have to stagger start and finish times, so it really makes training a lot easier on my end and it gives the athletes somebody to run with and somebody to push.

**Since there haven't been any real COVID-19 restrictions so far, what has this summer looked like for you and the rest of the team?**

The summer's been looking good. We've just been steadily increasing our mileage. We've started to do more anaerobic work, VO<sub>2</sub> max work, just still incorporating those easy miles because it is early, but it just gets the kids turning their legs over, as I like to call it, focusing on different paces, running different parts of the course and just getting ready for all the demands that racing is going to entail, both physical and physiological.

**How has the interest level been in cross country this summer?**

Our numbers are a tad down. I have anywhere between 17 and 20 guys, but I had 20 full-time guys last year, then last year I had 17 girls, this year I have 11. So numbers are down, but I hope for them to rise next year. Hopefully COVID has come and gone, so hopefully the numbers will increase, as well, but we do have a big group. It's about 32 total. They really work hard, they come to practice every day. I like the team we have this year.

**We talk a lot about the men's team and how good they've been over the last few years, but what is it going to take for the women to get to that level and make the state meet this season?**

For the women, it's

just going to take getting girls out — the boys, they always have more to pull from. We don't have the depth that we have on the boys side, we have four really good runners and then have younger ones that have not been on varsity before that will have to fill those five, six and seven spots, which are very crucial, so those spots will be younger, while on the guys side, it will be athletes who have been there before, with the exception of one or two.

**Why should fans be excited about Northwood cross country this year and why are you excited about Northwood cross country this year?**

The fans should be excited because these guys and girls have worked extremely hard. They've put in a lot of work over the summer, running by themselves in the hot, in the cold, early morning, late at night, while they're on vacation, all of it. The trail is looking really phenomenal, too, and it's just a nice culture and team camaraderie. This year, our theme at Northwood is "All-In," so we really want to have the community out there and involved with music playing, kids running around, cheering on our Chargers at our home meets.

The reason I'm excited is because the last time the girls made the state meet was the year before I got here in 2018, so it's been almost four long years since that's happened. I know we'll go back this year, it just depends on how we can place at the region. Losing a few girls hurt and not having the numbers and depth, but I do believe we'll get out of the region. And I'm really excited for the men, most of all because we have a chance to win — a very good chance to win — Northwood's first team state championship. Teams have come close, like basketball as recent as last year and cross country back in 2004 and then other teams over the years, but it's been elusive for Northwood. The boys are ready to win. They believe they can win. I believe they can win. I look forward to doing that on November 6th.

CORA is a member agency of Chatham County United Way.

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# Lengthy county commissioners meeting discusses compact communities

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A five-hour Chatham County commission board meeting on Monday night included lengthy and, at times, contentious discussion regarding rezoning requests and compact communities.

More than three hours of the meeting were devoted to three public hearings:

- A request by Congruus LLC for a map amendment to the Chatham County Compact Community boundary map

- A request by the Vickers Bennett Group LLC for text and map amendments to the Chatham County Compact Community Ordinance

- An additional request by Vickers Bennett Group for a Conditional District Rezoning request from R-1 Residential to CD-CCO Compact Community

At the board's July 19 meeting, Commissioner Diana Hales brought up the upcoming requests pursuant to compact communities, inquiring if the board could repeal its compact communities ordinance added in 2004. In that ordinance, a compact community is defined as "a compact development with a mixed-use village center" that meets all the other conditions specified in the ordinance.

Hales mentioned the Unified Development Ordinance being developed by the county, a document that outlines traditional zoning and subdivision regulations along with other desired city regulations such as design guidelines and water management.

"No matter how much we want to crunch it, it's two years out," she said of the UDO. "So in the meantime, more developments are coming through."

At that meeting, Commissioner Karen Howard also expressed interest in potentially repealing the compact communities ordinance, if it was legal to do so. County Attorney Bob Hagemann said the board could look into a repeal, but the standards of approval set in the or-

dinance would still apply to applicants who began the application process before it was removed.

"I think we need an option for high density development in those areas of the county that the comp plan says we want higher density development right now," Chairperson Mike Dasher said at that meeting. "We have a compact community ordinance and that is not a great vehicle for what I think this board wants to see there, but there is no other vehicle for an applicant to use."

On Monday, all three of the requests were eventually referred to the county's planning board, but not before lengthy presentations and public comments were given.

The first public hearing, with Congruus LLC, included a request to extend the CCO map to make an additional 184.04 acres off Parker Herndon and Morris roads — the whole of Fearrington Preserve — eligible for development. The text amendment, if approved, would allow greater flexibility to design a walkable, mixed use development with a mix of housing types, open space, and commercial development — including the dedication of land in the CCO for the construction of affordable housing.

Commissioner Hales inquired whether the affordable housing would be designed with low-income or workforce housing in mind. "The builder is dedicated to providing workhouse affordable housing," one of the presenters, John Foley of VRC, a Pittsboro-based development company, said.

Affordable housing is an issue across the state, Chatham notwithstanding. It's long been a priority on the board's agendas as well.

"On the question of affordable housing in my seven years on the board, this is the first private developer of any stripe to come forward," Commissioner Jim Crawford said. "And their initial card on the table will be they want to provide affordable workforce housing, period. So I take that seriously."

During public comments, several speakers during the hearing brought up concerns with wastewater and sewage issues — citing spills and odors in Briar Creek — which would end up being a common theme of the night. Presenting developers said they believed they could improve the wastewater situation, but did not offer specifics. (Doing so was not directly relevant to their request.)

The common concern is that new development would create even higher density populations in Northeast Chatham, where wastewater infrastructure was already lacking or overwhelmed.

"It seems to me that the infrastructure should be addressed first, then we can discuss rezoning land for compact communities," one speaker said. "I would hate to see the county pay for such an endeavor when doing so essentially profits developers. There's a place for compact communities, but I can't see the benefit of a compact community placed in this particular location."

The next two hearings both concerned requests from Vickers Bennett Group LLC.

The first requested text and map amendments to the CCO to support Chatham's Compact Community Area. The second requested a Conditional District Rezoning from R-1 Residential to CD-CCO Compact Community, concerning approximately 101.8 acres off US 15-501 between Vicker's Rd and Jack Bennett roads, Williams Township.

Similar concerns were raised during the public comment for these hearings, with some residents calling the proposed expansion "piecemeal plans."

One resident spoke positively of development plans for Vickers Village, saying the development meets many housing needs in Chatham, specifically for single-income folks looking for moderately priced housing. A few other speakers said they were in complete support of the development.

Other speakers applauded the developers

for communication with the community and planning efforts, but still cited environmental or wastewater concerns.

Following the closing of the public hearings, the board voted on a request by Zachary Fuller, PE on behalf of Swain Land & Timber, LLC for subdivision First Plat review and approval of McBane Park Conservation Subdivision. That area consists of 149 lots on 161.97 acres, located off Old Graham Road.

All the planning board recommendations for the First Plat review were satisfied; following a relatively short presentation, the board unanimously approved the request.

"I just want to point out that we're talking about the same number of residents more or less as we were talking about in the earlier hearing. But there are no neighbors present to talk about this," Crawford said. "This is the future, friends and neighbors. We're going to have large developments that come in where if there are established neighbors, they're going to raise objections."

"This is where we're at. Which is not to say pro or con, it's just this is it," he added. "So we had an hour and a half on a previous one, this one's going to come through with no public comment whatsoever — that's Chatham County."

## Other meeting business

The meeting, held in the Chatham County Historic Courthouse, started with the board voting to add a quasi-judicial pub-

lic hearing for a request by the Conservancy Real Estate Group LLC for a Special Use Permit to the beginning of the public hearings agenda.

Following a postponement request from the applicant, the county removed the item from Monday's agenda; it was added back because the hearing was already postponed, but commissioners did not open the hearing. Instead, the attorney requested an indefinite postponement of the public hearing based on some revisions to the applicable property subject to the application.

In the same motion, the board also updated the agenda to postpone its planning recognition of the Chatham County finance office for receiving GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the county's comprehensive annual financial report for the 2020 fiscal year. It was added to the board's Sept. 20 agenda.

The board approved a resolution proclaiming Chatham as a "Breastfeeding Family Friendly Community" and to recognize Sept. 15, 2021, as Chatham County's United Way Day of Service.

Commissioners also approved a resolution to improve student learning conditions, at the urging of Chatham County Schools. The CCS Board of Education unanimously approved a similar resolution at its July meeting, as requested of local boards across the state by the North Carolina Association of Educators.

