

Chatham News + Record

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Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson greets a class at Northwood High School during CCS's first week of classes — and his first week of school as the district's superintendent. He started on July 6.

COVID-CLOUDED SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

New superintendent, high school highlight start of CCS 2021-22 year

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Chatham County Schools began its third year impacted by COVID-19 on Monday — encapsulating the tension between moving past the pandemic while attempting to mitigate its health threats. Students and teachers still wore

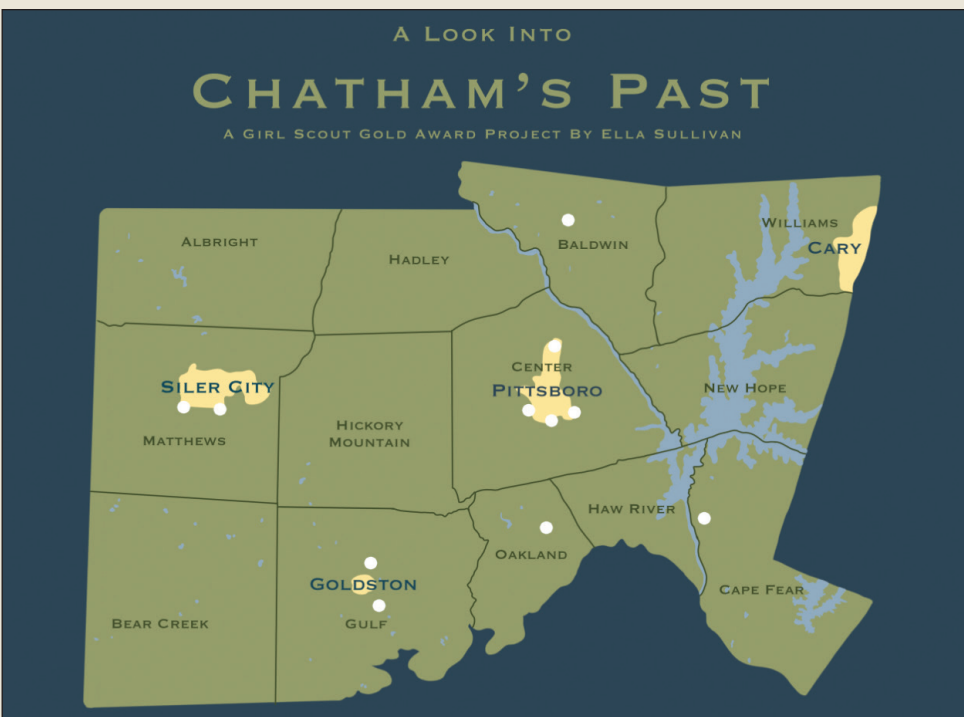
masks, but unlike in prior school years, they started school with the expectation of attending in-person every day. The school system's board of education unanimously voted on Aug. 5 to require universal indoor masking on all of its campuses, regardless of vaccination status, in response to the spread of the Delta variant and

guidance from school officials. Following the decision, some parents and community members complained. Likely anticipating push back, Superintendent Anthony Jackson said at that meeting that masking was a vital element to keeping students in schools this year.

See **SCHOOL**, page A7

A Look Into Chatham's Past: Sullivan's project shares local history

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Screenshot from 'A Look Into Chatham's Past' website

A month after graduating from Northwood High School, Ella Sullivan wasn't taking a vacation.

Instead, she was completing her Girl Scout Gold Award project, which explores the history of Chatham County through 11 notable figures from Chatham's past.

The project — "A Look Into Chatham's Past," completed by Sullivan at the end of July — focuses on promoting community identity.

"I'm always interested in local history. I've grown up in Chatham since I was born, and my family's from around here, too. So I wanted to look into that," Sullivan told the News + Record. "The issue that I was addressing was loss of community identity in Chatham County, due to new people moving in and not having easy access to resources for culture and history."

In 2018, Chatham was the sixth-fastest growing county in North Carolina, according to North Carolina Demography, and Sullivan said that growth was a big influence for her project. Many new, and some longtime, residents don't know about Chatham's rich history.

Among the figures Sullivan's project highlights are lauded enslaved poet George Moses Horton, North Carolina's first female sheriff

Mary Myrtle Siler and country musician Charlie Daniels. Featuring an interactive map, short podcasts, biographies and photos, the project highlights historical figures from all across Chatham.

"By highlighting these differences and the impact each of these figures made — whether bad or good — A Look Into Chatham's Past aims to inspire current residents of Chatham to look at the bigger picture," Sullivan wrote on the project website. "Just because you live in a rural North Carolina county doesn't mean you

can't change the world." A first year at UNC-Chapel Hill studying journalism, Sullivan wanted to incorporate both history and storytelling in her project, which was the culmination of her 13-year Girl Scout career. The Girl Scout Gold Award — received upon successfully completing a project — is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, and the project aims to emphasize a recipient's betterment of self and ability to improve the world. To qualify, the project must be led and organized by the

See **HISTORY**, page A6



Courtesy of Ella Sullivan

Ella Sullivan is a lifelong Girl Scout of Troop 697 and resident of Chatham.

STATE POLITICS

Census data likely to necessitate new state senator for Chatham

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — State Senator Valerie Foushee (D-Dist. 23), whose district has included Chatham County since her appointment to the Senate in 2013, will no longer represent the county if reelected in 2022, according to boundary delineations released last week.



Foushee

With the arrival of Census data earlier this month, North Carolina's decennial redistricting process has begun. Over the coming months, the General Assembly and local governments will employ Census figures to redraw voting maps. Districts must have roughly equal populations and lawmakers cannot discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity, according to federal and state mandates.

The first step in redistricting, however, is mostly automated: establishing county clusters.

"The county clusters are largely algorithmically determined through an optimization procedure outlined by the N.C. Supreme Court ...," says the introduction to a Duke University research paper, which outlines the probable county clusters for the nascent redistricting process. After counties are grouped together, legislators must draw districts from within the cluster boundaries.

"Even a lot of people who are well-informed about how government works aren't aware of this," Blake Esselstyn, a demographer with Asheville-based Mapfigure Consulting, told the News + Record. Esselstyn is one of five co-authors of the aforementioned

See **CENSUS**, page A3

14th PepperFest will look more normal this year

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

A scene from the socially-distanced 13th PepperFest last September. The 14th festival will be held this year on Sept. 19 at The Plant in Pittsboro.

Executive Director Allison DeJong told the News + Record.

Tickets are \$44, but will be on sale this weekend for \$33, Friday through Sunday. On Sept. 1, ticket prices will jump to \$55.