The board also ap-

proved a resolution proclaiming Sept. 15-Oct. 15 Hispanic Heritage Month in Chatham. Following brief comments from the Hispanic Liaison's Ilana Dubester, Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores read the proclamation first in Spanish, then in English.

"This is our 26th year of being here in Chatham County," Dubester said of the Liaison, "And, yeah, it's been a long journey. I want to first thank you for your amazing support of our organization and our efforts in our community."

A lot of work has been accomplished to welcome immigrants and increase equity in Chatham since the Liaison was founded, Dubester said, but there is more work to be done.

"As the Hispanic Liaison, we pledge to continue to work with you to make Chatham County a welcoming home for immigrants from near and far," she said. "I just wanted to thank you again for your time and for this proclamation, and I love that you made it a bilingual Proclamation — I appreciate that very much."

Monday's meeting concluded with the adoption of a new county LGBTQ-inclusive nondiscrimination policy. You can read more about that policy on the front page of this edition.

The board's next regular meeting will take place at the courthouse on Sept. 20.

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### N.C. Labor department presents annual safety awards

ASHEBORO — The N.C. Department of Labor recognized area employers and employees at the agency's annual safety awards banquet last Thursday at the AVS Banquet Centre.

"In an especially challenging year, these employers and employees have shown us the true importance of a strong commitment to safety and health," Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson said. "North Carolina has experienced a continuously declining injury and illness rate, which remains at an historic low. These businesses' dedication to safety is the reason why North Carolina is one of the safest states in which to work and they deserve this distinguished recognition."

The awards honored outstanding on-the-job safety achievements of each recipient during 2020. Recipients recognized are in Asheboro and surrounding counties.

The local recipients have met the stringent requirements necessary to receive a safety award. Chatham County recipients included:

### Main Street Pittsboro Launches Arts in the Park

PITTSBORO — On Thursday, August 26, Main Street Pittsboro will launch the first in a series of outdoor evening concerts in the Page Vernon Park at 110 Hillsboro Street called Arts in the Park. The first event will feature Dave Quick Jazz from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dave Quick Jazz is a small jazz combo with vocals, that plays swing, bossa nova and classic love songs from Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra and several others.

"Our intent is to attract folks to downtown to enjoy some time outdoors in one of downtown Pittsboro's beautiful amenities," said Main Street Pittsboro's Board Chairperson Maria Parker-Lewis. "We encourage people to either eat before, or bring food with them from local stores and restaurants, or enjoy dinner and a cocktail afterwards with friends from any of our downtown restaurants or bars. Several establishments are within walking distance of the park."

A second concert will be held on Thursday, September 23, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will feature the Dave Smith trio. A third

concert may be held on Thursday, October 28.

Admission to Arts in the Park is free and the event is open to the public. Please keep dogs at home.

— CN+R staff reports



## Building a Brighter Future By Supporting Local Education



### 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:



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- 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! !!



# Siler City nonprofit announces grant money for building improvements

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Development Organization has renewed its facade grant program for another year as part of the organization's larger effort to revitalize the town's aesthetic and stimulate new economic growth.

Grants between \$500 and \$2,500 are available to downtown building owners who can demonstrate plans to improve front, side or rear building facades that are visible from the street. Potential projects include replacing doors or windows, replacing or adding new awnings, refreshing paint, repointing bricks and landscaping, according to SCDO's grant program guidelines.

Most buildings between the downtown train tracks and Third Street (running west to east) and between Fourth Street and Chestnut Street (running north to south) qualify for consideration.

"The SCDO board feels that the program is a big return on investment," said Siler City Planning Director Jack Meadows, who is president of SCDO's board of directors. "A big part of SCDO's mission is to help with revitalizing the town, and obviously a part of that bigger picture is improving the appearance of the downtown buildings."

Since 2013 SCDO has partnered with various organizations and private donors to supply facade grant funds. Over the program's nine years, almost \$55,000 have been dispensed for downtown improvement projects, according to data Meadows shared with the News + Record. About \$25,000 has come from the N.C. Small Town Economic Prosperity initiative, with private donors contributing most of the rest. SCDO — a nonprofit "committed to making Siler City a thriving place to live, work and play" — only dispenses the money.

So far, \$8,500 is available for 2021, but SCDO is still accepting donations.

As per the program's guidelines, grants funds may cover no more than 50% of an approved facade improvement project — a stipulation which Meadows says has inspired more than \$100,000 in downtown investment over

the last decade.

"So if \$1,000 is granted, you know at least \$2,000 has been spent in downtown," he said. "So, of course, that's more money than actually was given by grant. You know you're going to get back more value than just the money that was issued."

SCDO also encourages grant recipients to keep the money within Siler City's local economy.

"It means somebody is getting some work," Meadows said. "There are hopefully local contractors and vendors that are making income off of this."

And as more improvement projects complete, SCDO expects businesses and residents across town will mutually benefit.

"These kinds of things can seem little, but they're not cheap to do, and they make a big difference in giving the town a more welcoming appearance," Meadows said. "SCDO and the board of commissioners have really prioritized revitalization, and this is part of that."

Project applications may be submitted to Meadows via email at [jmeadows@silercity.org](mailto:jmeadows@silercity.org) or by mail to City Hall, 311 N. 2nd Ave., Attn: Town of Siler City Director of Planning and Community Development. Applications must include a detailed written explanation and description of the project; the total cost and projected date of completion (no longer than four months from receipt of funds); design plans, drawings or sketches of the proposed improvements; two detailed and itemized quotes of the project cost; current color photographs of the proposed project; and paint samples or color schemes of the colors to be used, if applicable.

The deadline for application submissions is 12 p.m. on Friday, September 10.

"The SCDO board has thought these have been successful and are excited to continue it on," Meadows said. "... We hope some more money might still be coming in, and after a hard year for business, we hope these can do some good for downtown business owners."

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

## SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

# Town commits to fixing water pressure deficiencies, supporting nonprofits

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town's board of commissioners debated solutions to longstanding water pressure deficiencies in parts of town and discussed potential spending options for federally granted monies in its regular meeting Monday.

For years, some homeowners in Siler City have endured underwhelming water pressure on their properties. In extreme cases, the issue has rendered even basic, day-to-day tasks — such as washing dishes and showering — difficult to accomplish.

"This has been an ongoing problem for many years," Town Manager Roy Lynch said, "and over the last year, it's become increasingly worse."

Particularly in the Homewood Acres neighborhood, town staff and contractors have identified acutely weak water pressure, according to Lynch.

"We've had a lot of concerned customers in the area," he said, "which led us to have the engineers go out and monitor certain homes in the area to get readings and establish what the actual need is."

The problem, according to David Honeycutt — an engineer with McGill Engineers, which the town contracted to assess its water pressure problems — is the neighborhood's proximity in elevation to the water tank that serves it. Siler City has two water pressure zones. Most of town draws water from elevated storage tanks off Siler Business Drive. But a smaller zone, which includes Homewood Acres, is served by a standpipe near the end of Tanglewood Drive. The standpipe is filled using a booster pump system on Dogwood Avenue.

"Water pressure is primarily driven by the difference in elevation between water level in the tanks and the customers being served," town staff reported in documentation presented to the board Monday. "The area close to the standpipe at Tanglewood Drive has low water pressure as the homes are located close in elevation to the tank."

To address the problem, Lynch and his staff recommended construction of a drinking water distribution system, which would include a booster pump station and pressure tank to serve domestic demands. The estimated cost would be about \$826,000, which Lynch hopes state funds might cover.

"We are asking the board to consider a reso-

lution," he said, "to apply for a State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund combination loan/grant to improve the water pressure situation."

If the project proceeds according to town staff's recommendation, 67 homes in the Tanglewood area would see improved water pressure.

The commissioners were quick to support water pressure improvement measures, but questioned whether a more substantial project might be necessary. The town's investigation included mostly hypothetical analyses based on home elevations as compared to the water tank. The engineers directly consulted with only three property owners.

"It just seems to me we ought to talk to more residents to make sure we've got the right area," Commissioner Lewis Fadely said, "especially since we're going to be putting out close to a million dollars to fix the problem."

Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray suggested the town should broaden the solution's scope.

"I can attest to the fact that it's not just that area," she said. "Where I live, you cannot run the dishwasher and take a shower at the same time."

Still, the board approved Lynch's requested resolution, but with the understanding that his staff will continue investigating additional water pressure solutions to resolve issues across a larger area.

"We want to keep our possibilities open," Honeycutt said. "We can certainly consider going back to additional water structure again and there may be some other programs available as well."

### American Rescue Fund

Siler City has received its first installment of federal funds per the American Rescue Plan.

For months, Siler City and municipalities across the nation have awaited distribution of funds as part of the ARP — the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus bill President Joe Biden signed in March.

Besides individual stimulus payments and the extension of certain unemployment benefits, ARP includes \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial and Tribal governments. Siler City is poised to receive \$2.41 million total, \$1.3 million of which already "has hit our bank account," Lynch said.

In May, the town made a calculated decision to omit nonprofit funding from its budget for fiscal year 2022 with the

expectation that ARP funds could be used later to support such organizations. On Monday, Lynch reaffirmed his suggestion that the board distribute some of Siler City's ARP money to nonprofits around town.

"There were certain categories that these funds could fit into," he said, "appropriations that could be made for these funds. One of them is the nonprofit funding as we had talked about during the budget process that potentially we could use these if they were not available during the normal budget process."

The ARP program comes with spending restrictions, however, which render some organizations ineligible to receive funds.

"We had categories we had to fit each one of these requests into," Town Finance Director Tina Stroupe said of the nonprofit organizations. "And so what we looked at was the public health and economic impact category and also the infrastructure investment category. According to the guidance, we only had so many categories and we had to get those items in there because we will have to annually report what we spent of the ARP funds and how we fit into the categories."

Stroupe suggested the town begin its ARP fund allocation with 12 nonprofits, each of which match the federal government-mandated categories. They include the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina, Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy, Chatham County Communities In School, Chatham County Council on Aging, Chatham County Housing Initiatives, Chatham Literacy, Chatham Trades, the Hispanic Liaison, the N.C. Arts Incubator, the Salvation Army, the Siler City Development Organization and the Western Chatham Food Bank.

The board unanimously voted to approve the spending plan. Each nonprofit will receive 53% of the money it requested during Siler City's regular budget season. In total, the town will allocate an initial \$87,718 for nonprofits.

Another \$320,000 is reserved for infrastructure development expenses and town departments. The remaining balance will be allocated at a future time.

### Other news

• The board approved a demolition ordinance for the house at 704 W. Third St.

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

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Bray Park aquatic facility announces end-of-season operations

SILER CITY — As summer begins to come to a close, the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department seeks to inform pool patrons and community members of the upcoming annual end-of-season operations.

The pool is open daily from noon to 6 p.m. With the resumption of the school year, hours of operations will change beginning Aug. 23 to 4:30-6:30 p.m. weekdays and noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

The final day of the 2021 pool season is Labor Day, on Monday, Sept. 6.

General admission includes a \$5 entry fee for ages 3 and over. Children ages 2 and under receive free entry. Senior citizens ages 50 or more receive a 50% discount.

To adhere to COVID-19 guidelines,

masks/face coverings are encouraged for all patrons when in the bathhouse and not able to socially distance of 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. Please be advised, operations are subject to change in accordance to executive orders and guidelines.

For more information, visit the Town of Siler City website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org) or contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699.

The Bray Park Aquatic Facility features exceptional amenities including a swimming pool, bathhouse, splashpad and picnic shelters. The facility is located at 700 Alston Bridge Rd. in Siler City.



# Health Department: As COVID surges, vaccines and masks encouraged

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — Chatham County's COVID-19 case numbers are continuing to rise as the Delta variant spreads. A recent peak came on Aug. 3rd, when 30 new cases were reported, a number that had not been reached since late January 2021. In light of these numbers, the Chatham County Public Health Department continues to urge residents to get vaccinated, wear masks in indoor public places and be tested if they are exposed to the virus or begin experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), Chatham County

reported 273 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents from Aug. 5th-11th, which is considered high community transmission. Current COVID-19 case rates are nearing the county's peak over the entire pandemic. According to NCDHHS, 10.1% of Chatham County's recent COVID-19 tests have come back positive. This is double the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC's) benchmark of 5% positive and shows how easily the Delta variant, which has been labeled a "variant of concern" by the CDC, can spread.

More than 90% of North Carolina's recent COVID-19 cases have been caused by the Delta variant.

"The data can be overwhelm-

ing, but what is important to understand is that there are nearly as many cases of COVID-19 today as there have been at any point in the pandemic," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "Hospitals are filling up, mainly with those who are not vaccinated. Cases are not contained to any setting or neighborhood, but 90% are among the unvaccinated. The answer to this problem is clear: Vax up and mask up."

About 52% of Chatham County residents have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, while 49% are fully vaccinated.

The most important step to take right now is to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Everyone ages 12 and up is eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine, and everyone ages 18 and up is eligible to receive the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Many options exist in Chatham County, including:

- Chatham County Public Health Department clinic (Moderna): 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fridays; 1000 S. Tenth Ave., Siler City. Call 919-742-5641.
- Goldston Town Hall (StarMed Healthcare) (Pfizer): 2-7 p.m., Wednesdays; 40 Coral Avenue #A, Goldston

To see a full list of options, visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov). Additionally, a full list of testing options in Chatham County can be found at [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirus](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirus).

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine). To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth) or [www.facebook.com/chathamhealth](http://www.facebook.com/chathamhealth).

COMING SEPTEMBER 15

## United Way of Chatham County's 'Day of Service' recognized by commissioners

From the United Way of Chatham County

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution Monday recognizing Wednesday, Sept. 15, as the official United Way of Chatham County Day of Service.

The Day of Service is an all-day event which unites community leaders, businesses and volunteers to complete community service projects for nonprofits across Chatham County, and will serve as the official kick off to the 2021 United Way Annual Campaign.

"It is no secret that our community is still feeling the impacts of COVID-19," said Alane Coore, finance officer for United Way of Chatham County. "One thing that every non-profit agency in Chatham County has experienced over the last year is a decrease in volunteer support. Our hope is that this event will encourage the connection between those who can help to those who need help. By supporting this event you are encouraging others to make a difference in their community and we can't thank you enough."

Once the resolution

passed, Chatham County Commissioner Jim Crawford said supporting United Way of Chatham County is a "privilege," and encouraged everyone in attendance to "just give five hours of your time to any United Way organization."

"Lean in with your time and effort," Crawford said.

To volunteer for a Day of Service project, or for more information, visit [www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayofService/](http://www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/DayofService/).

Day of Service sponsors include Carolina Civilworks Inc., Axis Utility Inc., Sanctuary

Apartment Homes at Powell Place, Triangle Community Foundation, Realty World Carolina Properties and Marley's Hair Design. The day's media sponsor is the Chatham News + Record.

The United Way of Chatham County funds 23 programs managed by its 16 nonprofit agencies that specialize in the education, financial stability and health of Chatham County residents. For more information on the agencies and programs funded by United Way, volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, visit [www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org](http://www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org).



Submitted photo

**United Way Finance Officer Alane Coore is presented a resolution for Chatham County's upcoming 'Day of Service' by Chatham County Commission Chairperson Mike Dasher.**

## A restaurant-style steak dinner — at home



**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

Eating out can be tons of fun. But there are also a bunch of drawbacks, as well.

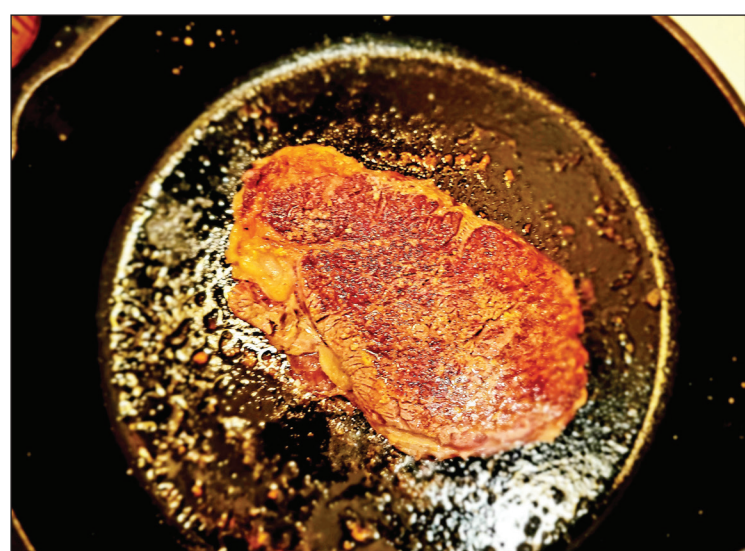
Waiting. Not only do you have to wait for a table, you have to wait for a server to take your order.

Then the interval before even the apps, or bread, or salad show up.