"This event represents the full

circle of our foodshed — from our farmers that grow our nutrients and tend our soils, to chefs that transform peppers into their delicious crafts, to the com-

See **PEPPERFEST**, page A6

MOUNTAIRE & THIRD STREET

Controversial road closure hearing to continue Monday

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City's board of commissioners will host a contentious Monday of a contentious public hearing on Mountaire Farms' request to reroute part of East Third Street away from the national poultry processor's 255,000-square-foot facility.

The hearing began on Aug. 4 as part of a regular meeting of the board of commissioners. Mountaire's official proposal calls for closure of parts of East Third and East Fifth streets and all of Johnson Avenue, plus rerouting of a portion of East Third. The road project is awaiting approval or rejection from the board of commissioners and the North Carolina Dept. of Transportation.

The continued public hear-

ing will be held as part of the commissioners' regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library in Siler City. If attendance exceeds space limitations, the meeting will continue in the auditorium at Jordan-Matthews High School.

Mountaire's \$6 million project is motivated by safety concerns for vehicles passing by the plant, according to company representatives. Each day about 148 trucks enter and leave the \$170 million property, which opened in 2019 and employs more than 1,500 workers.

"Those trucks have to cross over Third Street to reach the scales and back, and offsite trailer storage and back, several times a day," Mountaire Director of Communications

See **MOUNTAIRE**, page A3

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.

ON THE AGENDA

The **Siler City Board of Commissioners** will host its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 30, in the Multipurpose Room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 North Second Ave. due to the City Hall Renovation Project.

OTHER

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 or contact Siler City Parks

and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email 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, Aug. 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, Aug. 28. **Chatham Chamber of Commerce** and Perch Coworking, Ribbon Cutting and Open House from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 1, celebrating their grand opening at 102 Hillsboro Street in Pittsboro. The Ribbon Cutting will begin at 11 a.m. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to 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/. For more information, contact Neil Ambrose at 919-777-7774 or email to lambr287@ccc.edu. **Train for a career in Biotechnology at Central Carolina Community College!** An 8-week hybrid BioWork course begins Sept. 7 at the CCCC Chatham Health Sciences Center. Generous funding provided by the N.C. Biotechnology Center. Learn more about BioWork at ncbionetwork.org/biowork. For more information, contact Zack Ledwell at 919-777-7711 or email zledwell@ccc.edu. **The Siler City Parks and Recreation Department** announces the Bray Park Aquatic Facility is currently open seven days a week from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. With the return of the school year, the hours of operations changed 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 bathhouse and not able to socially distance at least six 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. Story times will be offered rain or shine. Chatham County Public Libraries are pleased to partner with Central Carolina

Community College and the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department to offer these programs. **The Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Don't miss our new exhibit of the paintings of Annie Lutterloh Bynum. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the circle. More info: <https://chathamhistory.org> **Second Bloom Thrift Store** is open at the Food Lion Shopping Center. Store hours are Tuesday until Saturday, 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Proceeds provide support for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and promote community education in collaboration with Chatham County. **The Chatham Arts Council** has put together a relief effort specifically for artists and arts-workers called CAARE: Chatham Artist and Arts-Worker Relief Effort. For more information on CAARE, or to donate, visit ChathamArtsCouncil.org. **JMArts** hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

Foster and/or adoptive information: Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more. **Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area. **Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com. **Narcotics Anonymous** — For drug problems in the family, Narcotics Anonymous helps. Call 1-800-721-8225 for listing of local meetings. **Al-Anon Meeting** — Pittsboro Serenity Seekers Al-Anon Family Group meets at 7 p.m. Mondays at Chatham Community Church, in the lower level of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro. **Scout News** **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstrop93.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.

NEW BRIEFS

Siler City requiring face coverings for town staff, visitors in town facilities

SILER CITY — The town of Siler City is now requiring face coverings for all employees and visitors in town facilities, Town Manager Roy Lynch announced Tuesday. "We were hoping to have moved past the restrictions of the last year and a half, but that is not the case," he said. In a statement on Tuesday, Lynch said to town staff:

- If you are in your own office alone, you may remove your face covering, but as soon as someone enters, you must put your face covering on.
- Those who have no distinct office space (front desk administrative professionals, those in cubicles, those sharing offices, public meetings etc.) must wear face coverings at all times.
- Face coverings must always be worn in common spaces, hallways, cubicle areas and conference rooms.
- When two or more

individuals are riding in a town vehicle, face coverings are required. "We will continue to evaluate the need for future steps," Lynch said.

Galloway Ridge invest in future with scholarship fund

PITTSBORO — The Galloway Ridge Employee Scholarship Fund benefited 13 employees to pursue higher education after residents of Galloway Ridge contributed to award \$60,000 in scholarships in 2021. The scholarship is an excellent opportunity for employees to pursue higher education, which would not be possible for many without the assistance of this scholarship. The Triangle Community Foundation manages the fund, and the Galloway Ridge community makes all contributions. A committee of residents chaired by Flo Phillips lead the efforts in obtaining donations for the fund. Employees have used these scholarships for various fields of study. These fields include the arts, scienc-

es, business, education, engineering, humanities, media, nursing, pharmacy, public health, assorted trade schools, and graduate school. The Galloway Ridge Employee Scholarship program has benefited over 162 employees since it began in 2008. 2021 Galloway Ridge Employee Scholarship Recipients include Jazmine Atkins Shayla Baldwin Brenda Cortez Olivia Holmberg Jeanette Mullies Lilly Neal Elizabeth Quinn Sarah Sessoms Chanelle Thomas Kevin Valdez Breanna Walker Elaine Dorothy Crescenzi Memorial Award Recipients: Irene Cortez Angela Farnsworth Galloway Ridge at Fearrington is a Life Plan Community that blends Southern hospitality and cosmopolitan sophistication. Our residents enjoy vibrant, independent living as well as an array of activities and progressive health programs in a tight-knit environment where employees and neighbors alike truly care for one another. Galloway Ridge's 62-acre campus offers 248 independent living

apartments along with 52 independent living villas. The Medicare-certified health care center, The Arbor, is connected to the main building and offers 96 private rooms for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing. To learn more about Galloway Ridge please visit gallowayridge.com

— CN+R staff reports

READ IT ONLINE

WWW.CHATHAMNEWSRECORD.COM

Chatham County Council on Aging

WEEKLY TRIVIA HUNT!

Q: Which amendment became part of the Constitution on this day in 1920?

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CORRECTION

The story "Chatham Literacy's citizenship program helps scores of immigrants achieve citizenship" (News + Record, Aug. 19-26 edition) incorrectly identified Bonnie Bechard as Cha-

atham County Literacy Council's former executive director. She was actually a pivotal volunteer and former Chatham Literacy board member. The News + Record regrets the error.