Thirsty? Even if your server is on the ball, it may take 10 minutes to get a refill on your tea. If you want dessert, you gotta sit until the order is taken, then more time is spent cooling your heels while it's plated. After you're finished eating, you then get the pleasure of sitting there until the bill shows up. If you're paying with a credit card, or you need change, there is more time spent ... waiting.

Sometimes there's nothing on the menu that really gets you excited. Or, there's something terrific, but, they just ran out. Or there's too many wonderful items, and you can't make up your mind.

It's the chef's way or the highway. You like spicy, but the



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

**A perfectly-seared steak, just about ready for plating.**

dishes are a little bland. They don't use enough garlic, or use way too much. Their bread is stale. The veggies are overcooked. They use (horrors!) margarine. The sauces are too rich, or too thin, or it just doesn't taste right. They serve Pepsi, instead of Coke.

At the end of all of this, you're out a bunch of money. And most places frown on diners showing up in their jammies.

Yesterday, I decided to make Petey a fancy steakhouse

dinner. On the menu: a beautiful steak, baked potatoes, and creamed spinach.

But first, a culinary confession. I used to have an arrogant, ignorant misbelief.

I thought that all beef was the same. That the only difference between a steak dinner at Angus Barn and Waffle House was the price. That luxury steakhouses were selling sizzle, packaged as steak.

On the scale of wrong, 1 being black socks with sandals and 10 being New Coke, this boorish bo-

vine misapprehension was a 63.

Zero percent body fat might be terrific in eye candy, but horrible in meat candy. Fat is flavor, and a cow that is overworked and fed just enough to sustain life might be cheaper to produce and less expensive at the grocer's, but the difference will tell on the plate. It will be stringy, chewy, and tough.

A cow that's led a life of leisure, taking selfies, shopping and watching reality TV will become well marbled (many streaks of fat running through the meat), tender and juicy. Wagyu beef is so well marbled, it looks pale pink, like pork (it's also about \$80 per pound).

Then, once that cow has become steaks, there are additional steps to take, to make that steak into a work of art.

It's called dry aging. The water is dried from the meat, which concentrates flavor and if cooked well, results in a juicy tender steak that is worth \$80 or one \$100 bucks a plate.

So, last night, I splurged.

I visited a local grocery store that actually dry ages their own. They start with prime beef, not Wagyu, but better than something you can occasionally find in the freezer at the dollar store. It was \$33 for two gorgeous, thick filets.

**Sometimes there's nothing on the menu that really gets you excited. Or, there's something terrific, but, they just ran out. Or there's too many wonderful items, and you can't make up your mind.**

I know, kind of steep, but the results ...

Honest, the sounds that were coming from Petey and me as we were eating verged on the vulgar. Each bite reinforced my judgment in the purchase.

If you are meat eaters, save up your pennies and every once in a while, go for it.

One whole bag of greens might seem like a lot, but I promise, you will end up with only two servings. It cooks down like crazy.

Just because you're dining in, that doesn't mean it has to be plain or boring. The actual hands-on cooking time was only about 30 minutes, and we had a terrific, tasty supper.

Thanks for your time.

Contact me with questions or comments at [dm@bullcitymom.com](mailto:dm@bullcitymom.com).

### Ridiculously Delicious Steak At Home

2 8-ounce dry-aged filets, around 1.5 inches thick      2 tablespoons vegetable oil      Freshly cracked pepper

Tools needed:      Kosher salt

• Cast iron skillet  
• Instant read probe thermometer (you don't want to ruin expensive meat by overcooking — if you like your steak anything beyond medium-rare, just buy the cheap stuff).

Preheat oven to 375°. While the oven is heating, heat your skillet on burner set to 7-8. Your pan wants to be literally smoking.

Pour oil on the steak and massage it all over. Liberally season with salt.

Place in pan and cook for about 3-4 minutes or until a nice brown crust is formed. Flip steak and place pan with meat into oven.

Cook for about 8-10 minutes and check internal temp. When it reaches temp (128° for rare, 133° for medium-rare), remove from oven and plate. Let rest for 5 minutes before tucking in.

Next: creamed spinach. Last night was the first time I tried it, freestyle (without a recipe), and it turned out pretty legit.

### Creamed Spinach For Folks Who Aren't Big Spinach Fans

1 bag washed baby spinach (find it in the salad area of the produce section)      1 tablespoon olive oil      2 tablespoons shredded Parmesan      Pinch of sugar (this reduces bitterness)  
2 cloves garlic, sliced      1/4 cup heavy cream  
Splash of white wine      5-6 gratings of fresh nutmeg      Salt and pepper to taste

Warm oil in a saute pan, and add garlic. Cook until the garlic just starts to color. Discard the garlic; you're just flavoring the oil. Dump all the spinach into the pan and when it has started to wilt add the wine, and cook it until the liquid's almost gone. Add the rest of the ingredients and cook on medium heat until there is about a cup of spinach left.



# Aretha Franklin biopic 'Respect' is a tad too respectful

"Respect" follows the music biopic playbook, starting with a film title that borrows its name from one of its subject's well-known songs or lyrics, a la "Walk the Line," "Get on Up," "Rocket Man," "Bohemian Rhapsody," "What's Love Got to Do With It," "Straight Outta Compton," and so on. From there, it's the narrative checkboxes that include a hardscrabble and/or abusive upbringing, burgeoning musical talent, the rise to fame (including a montage of popular songs), the tumultuous marriage, the substance abuse, the estrangement from friends and family, the fall from grace and finally the comeback concert.

That does not mean that Aretha Franklin did not experience all of these triumphs and tribulations. The film opens in 1952 with a 10-year-old



Courtesy of MGM Studios

Jennifer Hudson stars in 'Respect,' the Aretha Franklin biopic.

Franklin living in Detroit, Michigan, with her sisters and father, C.L. Franklin, played with splendid complexity by Forest Whitaker. Franklin is just beginning to realize her singing skill, prodded by a demanding dad who insists that she perform at parties and the church where C.L. preaches. Beyond the musical performances (more on that later), the film's highlight is the love/loath relationship between Franklin and

her father. He is a misogynistic man, including towards Franklin and her mother, who separated from C.L. and later died young. At the same time, he not only encourages Franklin's musical growth but also lends her a religious grounding that she lean on and will return to throughout her life.

Franklin was sexually abused and became a teenage mom, an aspect the film barely mentions and utterly declines

to explore. Instead, director Liesl Tommy fast-forwards to 1960 and Franklin traveling to New York City to sign her first contract with Columbia Records. Franklin struggles to find her voice — and success — until joining producer Jerry Wexler (Marc Maron) and Atlantic Records, and taking a trip down Muscle Shoals, Alabama. There, Franklin records "I Never Loved A Man The Way That I Love You," her first top-10 hit.

## RESPECT

GRADE: B -

DIRECTOR: Liesl Tommy

STARRING: Jennifer Hudson, Forest Whitaker, Marlon Wayans, Audra McDonald, Marc Maron, Tituss Burgess, Saycon Sengbloh and Hailey Kilgore

MPAA RATING: PG-13

RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 25 min.

The session is cut short, however, by Franklin's abusive husband, Ted White (Marlon Wayans), who battles with his wife and anyone in her orbit.

"Respect" shines in its performances, starting with the sensational Hudson, who has both the acting and vocal chops for this formidable role. Tommy spends an excessive amount of screen time on Franklin's seminal songs, including the title track, "Chain of

Fools," "Think," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and more. Thankfully, Hudson carries these scenes with her dynamic voice and stage presence, and later lends emotional depth to Franklin's battle with alcoholism, her struggles with success, and her redemptive 1972 gospel album and concert in Los Angeles.

The supporting cast are universally superb, particularly Whitaker, Wayans, Tituss Burgess as Rev. James Cleveland, and Mary J. Blige in a brief but memorable turn as singer Dinah Washington. The net effect is a film that resurrects an interest and appreciation for the Queen of Soul.

Otherwise, however, "Respect" is as banal as its title. While it might replicate certain aspects and events in Franklin's life, the filmmaking choices of how to craft and present its story arc are fairly familiar and forgettable. Aretha Franklin is a singular musical talent worthy of her own movie. But "Respect" proves too, well, respectful.

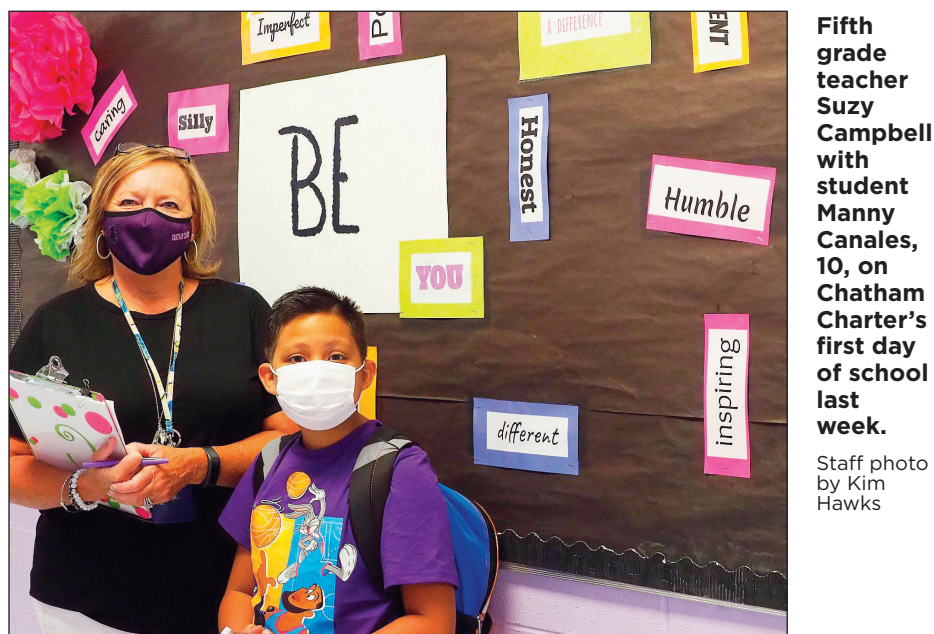
# READ IT ONLINE

## Back to school



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Head of the School Dr. John Eldridge excitedly welcomed students back to class last Wednesday.



Fifth grade teacher Suzy Campbell with student Manny Canales, 10, on Chatham Charter's first day of school last week.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Finnie Hackney, 6, poses for her first day of 1st grade during Chatham Charter School's first day of school last Wednesday. This fall, the school will hold in-person classes five days a week.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham Charter's Etta Foushee, with administrative support, greets the children on the first day of school last Wednesday. While masks aren't currently required on its campus, the school is encouraging them to be worn.



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FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS

# Siler City's free film series kicks off Aug. 27

SILER CITY — Siler City's Parks and Recreation department announced the fifth season of "Friday Night Flicks," a 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, Aug. 27, with the premiere of "The Secret Life of Pets 2," a 2019 animated film, on the big screen. Watch Max and his pet friends explore the farm they now call home whenever their owner is out of sight. Hilarious circumstances ensue as the formerly urban animals make sense of their new surroundings and acquaint themselves with the farm animals. Grab your blankets, chairs and enjoy the free family friendly movie under the stars.

The movie will premiere 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. Delicious concessions will be available for purchase by Customized Dogs and Catering. In case of inclement weather, the event rain date is Saturday, Aug. 28.

"Toy Story 4" will premier on Friday, Sept. 24, and "Trolls World Tour" will take the big screen on Friday, Oct. 22.

Friday Night Flicks is made possible by sponsors Freedom Family Church, Central Piedmont Urgent Care, Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site, Countryside Collectibles Antique Mall, Crossroads Grill,

Wilson Brothers Trucking, Rotary Club of Siler City, Van 2 Auto Sales, Mountaire Farms, Salvation Army and Chatham News + Record.

These community events bring families, friends and neighbors together for a fun evening, watching their favorite movies on the big screen. Follow Siler City Parks and Recreation on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for up-to-date information.

The Bray Park Sports Complex is located at 200 Bray Park Complex Dr., Siler City.

For more information, please contact Daniel Spivey with the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit the town website at www.silercity.org.

SILER CITY PARKS & RECREATION

FRIDAY NIGHT Flicks

4TH FRIDAY OF AUG, SEPT & OCT 2021

BRAY PARK SPORTS COMPLEX

200 Bray Park Complex Drive, Siler City

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27

"SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2" (2019)

RAINDATE: SAT, AUG 28

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

"TOY STORY 4" (2019)

RAINDATE: SAT, SEPT 25

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

"TROLLS WORLD TOUR" (2020)

RAINDATE: SAT, OCT 23

Enjoy a FREE outdoor movie in the park! Bring your lawn chairs. Movies begin at dusk. Come early for inflatable attractions, music & movie-themed activities!

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

2021 Sponsors: Freedom Family Church, Mountaire Farms, Central Piedmont Urgent Care, Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site, Countryside Collectibles Antique Mall, Crossroads Grill, Wilson Brothers Trucking, Siler City Rotary Club, Van 2 Auto Sales, Salvation Army, & Chatham News + Record.

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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## TARDIGRADES

TOUGHEST ANIMAL ON EARTH

Imagine an animal that looks like a combination of a caterpillar and a teddy bear. Can you picture that? Then you have imagined a **tardigrade!**

Tardigrades, sometimes called water bears or moss piglets, are really tiny. They're **microscopic**—you need a microscope to see them.

Replace the missing words.

SURVIVED
SPACECRAFT
SURFACE

INFORMATION
HARSH
REASON
LIVING

### Tardigrades on the Moon

In 2019, a small \_\_\_\_\_ called *Beresheet*, crashed on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the moon.

*Beresheet* was carrying a special "library." This library had all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ about Earth, including some \_\_\_\_\_ tiny tardigrades.

Some scientists think the tardigrades may have \_\_\_\_\_ the crash. They can survive all kinds of \_\_\_\_\_ situations, including times with no water and no air. That's just one \_\_\_\_\_ they are often considered the toughest animals on Earth.

### WHERE ON EARTH?

Tardigrades live **everywhere** on planet Earth. They live in the ocean and in every climate zone!

Here's a helpful tardigrade chart I made!

A tardigrade's tiny feet have claws to help grip surfaces.

A tardigrade's mouth is a tiny tube. They use this to suck food out of plants and animals.

### TARDIGRADE TOUGHNESS

When it is dry, tardigrades shrink into a little pill shape called a **tun**. They slow their breathing and **metabolism** to a death-like state. They can survive like this, without water, for **decades**. Once they get wet again, they come back to life in just a few hours!

**WORD BOX**

**Metabolism:** The processes in plants and animals by which food is changed into energy or to make cells and tissue.

**Use the Code**

Tardigrades can withstand cold as low as negative \_\_\_\_\_ °F (-200°C)

They can live in temps as high as \_\_\_\_\_ °F (148.9°C).

Tardigrades can survive high radiation, boiling liquids, enormous pressure of up to six times the pressure at the depth of oceans, and even a vacuum.

▲	= 0	■	= 5
●	= 1	■	= 6
▲	= 2	■	= 7
■	= 3	■	= 8
■	= 4	■	= 9

Can you help me reach the water droplet?

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

## What do tardigrades eat?

Tardigrades really like to live in damp moss where they get all the food and water they need to thrive. Circle every other letter to discover the things tardigrades like to eat.

P K O N A P N C T R S Y B M  
A S C B T U E G R H I Y A L A  
G N F D S M W E D A Q T A

P L

### Double Double Word Search

TARDIGRADE  
CLIMATE  
SURVIVE  
LIBRARY  
DECADES  
TOUGH  
CRASH  
STATE  
HARSH  
CLAWS  
TINY  
DAMP  
TUBE  
PILL  
WET

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

C	R	E	A	T	H	S	R	A	H
U	R	D	E	C	A	D	E	S	G
C	E	S	S	W	A	L	C	Y	U
T	R	T	U	B	E	L	S	R	O
E	D	A	R	G	I	D	R	A	T
W	V	T	S	M	I	A	S	R	I
I	T	E	A	H	T	M	H	B	N
E	M	T	L	L	I	P	O	I	Y
O	E	V	I	V	R	U	S	L	N

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

## Kid Scoop Together: How to Draw a Tardigrade

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

### KID SCOOP'S MISSION

**Children are born curious.** From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further. **Magic happens.**

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## Ticket to Space

Pretend you could win a ride into space on a rocket ship. Write a paragraph telling why you should win this prize.