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CHATHAM CHAT | UNITED WAY 'DAY OF SERVICE'

Day of Service set to boost volunteerism, kick off campaign

The United Way's annual "Day of Service" is set for Sept. 15 in Chatham County. This week, we spoke with Chatham's United Way team — Executive Director Katie Childs, Finance Officer/Volunteer Center Coordinator Alane Coore and Outreach Coordinator Shelley Smith — about Day of Service and how local individuals and organizations can get involved.

Why is the "Day of Service" so important to the United Way — and to the Chatham community?

The Day of Service is so important to United Way for a few key reasons:

1. During the COVID pandemic our nonprofit community has seen a decrease in volunteers. As everyone is still reeling from impacts of COVID this feels like something we, as an organization and a community, can make an impact on pretty immediately.
2. The DOS kicks off our annual fundraising campaign. It is important to have a public

kick-off because we have a big goal this year. Last year the agencies requested more than United Way had to allocate, so everyone needs the UW Campaign to be successful — not just us.

3. One of United Way's key roles in this community is "convener." We are the ones who work to connect businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and volunteers. This is a really tangible example of that.

It's set for Sept. 15. What's going to happen that day — and what kind of lead-up activity will also occur?

In the few days leading up to the Day of Service, each volunteer will receive an email with details from their project site. Then, on Sept. 15, each volunteer will report to their site at the designated time and provide the hands and heart needed to complete their

project. Many projects will run at the same time. Whether you are in Pittsboro or Siler City, just look around on the 15th and you will see your community being improved.

Leading up to the Day of Service there is one project that is accepting contactless donations of school supplies to benefit Communities In Schools. Donations can be placed in boxes outside of the main entrance to Primrose School of Chapel Hill at Briar Chapel Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Primrose School is located at 81 Falling Springs Drive in Chapel Hill.

The Day of Service is a lot about volunteering — how are you set for volunteers and helpers for this year?

The Day of Service has been welcomed by the community so far! Projects are filling up, but there is still plenty of room to participate. We will keep our

website updated as projects begin to reach capacity (www.UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org/dayofservice). We do expect most projects to fill up before the Day of Service!

Is there still time for organizations to submit projects?

Yes! As COVID cases rise, some of our projects have capped the number of volunteers they are able to host. Because of this, we are happily accepting additional projects that can provide a safe, socially distant and responsible environment for volunteers.

You've set a fundraising goal of \$1,500 for Day of Service that will go toward your annual impact fund. How can people give?

To donate to the Day of Service fundraiser, visit www.UnitedWayofChathamCounty.org/dayofservice and click on the orange button at the bottom of the service project list. We

will also be posting the link on social media and our Facebook event leading up to the event.

So... what happens after Sept. 15?

The Day of Service has been celebrated by United Ways across the world for many years, and last year, amidst the pandemic and uncertainty UWCC decided it was time to establish the Day of Service here in Chatham. Now that we are planning our second Day of Service, we have seen more volunteer interest this year compared to last, and we expect this momentum to grow as the Day of Service becomes an annual fixture in our community. UWCC is doing more in Chatham than ever before, and we hope to gain long-term momentum and support of United Way through the Day of Service, participation in the allocation process as a program evaluator, and ultimately through donations to our annual campaign that supports nonprofit program funding in Chatham.

MOUNTAIRE

Continued from page A1

and Community Relations Cathy Bassett previously told the News + Record. "With the new configuration, we would reduce those trucks from crossing Third Street an additional 464 times a day."

But 10 out of the 11 town residents — mostly nearby business owners — who spoke at the Aug. 4 hearing objected to Mountaire's rationale. Shifting East Third Street would only hurt the town and help Mountaire, they said.

"The impact [of the Third Street closure] on my business would potentially be anywhere between 30 and 40% in revenue, which is huge for a small business owner like myself," said Krystal Desai, who owns a local Quick Way Mart Exxon

gas station with her husband Mike.

Several other speakers echoed Desai's concerns for local businesses. Others complained about possible impacts on school-hour traffic, water quality during construction and rescue routes for emergency vehicles. Some were worried about re-routed truck traffic affecting Raleigh Street and downtown Siler City, while others took umbrage with poor driving habits from the truckers hauling product to and from Mountaire's facility. The News + Record reached out to several of those who spoke on Aug. 4 for additional comments, but none returned calls.

After the hearing, Bassett told the News + Record she thought some commenters misunderstood Mountaire's request. At no point in time, for example, would thru-traf-

fic close, she said. The road's current trajectory would remain open until a new route has been completed, contrary to what some from the public expressed.

"I think some people are just learning about this even though we've been talking to the town about it for over two years now," she said. "But this is the first time the public's really had an opportunity to try to learn about it. That's part of our process, trying to educate these local businesses."

But that was not to say Mountaire would discount the public's anxiety, she emphasized.

"Some concerns were raised and we're going to go back and take a look at the things that were raised," she said. "That's the nature of what we do, and we've done that at every step of this process."

Mountaire President Phil-

lip Plylar, who flew in from Delaware to attend the hearing, made similar attempts to assuage residents' fears in his comments before the board.

"I would say that some of the concerns that I've heard tonight — we'll do our best to address them," he said. "To me, you are our customers, the community. And where we can work to address, we will. On Raleigh Street, I understand your concern there. We're chicken people, we're not traffic experts. So we went to the traffic experts — the Department of Transportation and a third party consultant that this group recommended. They said we didn't need to widen the road, so we went with that. However, if we need to put in a turn lane, we can do that. If you guys want a cul-de-sac, we can do that."

Plylar, along with Bassett

and Vice President of Operations Services Bob Kenny, will attend the continued hearing on Monday. They hope to reassure the public of Mountaire's good intentions, Bassett said, and demonstrate the value it brings to Siler City.

"This is a significant project that's going to impact the town and we want to be good neighbors," she said. "We've tried to be good neighbors from day one and we're going to continue to do that and try to work towards common ground. We know not everyone's concerns are going to be addressed but we'll continue to review and tweak and work with the town on what they think are the priorities."

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

CENSUS

Continued from page A1

Duke University paper and he is advising Siler City and Cary, among other local governments statewide, through the redistricting process.

"It imposes a major constraint on our legislative maps," he said of the automatically generated county clusters.

The cluster algorithm does include some variants of the House and Senate cluster maps, all of which meet the mathemat-

ical standard of optimization. There are eight acceptable versions from which the House can make its districts, and 16 for the Senate. In every possible rendition of House and Senate maps, however, Chatham is clustered with the same neighboring counties: Randolph, Lee, Moore and Richmond for the House, and Durham for the Senate.

"It changed hugely," Esselstyn said. "There are very different groupings than have been used for the last 10 years."

For more than 20 years,

Chatham has been paired with Orange County in Senate district maps.