## Chatham YMCA

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- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LEARN ABOUT LAND** - Chatham Land Experts - [www.learn-aboutland.com](http://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, 919-369-3820. Au19,26,2tp

**HOUSE RENTAL, BENNETT NC** area. 2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, appliances included, 1 year lease, References required. \$800.00 monthly. Year lease and \$800 security deposit. Call 919-427-2122, leave message or text. Au19,26,52,9,16,23,30,7tp

## RENTAL APARTMENTS

**POWELL SPRINGS APTS.** Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

**ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfnc

## YARD SALES

**YARD SALE, SATURDAY, AUG 21** - 7 a.m. till 12, US 421 South at 110 Carter Brooks Rd, Siler City - Men's clothing, Med to Large, Men & women's jackets, Women's plus-size clothing, Kitchen items, Sports collectibles, Golf equipment, Softball-baseball gear, shoes, exercise equipment and much more. Au19,1tx

**YARD SALE, Friday and Saturday, August 20 & 21, 7 a.m. until...** 219 College St., Siler City; Bag-A-Bag children's clothes, \$5.00, Men, Women and Children clothes, Under Armour and name brand clothes, furniture and miscellaneous items. Au19,1tp

## AUCTIONEERS

**AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS** at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 [www.JerryHarrisAuction.com](http://www.JerryHarrisAuction.com), 919-498-4077, My6,tfnc

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## SERVICES

**AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS** - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

**JUNK CARS PICKED UP** Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

**I PAY IN CASH FOR** Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfnc

**LETT'S TREE SERVICE** - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing, Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfnc

## HELP WANTED

**CHARTER FURNITURE** is now accepting applications for: - Upholsters, Experience needed - Frame and Router Operators needed. Skills needed: General wood working skill, Carpentry Skill. Please apply in person at: Charter Furniture, 50 Industrial Park Rd, Siler City, NC 27344. Au19,26,2tc

**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

## LEGALS

**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. Those indebted to 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 Bonagura, 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

**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 corpora-

## 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.

tions 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,

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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 per-

sons, 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 M. 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, 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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **ANDREW BRENT ELMORE**, 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 17th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 10th day of August, 2021. Emily Elmore, Administrator of The Estate of Andrew Brent Elmore 1050 Bonlee Carbonton Road Bear Creek, North Carolina 27207 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312 (919) 542-5605 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE North Carolina Environmental Management Commission/ NPDES Unit** 1617 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1617 Notice of Intent to Issue a NPDES Wastewater Permit NC0051314 Cole Park Plaza Shopping Center WWTP, and NC0043257 Nature Trails Mobile Home Park WWTP The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission proposes to issue a NPDES wastewater discharge permit to the person(s) listed below. Written comments regarding the proposed permit will be accepted until 30 days after the publish date of this notice. The Director of the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) may hold a public hearing should there be a significant degree of public interest. Please mail comments and/or information requests to DWR at the above address. Interested persons may visit the DWR at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604 to review information on file. Additional information on NPDES permits and this notice may be found on our website: http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/public-notices, or by calling (919) 707-3601. Aqua North Carolina, Inc. (202 Macken Court, Cary, NC 27511) has requested renewal and

modification of NPDES permit NC0051314 for Cole Park Plaza Shopping Center WWTP in Chatham County. This permitted facility discharges treated domestic wastewater to Cub Creek in the Cape Fear River Basin. Some parameters are water quality limited, which may affect future allocations in this portion of the Cape Fear River Basin. Nature Trail Associates CLP [524 Meadow Ave. Loop, Banner Elk, NC 28604] has requested renewal of permit NC0043257 for its Nature Trail MHP WWTP in Chatham County. This permitted facility discharges treated domestic wastewater to Cub Creek in the Cape Fear River Basin. Currently BOD, TSS, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform and TRC are water-quality limited. This discharge may affect future wasteload allocations in this portion of Cub Creek. Au19,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

**21 E 435** All persons having claims against **EDITH ELIZABETH CUMMINS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of August, 2021. John Gaylord Searle Cummins, Executor 2500 Lamont Norwood Rd. Pittsboro, NC 27312 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, having qualified on the 11th day of August, 2021, as Executor of the Estate of **ABRAHAM EZRA SHALO**, deceased, of Chatham County North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit

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# Chatham News + Record

EOE



them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 to the undersigned. This 19th day of August, 2021. Sibyl Shalo Wilmont, Executor Estate of Abraham Ezra Shalo c/o J Alan Campbell Law PO Box 850 Hillsborough, NC 27278 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 488**

The undersigned, having qualified as Ancillary Administrator of the Estate of **PAUL GENE OWEN**, deceased, late of Oreland, Pennsylvania, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned c/o Gunn & Messick, PLLC, P.O. Box 880, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 19th 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 16th day of August, 2021. David Wayne Owen 1704 Kriebel Mill Road Collegeville, PA 19426 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC Post Office Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tc

**ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified on the 13th day of August, 2021, as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **ED R. SMITH, JR.**, 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 Administrator on or before the 19th

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 19th day of August, 2021.

The Estate of Ed R. Smith, Jr. Ed Robert Smith, III, Administrator CTA 2700 Silk Hope Road Siler City, North Carolina 27344 Attorney for the Estate: William H. Flowe, Jr. P.O. Box 1315 Liberty, NC 27298-1315 Phone: (336) 622-2278 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tc

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Project: Wastewater Transmission System Improvements - Contract 1**

Owner: Town of Pittsboro PO Box 759/635 East Street Pittsboro, NC 27312 Engineer: The Wooten Company

120 N. Boylan Avenue Raleigh, NC 27603 (919) 828-0531

Separate sealed Bids will be received until 2:00 pm, Tuesday, September 21, 2021, in the office of the Town of Pittsboro at 635 East Street, Pittsboro, N.C., at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of the Wastewater Transmission System Improvements - Contract 1. After Bids are opened, the Owner shall evaluate them in accordance with the methods and criteria set forth in the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all Bids. Unless all Bids are rejected, Award will be made to the lowest responsible Bidder, taking into consideration quality, performance and the time specified in the proposals for the performance of the Contract. A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 in accordance with the Instructions to

Bidders. The Project consists of the following major items: -Headworks structure consisting of mechanical bar screens with screenings compactors, grit removal systems, Parshall Flume, odor controls system and associated appurtenances. -Pump Station structure consisting of influent wet well, three (3) suction lift transfer pumps, two (2) suction lift equalization pumps, odor control system, controls and associated appurtenances. -Administration building and associated appurtenances. -Conversion of existing Aeration/Clarifier Basins 1 & 2 to Equalization Tanks 3 & 4 and associated appurtenances. -Conversion of existing Sludge Holding Basins to Equalization Tank 5 and associated appurtenances. -SCADA System and associated electrical work. -Site work, yard piping, electrical work and all associated appurtenances. Bidding Documents may be examined at Engineer's and Owner's office and at: -content@constructconnect.com -dodge.doc@constuction.com -bids@constructionjournal.com Complete Bidding Documents may be obtained at the Issuing Office of the Engineer upon paying a fee in the amount of \$200.00 for each set of documents, which includes all contracts. There is no pre-bid meeting for this project. With request for Bidding Documents supply the following information: Company name, contact person, street address, and phone and fax numbers for Bidding office; N. C. contractor's license with limitation and classification; indicate if the firm will be a Bidder, Supplier or Sub-Contractor. Bidders will be required to show evidence that they are licensed to perform the work in the Bidding Documents as required by North Carolina

General Statute, Chapter 87 and the Instructions to Bidders. Bid Security in the amount of five percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid and shall be subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. Owner is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate. Small, minority and woman's businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids. Au19,1tc

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Project: Wastewater Transmission System Improvements - Contract 2**

Owner: Town of Pittsboro PO Box 759/635 East Street Pittsboro, NC 27312 Engineer: The Wooten Company

120 N. Boylan Avenue Raleigh, NC 27603 (919) 828-0531

Separate sealed Bids will be received until 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 21, 2021, in the office of the Town of Pittsboro at 635 East Street, Pittsboro, N.C., at which time and place bids will be publicly opened and read aloud for the construction of the Wastewater Transmission System Improvements - Contract 2. After Bids are opened, the Owner shall evaluate them in accordance with the methods and criteria set forth in the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informality or to reject any or all Bids. Unless all Bids are rejected, Award will be made to the lowest responsible Bidder, taking into consideration quality, performance and the time specified in the proposals for the performance of the Contract. A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. The Project consists of the following major items: -Approximately 65,000 LF of 18" force main and appurte-

nances by open cut -Approximately 9,000 LF of 18" force main by horizontal directional drill -Approximately 900 LF of 30" steel encasement and 18" force main by bore and jack Bidding Documents may be examined at Engineer's and Owner's office and at: -content@constructconnect.com -dodge.doc@constuction.com -bids@constructionjournal.com Complete Bidding Documents may be obtained at the Issuing Office of the Engineer upon paying a fee in the amount of \$200.00 for each set of documents, which includes all contracts. There is no pre-bid meeting for this project. With request for Bidding Documents supply the following information: Company name, contact person, street address, and phone and fax numbers for Bidding office; N. C. contractor's license with limitation and classification; indicate if the firm will be a Bidder, Supplier or Sub-Contractor. Bidders will be required to show evidence that they are licensed to perform the work in the Bidding Documents as required by North Carolina General Statute, Chapter 87 and the Instructions to Bidders. Bid Security in the amount of five percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid and shall be subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders. Owner is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate. Small, minority and woman's businesses and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to submit bids. Au19,1tc