Foushee, a lifelong Orange resident, has served both counties for eight years.

"Based on the criteria and the numbers and how the cluster groupings are arranged, that is not likely to be the case anymore," she told the News + Record. "In fact, we pretty much know that won't be the case."

Foushee still plans to run for another term in the Senate, she confirmed for the News + Record. But if reelected in 2022, her dis-

trict will likely include Orange, Caswell and Person counties, and Chatham will have a new state senator.

"I'm not happy about it," Foushee said. "I'm happy to serve, let's be clear, but as a representative of Chatham now for eight years and my husband was born in Chatham — we have lots of friends and relatives in Chatham, he has siblings who live in Chatham and my sister lives in Siler City — I wasn't just representing the county itself. Because of our relationships with friends and family, it

was like one continuous district. There were no county lines for me."

Chatham's representative in the House, Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54) — who serves as the chamber's minority party leader — is also likely to see a change in his district borders if re-elected. Right now, his district includes Chatham and part of Durham County. If the county cluster maps are upheld, his district would no longer include Durham. But Reives is less confident than Foushee and Esselstyn in the finality of what has been

released so far.

"There's nothing set in stone," he said. "I have no thought in my mind that, 'Hey, now that this algorithm has been run, that's what it's going to look like.'"

The difficulty, said Reives, who is also a lawyer, is that automated processes such as county cluster generation can still be subject to interpretation of the state's constitution and laws. In North Carolina — a state known around the country for its history of gerrymandering — even seemingly clear laws have been interpreted in unexpected ways.

"Everything at this point is about interpretations of the constitution, and then interpretations of any law that is interpreting the constitutional authority to draw districts and then, finally, what the general assembly feels it is or isn't bound by," Reives said. "And I hate to sound nebulous on that, but it's just really hard to say anything is final because I would bet if you polled 120 people privately about what they believe our legal rights and obligations are when it comes to redistricting, you would get probably 60 different interpretations."

If the General Assembly upholds the county cluster separating Orange and Chatham, however, Foushee hopes her current Chatham constituents know the honor it's been to serve them, she said.

"I've lived all my life in Orange, but having family and friends in Chatham for all of my life, too," she said. "So Chatham is like family, and it's been a privilege to represent."

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

Lee County's BIGGEST Event Returns!

Opening Day Sept. 15th

Daily Admission is \$5
Armbands are \$23 - \$25

Lee Regional Fair is sponsored by the Sanford Lions Club

Lee Regional Fair will be following current CDC Covid protocols. See the latest updates on our Facebook page.

Fair catalog, daily events and exhibit entry information online at sanfordlionsclub.com

It's Fair Time!

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SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2021

VIEWPOINTS

It's time for a different story

Just over a year ago in this space, I wrote a slightly tongue-in-cheek column entitled, "The absolute last word on wearing a mask."

BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

It was a humorous reflection on a just-completed trip I'd made to Colorado — where mask mandates were in place and strictly enforced — and addressed some of the disagreements over mask-wearing and speculation on the future of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While away," I said in that column from 54 weeks ago, "I also read several stories citing scientific studies showing the efficacy and effectiveness of masks, including one about a University of Washington report that said North Carolina would have 10,000 coronavirus deaths if we all stopped wearing them, and then another claiming that if everyone masked up for just six weeks, the pandemic

would shudder to a stop. Who knows. I also had a ski-lift operator tell me it didn't matter. COVID-19 cases, he said, would 'all disappear' the day after the November election."

For the record: none of those prophecies happened.

Back then, 10,000 deaths in N.C. was an unimaginable number. Last week we passed the 14,000-death milestone. Today, of course, COVID-19 cases are at levels we haven't seen since January. For most of early June, we saw only 200 or so new cases a day; in this past week, reported new cases range between 5,000 and 6,500 per day. And even though we all (well, most of us, anyway) masked up during mandates in this state, 10,000 deaths — a nightmarish prospect a year ago — may end up being a "if only it were that few" wish.

So *this* column, obviously, doesn't have a punchline.

I know you're tired of reading about COVID. We're tired of reporting about it. Our columnists (read Andrew Taylor-Troutman's excellent piece this week, just below) are tired of opining

about it.

Yet here we are. This week, a third year of schooling has begun under the COVID cloud. While some kids come to class masked, a few rogue state leaders elsewhere try to punish and besmirch anyone who dares suggest mandating face coverings. Over the weekend I ventured into several public gathering places and found they'd pulled their "FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED" signs out of storage; few inside complied.

Two months ago, some of us were thinking we had COVID licked. Now, the Delta variant has changed everything.

"In some ways," an excellent story on The Atlantic's website last week read, "pandemic life is more confusing than ever."

And much harsher. On Friday night, my wife and I visited with another couple, dear friends in Pittsboro, where the husband told us of four quick and sudden COVID deaths among his cadre of family and friends in his small Tennessee homeplace — all of them unvaccinated. Closer to home, a pastor I know and his

wife, both of whom pooh-poohed COVID and vaccinations and touted conspiracies online, contracted the virus.

Someone else I know — whose unvaccinated brother-in-law is in serious condition with COVID — says she's not getting vaccinated because she's not going to "put poison in her body." Another acquaintance touts an unproven theory that those who get vaccinated shed COVID and infect others as a reason he's eschewing the shot.

Meanwhile, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' press secretary got temporarily banned from Twitter after bullying a journalist in that state — and, via Twitter, encouraging others to do the same — after the reporter tied one of DeSantis' donors to a company producing a monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID. "Light. Them. Up!" the press secretary tweeted. "Drag them," she wrote, further encouraging her followers to harass and abuse the Associated Press journalist.

And down in Texas, a 45-year-old city councilman and member of the state's

Republican Party's governing board died from COVID. His death came just months after he called a doctor who posted news about the positive effectiveness of Pfizer's shots against the coronavirus "an absolute enemy of a free people" — in a tweet, of course — adding, with a hashtag: "#ShoveTheCarrotWhereTheSunDontShine."

That tweet is still out there. Hundreds have gleefully commented on it — writing things like, "Karma!," "poetic justice," "you'd know about the sun not shining," and this: "Being 6 feet under is the new #freedumb."

One of my best friends works as publisher of the newspaper which broke the story of the man's death and his anti-vaccination social media posts.

"Tragic," he texted me over the weekend. "Left a wife and newborn behind."

I'm ready for a different story.

Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com or @billthethird.

Some things really do naturally go together

In the movie "Forest Gump," the Tom Hanks-portrayed main character says numerous times that he and his lady love Jenny go together "just like peas and carrots."

Now, not everybody likes peas and carrots. So for some, Forrest and Jenny don't go together. But they do for me. I like peas and carrots, by themselves or in chicken pot pie. I like English peas — what Shirley refers to as "silly little peas" — cooked with new potatoes and some pastry. My mama used to do that when I was a tender lad of 6 or 11 or 14. And Shirley not often enough throws together a carrot dish that she calls "dimes" or "silver dollars" or some other piece of money. All I know is that they're sliced across like dimes or nickels and the sauce or whatever that stuff the dish is in has lots of sugar.

I say all that to say that there really are some things that go together in our lives; when you have one you almost automatically think of the other. I know that varies from person to person depending on who we are and what floats our boat. But one of the good things about them, especially when it comes to chow, is not only how tasty good they are but also when it comes to something other than chow how sweet the memories can be.

Case in point: I seldom eat a hog dog that's served in one of those little ruffled paper holders without thinking of my Uncle Frank Durham. He wasn't a bit of blood kin to me but his wife was the daughter of the lady in Bynum who reared my daddy and who always referred to Louise as "Sister" and her mother as "Mama." My brothers and I always referred to the two of them as "Uncle Frank and Louise." I'm not really sure exactly why we spoke that way and I don't remember how we called her or spoke to her directly. What I do know is we always called him "Uncle Frank."

Anyway, when I was the tender age of 5, I spent a year at the Gov. Morehead School in Raleigh, aka "the State School for the Blind." I had an issue with my eyes and my folks weren't really sure how I was going to turn out as far as being able to see very well, so they thought I should get a head start just in case. In time, the folks at the long-gone McPherson Hospital in Durham helped me turn some corners with glasses and contact lenses, but that year going to school in Raleigh had some benefits.

One of them occurred every Sunday night when my folks and, most of the time, Uncle Frank (again) and Louise would take me back to my buddies in the dorm on the Raleigh campus off Western Boulevard. In those dark days of early civilization, there was no Interstate 40 or 440 bypass. There was just U.S. 64 in its radiant two-lane glory going through Pittsboro and Apex and Cary and on into Raleigh.

Along that stretch between Apex and Cary was a restaurant that, I think, went by the name "Seaboard" something or other. That was, I think, because it was beside or across the road from a pond and the old, now long-gone Seaboard Airline Railway train tracks passed by the place. What was the key, however, was that it was where I got my Sunday night staple of two hot dogs all the way and a significant amount of chocolate milk.

I think it's the smell of the hot dogs — and that's the association of things going together I spoke of earlier — which makes me remember Uncle Frank. The combination of that and the chili which soaks into the paper holder always takes, dare I say it, more than 60-plus years off my life and I am once again that little guy.

There is also another nasal association I have with him of things going together, namely Juicy Fruit chewing gum. Today it's too sweet for me, but I used to pound a stick or two between my ivories until the cows came home twice, and every time I smell Juicy Fruit I still think of Uncle Frank.

The other day on purpose I got a pack of Juicy Fruit just to smell it. Chewed one stick; the rest is on my desk. It may be another five years before a second one is chewed but the same association will be there, I'm sure.

Uncle Frank also used to give me a dime every time we said "goodbye," too but I didn't eat those. Comic books were only 10 cents at the turn of the century then so that's where my financial bonanza went. Come to think of it, I think hot dogs were maybe a dime at the time, too, so maybe the dimes are the real association.

Anyway, those things — and there are others — are pretty special and really important to me. I hope you've got some; if not, find or make some. And if you need help, let me know. A good hot dog is never out of season ... or out of mind.

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.



Rise and converge

As a fully vaccinated person thinking about America's



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

But in the distance, a wave is building and coming fast.

The young protagonist in John Green's young adult novel "The Fault in Our Stars" expressed his optimism regarding his childhood cancer: "I'm on a roller coaster that only goes up." Life will only get better! Yet, this teenager's cancer returned and crashed down on him, taking his life.

In America today, too many people downplay or ignore the threat of COVID-19. Not enough people are willing to get vaccinated and wear masks for public safety. The cumulative effects of such behaviors make it seem likely the pandemic will only get worse and many more people will die.

And yet, I was heartened to read Robert Putnam's new book, "Upswing." This political scientist tracks the steady, egalitarian reforms of the first half of the 20th century in

America: Ida B. Wells shone light on the brutal reality of lynching. Jane Addams and Upton Sinclair exposed the horrors of the factory conditions for the working poor. Putnam is not blind to the segregated and sexist realities of the 1950s, but nevertheless tracks how America became more of a "We Society."

Putnam also characterizes the 1970s as the "Me Decade" and documents the backlash against reforms as "the deterioration of compromise in the public square and a descent into cultural narcissism." The current public health polarization over vaccines and masks is part of the legacy of that "Me First" ideology. It is tragic.

But Putnam still has hope we can turn things around. In order to begin a new upswing, we need a return to an attitude held by reformers of the early 20th century such as Washington Gladden: We need "citizens to whom duties are more than rights and service dearer than privilege."

How do these inspiring words actually fuel change in our me-first, narcissistic society? How do we build bridges and create a more cooperative and generous spirit of unity?

I don't think individuals can be pushed into caring for one another. We live in a sharply polarized society. No amount of clear, reasoned argument

will change people's minds when they see themselves in opposition to someone else.

I think the answer might be found in the reality of the impending crash, a fate that we will all share. Suffering is an equalizer.

Long ago, the people of Israel had hit rock bottom. The Babylonians sacked the holy city of Jerusalem and forced all survivors into exile and slavery. Yet, a prophet foresaw an upswing in which people "would soar on wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).

As long as enough people persist in the belief that each of us rides in individual cars on a roller coaster that only goes up, there may be little motivation to reach out to one another. But if we find ourselves in danger of going under, there is the need to seek support and care from others. As novelist Flannery O'Connor wrote, "Everything that rises must converge."

My hope for our nation is that we shall rise in a spirit of cooperation, selflessness and service. If we come together, we can save lives.

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

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

Biden's tumble unnerves Democrats

In a nationwide Reuters/Ipsos poll taken on August 11 and 12, approximately 51% of Americans approved of President Joe Biden's job performance, while 43% disapproved. Just one week later, the same pollster found a strikingly different result: 46% approval, 49% disapproval.

As far as I can tell, it's the first time Biden has been under water in a major media survey. Given the disastrous consequences of the president's retreat from Afghanistan — an unwise policy carried out with gross incompetence — the Reuters/Ipsos finding will prove no outlier.

Indeed, the John Locke Foundation's new Civitas Poll depicts Biden's tumble with North Carolina voters in stark terms. Our state has a redder

electorate than average, of course, so it was hardly surprising that Biden got mixed results in previous Civitas Polls taken during 2021. In June, the numbers looked like this: 46% approval to 48% disapproval. In the just-released August poll, however, only 42% of North Carolinians approved of the president's job performance while 53% disapproved.