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potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Lauren Schramm, l.schramm@trileaf.com, 1395 South Marietta Parkway, Building 400, Suite 209, Marietta, GA 30067 - 678.653.8673. Au19,1tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 328**

All persons having claims against **DELOIS J. SAMUELS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of August, 2021. Jennifer P. Washington, Executor 7268 Cedar Ave. Jessup, Md 20794 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 472**

All persons having claims against **JOSE N. LANGAMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 19th 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 19th day of August, 2021. Josephus P. Langaman, Administrator 3334 Tracer Dr Graham, NC 27253 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pyramid Network Services built a 370-foot Self-Support Communications Tower at the approx. vicinity of County Services Road, Pittsboro, Chatham County, NC 27312. Public comments regarding

# Industry has made a comeback, but the arts are still in crisis



**D. LARS DOLDER** Enterprising Chatham beyond what most could have predicted.

In the U.S., productivity data exceeds anything the economy has engendered in more than 15 years. Since the pandemic began, "labor productivity — the amount of output per hour of work — has risen at a 3.8% annual rate, compared with 1.4% from 2005 to 2019," The New York Times reported last week, and new data released at about the same time shows the upward trend is holding steady through 2021. Last month, The Washington Post announced the U.S. economy had officially recovered and surpassed the glory days

of early 2020. "For the first time since the pandemic took hold," the report said, "economic output eclipsed its pre-pandemic high, after adjusting for inflation." But the numbers paint a pixelated picture. Sure, big business, critical infrastructure and other so-called "essential" industries are flourishing. But there's a staple sector still in existential crisis: the humanities. "It's been a perennial problem since people started experimenting with capitalism," Michael Feezor, director of the North Carolina Arts Incubator in Siler City, told me. "What is essential? It's easy to cut the humanities, right? Nobody wants to stop eating chicken, nobody wants to shut down a computer manufacturer. But what about the painter who wants to sell a piece that they worked on for a month for \$900?" I'd say the issue existed long before capitalism. Who would the clanspeople of a nomadic tribe value more,

the fearless hunter or contemplative harpist? Societies never seem to appraise the humanities at more than an appurtenance — the stuff you add in later after guaranteeing what's actually important. I traveled to Spain a few weeks ago, my first international trip in more than two years. I went to help a friend orchestrate his long-involuntarily-shelved proposal, but really, I went to buy a Spanish guitar. I've played classical guitar since I was 6, and until last month, I'd always played the same Yamaha CG-151C — probably a \$400 instrument. Part of the problem is that I'm left-handed, and I play left-handed (most learn to abide the righty's world, but I patently refuse). Guitar shops almost never have left-hand oriented guitars, and, if possible at all, it's a hassle to convert right-hand models. As usual, the shop I selected in Sevilla hadn't seen a left-hand guitar in years. The luthier downstairs could make one

from scratch, of course, but I didn't have time for that. It was a shame, too; I'd never seen walls lined with such magnificent instruments. To my surprise, though, the shop-owner was quick to accommodate. "How much time do you have?" he asked me. "Pick out whichever ones you like and come back in a few hours. I'll flip them over so you can play them." I was still reeling from his unprecedented hospitality when my friend's fiancée-to-be explained the red-carpet roll-out. The shop had sold only a handful of high-quality guitars in the year and a half since COVID-19 first racked Europe's southern shores. Artisans and craftspeople across the country were desperate. The entire arts ecosystem had been ravaged by economic collapse. Guitarists who made their living as performers had nowhere to perform and no money to buy new instruments. Luthiers who could live for months on the sale of one instrument were hard-pressed to sell their finest work at 50% discounts. That I might actually buy a hand-made guitar called for the full ticker-tape parade. The shop's dilemma was not unique. Artists, creators and craftspeople around the world have similarly suffered. Even as much of the economy finds its stride, the humanities remain trapped in a living zugzwang. But here's the great irony of the thing: probably not since World War II have Americans more desperately needed the catharsis endemic in creative outlets. "You go to the theater, you listen to a symphony, you look at a painting, you watch a ballet. You laugh, you cry. You feel pity, fear. You see in others' lives a reflection of your own. And the catharsis comes: a cleansing, a clarity, a feeling of relief and understanding that you carry with you out of the theater or the concert hall," Jason

Farago, a NYT arts critic, recently opined. "Art, music, drama — here is a point worth recalling in a pandemic — are instruments of psychic and social health." I did buy a guitar. It cost me a kidney, and it was worth it. It's a 1995 Jose Romero with the sharpest sound-quality and most striking aesthetic I've ever encountered, and it has vastly improved my pandemic life even as Delta sweeps the nation and reinstated restrictions loom. My life is better for the essential work of artists in crisis. "You can't see the forest when you're in it," Feezor said. "And I think people don't see the extent to which human cultural and creative communication is an enormous part of their lives and what they would value if they ever stopped to think about it." **Other business news** • At a breakfast-event last week hosted by the Piedmont Triad Partnership — an economic development agency in Greensboro — PTP CEO Stan Kelly announced the potential for 77 new corporate projects coming to the greater Greensboro-Winston-Salem-High Point region. They offer a combined prospect of 47,326 new jobs, Kelly said, and \$41.9 billion in new investment. Since 2018, he and other economic development partners have announced more than 17,400 new jobs as part of the Carolina Core branding initiative. Potential for tens of thousands of new opportunities put the area of track for the initiative's goal to add 50,000 new jobs by 2038. Kelly, however, won't be at the helm to see it all through. He will step down on Sept. 1, to be succeeded as CEO by Greensboro lawyer Mike Fox. • The Chatham Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for its Leadership Chatham program. One of the Chamber's signature programs,

Leadership Chatham "is an innovative program designed to develop informed, skilled and involved community leaders," according to the organization's website. As part of its mission to support and promote Chatham businesses, The Chamber is dedicated to the support and promotion of businesses and to helping mold Chatham into a place that everyone is proud to do business and call home. "With the expected growth for Chatham County," the program application says, "more and more opportunities will arise. The demand for effective leaders is crucial." The Leadership Chatham program emphasizes the social, cultural and economic makeup of the community and provides access to business experts who will share firsthand knowledge of critical issues facing Chatham County. The program will run from September to June. Participants will meet monthly to discuss such topics as team building, government, tourism, education and economic development. Registration is due no later than August 30 and costs \$475 for Chamber members, \$525 for non-members. "Our leaders greatly influence the success of Chatham County," the application says. "Through your hands-on experiences in the Leadership Chatham Program, you will gain invaluable knowledge that will help you to become one of those influential leaders." To learn more or to register, visit [www.ccucc.net/sites/default/files/LeadershipChathamBrochureApp2021-2022.pdf](http://www.ccucc.net/sites/default/files/LeadershipChathamBrochureApp2021-2022.pdf). Completed applications can be faxed to 919-742-1333, emailed to ([info@ccucc.net](mailto:info@ccucc.net)) or mailed to 531 East 3rd Street, Siler City, NC 27344.

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*Have an idea for what Chatham business topics I should write about? Send me a note at [dldolder@chathamnr.com](mailto:dldolder@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter @dldolder.*



CHATHAM 250

# Historical Content Committee launches 'LEARN' site

From Chatham 250 Committee

PITTSBORO — As Chatham County's 250th anniversary celebrations continue, the Chatham 250 Historical Content Committee — a volunteer group made up of community leaders, elders, and historians from across Chatham County — is proud to launch the "LEARN" section of the Chatham 250 website.

This LEARN section features community history projects created by the committee in honor of the anniversary celebrations. The four projects are inspired by the Chatham 250 celebration themes of Community and Diversity, Creative Arts, Natural Environment, and Agriculture. Over the last year, each project team within the Chatham 250 Historical Content Committee

worked diligently to gather historical images, documents, news clippings, and oral histories. The LEARN section of the Chatham 250 website is the culminating showcase for presenting this thoughtfully collected history.