If you graph Biden's support since his inauguration, you can see gradual deterioration. That's normal for presidents, who typically start out with skeptical voters willing to give a new leader the benefit of the doubt. Over time, some are won over. Others are lost. And partisan loyalties often reassert themselves.

But I don't see the Afghanistan debacle as a garden-variety political dispute about budgets, regulations, or judicial nominations. Although the prospect disgusts me, I consider it highly likely that American citizens, not to mention Afghan allies, will be captured, brutalized,

and perhaps even executed in front of video cameras.

If I'm right, public support for the president will crater. If Biden and the Democrats expect the issue to go away quickly, they are guilty of yet another catastrophic lapse in judgment.

Because I know many smart Democrats, in North Carolina and elsewhere, I suspect they are not so unrealistic. They know public confidence in the president is tottering on the edge of a cliff. They know that their own political fortunes are inextricably tied to his.

In the Locke poll, for example, North Carolina Republicans now lead Democrats by four percentage points in generic-ballot tests for Congress and legislature. Gov. Roy Cooper's longtime net-approval has disappeared. There are other political issues in play, naturally, but like it or not the Afghanistan story is dominating the public's attention.

Perhaps the president's costly mistakes, and manifest

inability to explain or take real responsibility for them, bother Democratic political operatives as much as they do everyone else. Or perhaps they are just unnerved by the sudden and sharp decline in their party's political fortunes in the coming midterm elections. Something must explain why the politicians who run the Democratic caucus of the North Carolina House resorted last week to a grotesque calumny against the John Locke Foundation, the think tank I helped found and ran for a quarter of a century.

On August 19, a man from Grover, North Carolina, parked a pickup in front of the Library of Congress for several hours, claiming to have explosives and rambling on about Afghanistan and the president. The authorities quite properly treated it as a potential terrorist incident. Thank goodness they were able to bring it to a close and take the man into custody without injury or loss of life.

"While we are grateful this

ordeal is over," snarled a tweet from the official account for North Carolina House Democrats, "it is a reminder of the continued danger posed by the extreme narrative being pushed by groups like @FoxNews, @ncgop, and @JohnLockeNC."

There is no evidence linking the pickup driver's actions to any messages conveyed by the Locke Foundation or the other institutions. To allege otherwise is, as Locke CEO Amy Cooke and President Donald Bryson put it, "abhorrent to civil government."

I can understand Democratic activists being anxious and fearful about their party's immediate future. But its problems weren't concocted by conservative media outlets. They were birthed in the White House.

John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member and author of the new novel Mountain Folk, a historical fantasy set during the American Revolution (MountainFolkBook.com).

Our most popular columnist

Who is North Carolina's most popular weekly newspaper columnist?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Maybe John Hood, Tom Campbell, Gary Pearce, or someone else who regularly brings a special message that helps us understand government and politics,

Or perhaps someone like Bill Thompson in Whiteville or Steve Bouser in Southern Pines who regularly entertain readers and provide much appreciated guidance.

There are lots of good choices, but my favorite North Carolina columnist

is Barry Saunders, who for 24 years entertained and informed readers of the Raleigh News & Observer.

Why has he been so popular? One reason is that he pokes fun at himself over and over again. Thus when he skewers politicians and rich and famous people, you can laugh, knowing that Saunders does not mean his attacks personally. In fact, he welcomes and celebrates with humor the voluminous criticisms he gets from those who disagree.

One of Saunders' favorite people is former Raleigh mayor Tom Fetzer, whom he attacked regularly and mercilessly. Why does he like Fetzer, notwithstanding their political differences?

"Fetzer never held it against me," Saunders says, pointing out that whenever he ran into Fetzer after he had attacked him, Fetzer was gracious and friendly.

Like Saunders, I do not agree with Fetzer's politics, but I admire his willingness and ability to laugh at and with his attacker.

And I admire Saunders for cultivating that kind of relationship with those who are "on the other side."

Saunders is Black, but he skewered prima donnas of all colors.

Saunders' columns were so popular that some people bought the paper just to read his provocative commentary. In that respect he was like the comic strip "Peanuts" or the crossword puzzle. People opened the paper just to read them. A newspaper editor who omitted them was risking losing a subscriber.

The N&O published two books of his columns, "Do Unto Others ... and Then Run" and "And the Horse You Rode In On, Saunders!"

All that made it hard to believe when the N&O discontinued Saunders' column in 2017 as part of the severe cutbacks it made to try to balance its books in very challenging economic times.

Still the N&O knew the risk it was taking. The paper's executive editor John Drescher wrote, "For more than two decades, Barry Saunders has been one of the Triangle's leading voices. He's been courageous, he's been insightful, he's been funny. Barry's deep roots in North Carolina clearly influenced his work and helped make him a must-read for many of our readers."

The article announcing Saunders' departure acknowledged his special value: "Often, Saunders' topics were serious ones, and his commentary was pointed — decrying neighborhood crime, calling out racism or taking public officials to task when they needed it."

In a recent conversation with Saunders, I tried to get him to explain what makes a good column. Is it surprise and humor combined with a serious message? He dodged the question, but he shared this: "I know I have a good column when I can write it quickly. But if I have to struggle with it, write and rewrite, and start all over again, I know it's best to trash it and write about something else."

In that respect, he explained, it is like a poem or a song. The best ones come smoothly when already you know what you want to say and there is a moment of inspiration that opens door to writing it down.

The best news is that Saunders is back writing for the N&O, Durham Herald-Sun and The Charlotte Observer.

So, you ask, "What good is that for me? I don't read those papers."

First of all, you can find his columns on the web at www.thesaundersreport.com

Also, you can know that this columnist is doing his best to learn from Saunders how to do a better job so you will enjoy reading this column even more.

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.



Which economic scenario — good or bad — will emerge?

Mark Twain once said, "It's difficult to make predictions, particularly about the future."



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

Economists like me often use the comment as an opening line in our public presentations. The reasons are, the quote is funny, and it's usually very true.

Actually, right now forecasting the immediate future appears to be easy. We are coming back from the deep drop in the economy a year ago due the pandemic. The economy was doing reasonably well prior to the pandemic, so it was expected it would rebound rather rapidly once the virus was contained. We have already seen strong economic growth, and the strength is expected to continue into next year.

It's beyond next year where the uncertainty begins. The farther away a forecast is from the present, the more that unknown factors can enter to make the forecast wrong. As cleverly articulated by the late Donald Rumsfeld, these unknown factors are of two types. One is "known unknowns," meaning you know you don't exactly know something. An economic example would be future inflation rates.