"Our Historical Content Committee, led by Ernest Dollar (director of the City of Raleigh Museum) and Annie McCrimmon (Community Historian of the Union-Taylor Community) has done amazing work to create the content found on the LEARN section of the Chatham 250 website," said Renee Paschal, Chatham 250 Co-Chairperson and Chatham County Council on Aging board member. "We could not



Courtesy of Chatham 250

## The Rocky River Friends Meeting 250th anniversary painting.

have met the goals of our celebration to document the last 50 years of the county's history and to tell the stories of our communities of color without their diligent work."

## Church and Communities Project

The Church and Communities Project is an opportunity to look back at where the many communities in Chatham County have come from and learn about their stories. On the project page, visitors can browse the collection of more than 40 Chatham County church histories, including songs, photos, artworks and histories.

Annie McCrimmon, of Taylors Chapel Mission-

ary Baptist Church, led the extensive outreach effort to collect the histories of Chatham County faith communities. "I wanted the (Historical Content) Committee to collect the histories of Chatham's churches and communities. I know firsthand the strength of heart and determination of Chatham's rural folks and church founders," McCrimmon said. "Chatham's Church and Communities Project promises to allow us a look back at where we have come from and an assurance we can, as Christ's church, get to where we should be from here."

## Chatham Artist Profiles

Chatham County is and

has been the home to a vibrant and diverse creative arts scene for many years. The Chatham Artist Profiles highlight a series of past, current and emerging artists from a diverse range of creative disciplines, backgrounds and experiences.

"(Chatham's artist community) derives its unique flavor from the distinctive and diverse backgrounds of our residents and their interactions with each other and with the environment," said Gina Harrison, president of the Chatham Artists Guild and a member of the Chatham Artist Profiles project team. "As our group developed a framework for the cultural profiles, we were fortunate to have members from the Historical Association, the public library and the current arts and arts education communities. While the profiles only scratch the surface, visitors can explore and learn more about this goldmine of artistic talent in our own backyard."

## Jordan Lake Project

The Jordan Lake Project invites visitors to take a step back into time to remember how recent Jordan Lake's history really is and honor the many ways the community has come to cherish the lake today. Residents can also learn about the people and communities who used to live where the lake now stands from recently conducted oral histories and an extensive archival photo gallery.

"I think it's important that we share the history

and stories of B. Everett Jordan Dam and Lake," said Blake Johnson, Natural Resource Specialist with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at B. Everett Jordan Lake and member of the Jordan Lake Project team. "History is a living thing, and while what people may find here [in the Jordan Lake Project] is 'in the past,' it is still very real (today) — especially for many Chatham residents who were here during the formation of the lake."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers generously shared a robust archive of digital images. The images offer a detailed view of the lake before the construction and flooding of the dam, the dedication ceremony, and the early days of the lake after the initial flooding of the dam.

"I think it's important to be an active and present partner and be open with our history so we can work together in shaping our shared future moving forward," added Johnson.

## Poultry Industry Timeline

For the last 100 years in Chatham County, poultry farming and processing have been a main part of the agricultural industry — one of Chatham County's primary industries. The Poultry Industry Timeline displays a collection of articles and historical photos chronicling the history of this important industry in Chatham.

Tiffany Hancock, marketing and media support specialist with N.C. Cooperative Extension — Chatham County Center, led the research efforts on this project.

"I worked with Cindy Schmidt from the Chatham Historical Association on this project. Chatham County has been a leader in the poultry industry for several decades, so we felt that it was important to include this part of history in the Chatham 250 celebrations," Hancock said.

Chatham 250's Historical Content Committee hopes that Chathamites will take a moment to visit the LEARN section to discover more about the county's history during this milestone. Chatham 250 is working closely with the Chatham Historical Association to preserve the materials collected through the projects for future generations to reference and learn from.

Chatham 250 has also celebrated Chatham County's history throughout 2021 with the Chatham County Histories of Communities of Color Lecture Series hosted by the Chatham Community Library, and with the recent virtual event "A Look Into Chatham's Past" with Chatham resident and Girl Scout Gold Award recipient Ella Sullivan.

Anyone with questions may contact Hilary Polan, Chatham 250 Project Manager, at hilary.polan@chathamcountync.gov. Information about events and other ways to celebrate Chatham County's 250th anniversary can be found at chatham250.com.

# UNC, CCC and CCS's 'Teach Chatham' to help future Chatham educators

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A new collaboration between Chatham County Schools, Central Carolina Community College and UNC-Chapel Hill — Teach Chatham — intends to address the current teaching shortage in the county by providing additional opportunities for district high schoolers to study education for free.

The CCS Board of Education unanimously approved a letter of intent for the program at its meeting last Thursday.

"UNC, as well as CCC, wanted all parties to have a letter of intent, before we put more time and energy behind writing the more formalized MOU (memorandum of understanding)," said CCS Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services and Instructional Support Dr. Amanda Moran (formerly Hartness). "There are not that many programs like this across the state — we know of about three. So we think that this would be a really nice, innovative approach to be able to grow our own."

The program's main goals are to develop a pathway for Chatham high schoolers interested in education as a career, provide scholarship opportunities and job placement security for interested students and to create an accelerated pathway for obtaining an education degree. If funders can be identified, the program's overview document says, Teach Chatham would also aim to fully fund each participating student's four-year education degree program.

Under the preliminary partnership agreement, CCS would cover the fees for student participation — including courses and textbooks — allow high school counselors to assist with selection of courses and course credit processes and provide access to school facilities for course offerings and meetings associated with the program, if needed. CCS would also partner with UNC to create mentorship opportunities and provide UNC and CCC staff access to student information as needed.

As of now, the program wouldn't incur any additional costs for the district, Moran said. The cost of college courses and books would be covered with existing dual enrollment funds and participating students would be eligible to receive the Chatham Promise

scholarship with CCC.

"Donors may be sought to assist with the coverage of the final year of the program," said the district's agenda concerning Teach Chatham. "The goal would be to assist students in getting three years paid in full. In the event donors are found, students would be required to teach in Chatham for a specific number of years."

Under the proposed agreement, UNC and CCC each agree to collaborate with one another to provide pathways into UNC's initial teacher licensure programs, among other things. CCC will assign specialized advisors for program participants; UNC will help create mentorship opportunities and seek funding to offset application fees that could be a barrier to enrollment.

"The program would allow students who are interested in pursuing a career in education to begin that transferable college credit while still attending high school," Moran said.

Across the UNC System, she said enrollment in undergraduate education programs is down over 41% since 2010. There are about 86,000 teachers in the state, she said, and the state must hire about 10,000 teachers every year.

"But our actual UNC systems, public and private combined, are only producing about 3,000 of those teachers," Moran said. "So we know that if we want to fill these positions that we will have in the future, we need to grow our own."

After getting approval for the non-binding letter of intent from the board, the district's next step is to develop a more comprehensive memorandum of understanding with UNC and CCC. The district will also work with its attorneys and human resources department to clarify how certain goals of the programs will play out.

The first cohort of Teach Chatham high school students is set to start in fall 2022, the partners said in the letter of intent.

"I'm absolutely thrilled that this is turning out to be the case," board member Jane Allen Wilson said at Thursday's meeting. "I'm just so thrilled and just thank you for all the work you've been doing."

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

# Mountaire supports caregiver project

CN+R Staff Report

Mountaire Farms of North Carolina has contributed towards the Chatham County Council on Aging's efforts to help create an area within the Northeast District Park for family caregivers and their loved ones.

"We see this as a very significant and tangible way to give back to our community," said Sasha Duncan, Community Relations Manager for Mountaire.

The project is a collaborative effort of the Chatham County Council on Aging, Chatham County Parks and Recreation, and the Chatham County Center of N.C. Cooperative Extension.

To be named "Peaceful Pathways for Caregivers," the area will provide a safe, accessible location for caregivers and their loved ones to rest and enjoy the outdoors. When completed, the

area will include park benches along a walking trail in a wooded area, rocking chairs and a porch swing under an existing shelter, pollinator gardens and much more.

Inspirational and educational signs will be placed throughout the area to provide encouragement and emotional support for the caregivers. The goal of the project is to offer a positive and uplifting experience for caregivers and their loved ones.

"We are so grateful to Mountaire Farms for providing their support for this important initiative. This will certainly help us make our vision a reality," said Dennis Streets, director of the Council on Aging.

For more information about the work of the Council on Aging, a nonprofit now celebrating its 47th anniversary of service to Chatham seniors and their families, visit www.chathamcoa.org.

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