The second, and more troubling, type is "unknown unknowns." These are factors we don't know, but don't know we don't know them. In other words, we are blind to them. Inventions are a great example. Twenty years ago, did anyone have the ability to predict the impacts that smartphones, the internet and social media would have on today's economy?

The point is, long-term economic forecasts are plagued by both types of unknowns, and therefore those forecasts should be viewed with a large number of grains of salt. Rather than trying to pinpoint the economic future, it may be more useful to look at forecasts

for the extremes — the optimistic future and the pessimistic future. This is exactly what I'll do here. Indeed, with the disruption to the economy from the pandemic, and with major disagreements over policy initiatives, the gulf between the optimistic and pessimistic futures appears to be quite wide.

Let's start with the optimistic scenario. Optimists see a future of strong growth, low unemployment, modest inflation and interest rates and a broader range of beneficiaries participating in this positive future. A combination of private and public initiatives will generate this bright outlook.

The private sector will continue creating new innovations. Many of these will be in the technology sector. The innovations will make life better and work more productive. However, the innovations will be disruptive to the labor market, destroying some jobs, but creating others. Fast and effective worker retraining will help move workers from discarded jobs to new ones.

Interestingly, this optimistic outlook can be predicted by groups on both sides of the political spectrum, but for different reasons. Left-of-center groups see the economy improving only with a strong dose of public spending. They think it is essential to have initiatives for both physical infrastructure (roads, bridges, electric grid, internet) and human infrastructure (a stronger social safety net, expansion in education and training expenditures) to realize the economic growth needed for a brighter future. Conversely, right-of-center groups are more skeptical of large scale increases in public spending and taxes, worrying they may impede economic growth. These groups prefer lower taxes and fewer regulations as ways to grow the economy.

The pessimistic scenario for the economic outlook has two sources. One is the status of the economy prior to the pandemic. Although the economy was expanding, the growth rate was significantly

lower than in previous decades. Even the massive 2017 tax cuts couldn't elevate the growth trajectory. A falling birth rate, lagging educational improvements and disappointing gains from tech inventions are some of the reasons given for the subpar growth.

At best, pessimists say we will return to the lukewarm pre-pandemic economic growth rates. However, some pessimists think the "excesses" associated with the pandemic will make the economy even worse. In their view, the excesses include massive spending and borrowing, excessively low interest rates, substantial money creation by the Federal Reserve, an unsustainable stock market boom, and the possibility of significantly higher tax rates. Economies often react negatively to excesses, leading some pessimists to forecast a severe economic recession on the horizon.

There may be a middle ground between the optimistic and pessimistic forecasts. It relies on improving economic efficiency. If workers, businesses and even the government can improve outputs relative to inputs, then the economy could grow fast enough to absorb the recently created excesses. Of course, we'd want these efficiency gains to be broad-based to all segments of the economy, while also not creating more environmental degradation.

This is a tall order and could be the biggest challenge of the century. Meanwhile, there will be continuing debates about the alternative paths of the future economy. And at the individual level, maybe you'll decide what Mark Twain said about predicting was true!

Dr. Michael Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

Pittsboro leaders call for national attention to town's PFAS troubles

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — In a specially convened Pittsboro board meeting last week — the second since large “slugs” of 1,4-Dioxane were recently discharged into the Haw River, from where Pittsboro draws its drinking water — commissioners and town staff doubled down on previous demands for upstream water users to stop polluting the Haw, and called for national media to heighten social pressure.

On July 1, the City of Greensboro and the North Carolina Dept. of Environmental Quality reported a discharge of 1,4-Dioxane — a suspected carcinogen — into South Buffalo Creek, a Haw River tributary, in effluent from Greensboro's TZ Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant a day earlier. Preliminary samples in Greensboro indicated levels between 543 parts per billion and 687 parts per billion of 1,4-Dioxane were discharged. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends no more than 35 ppb in healthy drinking water.

In following weeks, 1,4-Dioxane levels in Pittsboro's drinking water oscillated, finally dissipating to non-detectable levels earlier this month. But the unexpected

surge in water contamination has ignited a fervor among town leaders to resolve the town's drinking water woes for good. Several commissioners floated the idea of litigation against Greensboro, the state and other upstream parties, but detailed discussions of legal strategy have not been conducted in the public eye.

“But just so the public knows,” Town Manager Chris Kennedy said, “anytime we're openly discussing features or facets of litigation, generally that's done in closed session by the board to not really show our hand, and that's allowed by state statute.”

Town leaders did discuss a second strategy at length, however: attracting national attention to the town's plight.

“I think we need to continue to work with state and federal levels to see if we can't get the national leaders interested in holding some feet to the fire,” Mayor Jim Nass said. “I'm going to continue to try to push that angle as well.”

Besides 1,4-Dioxane, which was first discovered in the Haw River several years ago, PFAS has been a regular contaminant in Pittsboro's drinking water since at least 2018. Both 1,4-Dioxane and PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) pose severe health risks

if regularly ingested over long periods of time, but PFAS especially comes with a slew of side effects. High exposure is associated with thyroid disease, increased blood cholesterol levels and birth defects. PFAS is also known to inhibit the body's immune system and limit its response to vaccination.

“Let me remind everybody, it disrupts your ability to produce antibodies,” said Katie Bryant, a microbiologist and biomedical researcher who also serves on Pittsboro's water quality task force. “So when you get your vaccine, your body is given an immune response and based on that you produce the antibodies to something. And what they're seeing in communities with high levels of PFAS exposure is those people aren't making antibodies for very long or they're not even really getting to protective levels.”

Neither 1,4-Dioxane nor PFAS is unique to Pittsboro; both can be found in common household goods and factory discharge. But Pittsboro's PFAS contamination levels have already earned the town some nationwide attention. A recent study by Consumer Reports found higher PFAS levels in Pittsboro's drinking water than anywhere else in the country.

Kennedy hopes more attention from

national outlets might emphasize the work Pittsboro's leaders are doing to address the problem despite ongoing water contamination from nearby cities.

“We're really proud of what this board and this community did to really create statewide, maybe even nationwide change with regard to advanced treatment,” he said. “... I hope people go, ‘Hey, forget the articles where we're talking about bad water, those newspapers talked about what Pittsboro did against that and how they're a success story, and how others can be like that.’”

To combat upstream contamination, the board of commissioners authorized a modification project for the town's water plant earlier this year. Installation of special filters is under way and should eliminate about 90% of all PFAS from the town's water supply within a year. But the project will cost several million dollars — an expense that will severely limit the town's capacity for other projects and add strain to the rate-payer base if responsible parties don't cover at least some of the expense.

“So maybe we're the straw that breaks the camel's back,” Kennedy said, “and gets this thing kick-started and gets everyone in here to make some real action.”

PEPPERFEST

Continued from page A1

munity who connects with one another and tastes,” DeJong said, “and ending with our composting team that brings it all back around. Join us in celebrating all that makes eating local possible.”

Hosted outside The Plant, a 16-acre business complex that includes Abundance NC and the Chatham Beverage District, the event will encourage social distancing by having painted circles and designated areas for people to sit with their groups. Masking is required except for when people are directly tasting dishes.

This year's PepperFest will feature live music with Colin Cutlet and Diali Cissokho and Kaira Ba, an acrobatic performance by Imagine Circus and an artistic educational and cultural walkthrough. There will also be a 21+ lounge, a kid's zone with a cooking class and pepper arts and crafts by Circle City Supper Club and a small farmers market.

“PepperFest is a celebration of the vibrancy and yield of the abundant and nutrient-dense Carolinian-grown PEPPER,” Abundance NC said in an email promoting the Sept. 19 event. “... We have attendees from all over NC who complete the full circle nature of this event by tasting,

judging and enjoying the day of multi-layered cosmic connection.”

PepperFest began in 2008 as a blind pepper tasting with 40 attendees, but grew to a 3,000-person extravaganza by 2019, taking over downtown Pittsboro and featuring more than 100 vendors, chefs, local businesses and entertainers. The last two years, the event returned to the Plant.

Before last year's festival, former Abundance NC's director Tami Schwerin told the News + Record the event was meant to emphasize the value of peppers in a well-rounded diet and to spotlight local farmers.

“The big goal for us as a non-profit was initially to educate the

consumer and restaurants on why it was so important to buy from local farms — for the economy, health and the health of the environment,” Schwerin said at the time. “But that had kind of gotten lost a little bit over the years; it had just become this huge party.”

So while the event was smaller last year, PepperFest 2020 ditched some of the party elements of years past to stay safe and focus on highlighting local farmers and chefs. The event — which was capped at around 200 people — sold out.

“We're really scaling back so that we can have a responsible, spread out, socially distanced event,” Schwerin said. “People re-

ally want to get together, obviously. People are missing events, and we feel like we can model how to hold a safe, well-thought-out event.”

Last year, Abundance NC's advertising for the festival read, “This year the world is different and so is PepperFest.”

This year, though the pandemic remains, PepperFest remains — with enough precautions to be safe, but still feel like PepperFest.

For more information, go to <https://pepperfestnc.org>.

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

HISTORY

Continued from page A1

recipient and should address a unique need in the community.

The completion of Sullivan's project lined up with Chatham County's Chatham 250 year-long celebration commemorating the county's sescentennial anniversary. Last summer, Sullivan worked as the communications intern with Chatham 250. The group promoted Sullivan's project upon its completion, linking to it on their site and co-hosting an Aug. 10 presentation on her project.

“Ella has created an impressive multimedia website celebrating notable Chatham County historical figures for her Girl Scout Gold Award,” said Hilary Pollan, community partners analyst with the county manager's office. “... she's headed (to) the UNC School of Journalism, and has a promising future ahead of her.”

Including the Aug. 10 presentation, Sullivan has shared her project with community groups three times, and has another presentation lined up for Sept. 5 with the Chatham County Historical Museum.

At times, Sullivan struggled to find the motivation to work on her project, she said, particularly as COVID-19 impacted her school schedule last semester.

“But once I was able to sit down and do it,” she said, “it was definitely worth all the work that I've put into it.”

By interacting with Sullivan's project, people can learn about other notable Chathamites: Simon Green Atkins, who was born in Haywood to two former enslaved people and would become the founder of Winston-Salem State University and the North Carolina Negro Teachers' Association; James Iredell Waddell, a Lieutenant for the Confederacy born in Pittsboro, and Mildred “Mama Dip” Edna Cotton Council, a southern chef and entrepreneur born in the Baldwin township.

After more than 80 hours of research, writing, recording, podcast editing and web design later, Sullivan is proud of her work. Now, she hopes people will continue to learn from it.

“I hope they learn at least

a little bit about Chatham's history and maybe one person in specific,” she said. “And also realize that

there are resources online to learn about your local community. It's definitely harder to learn about the

local community, but I think that ‘A Look Into Chatham's Past’ and other local organizations are a great

resource for learning about local history.”

Reporter Hannah Mc-

Clellan can be reached at hannah@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.

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As Chatham COVID cases increase, CCPHD highlights FDA approval of Pfizer vaccine, change in parental consent law

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — Chatham County’s COVID-19 case numbers continue to climb, with 271 cases per 100,000 residents over the past week and nearly 9 percent of recent tests returning positive. This follows the state of North Carolina’s uptick, with more than 2,000 cases in N.C. reported every day in August so far.

Thankfully, vaccinations are increasing: as of Monday, 39,458 people have received at least one dose, making up 53% of the county’s population, and 36,642 people are fully vaccinated, marking 49%.

This progress in vaccination rates is good news, particularly considering new data from the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). According to COVID-19 Respiratory Surveillance data updated on Aug. 19, unvaccinated individuals in N.C. are three and a half times as likely to get COVID-19 and 4.6 times as likely to die of COVID-19 as vaccinated individuals. The data looked at the time period from January 1 to August 14.

“Vaccinations continue to be the best way to prevent serious illness and death from COVID-19,” said Chatham County

Public Health Director Mike Zelek. “With more and more cases coming up every day due to the highly contagious Delta variant, it is important not to delay.”

Pfizer vaccine gets full FDA approval

On Monday, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration gave its first full approval for a COVID-19 vaccine. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has been approved for all individuals aged 16 and older. Now called “Comirnaty,” the vaccine will continue to be available for individuals 12-15 years of age under Emergency Use Authorization, along with the administration of a third dose for individuals with specific conditions that make them immunocompromised.

The approval of a vaccine is a rigorous process that relies on clinical trials and thorough review of safety data and information. A recent clinical trial evaluating the Pfizer vaccine found it to be 91% effective in preventing COVID-19 with no serious safety concerns.

“Full FDA approval of a vaccine against COVID-19 is a significant achievement in our fight to end the pandemic,” Zelek said. “All three COVID-19 vaccines are safe and

effective, and we hope this news will lead more Chatham residents to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated.”

The FDA has published a press release and updated its fact sheets and guidance for recipients, caregivers and providers. All are available at the FDA’s website.

New N.C. law on parental consent

Last Friday, Gov. Roy Cooper signed into law Session Law 2021-110. The legislation changes North Carolina law to require parental or legal guardian consent for any vaccine that has been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the FDA without full FDA approval to an individual under 18 years of age.

- In effect:
- This does not affect the administration of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines since they are currently only authorized for people aged 18 and older.
 - Individuals aged 16 and 17 can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine without parental consent provided they demonstrate decisional capacity to consent to the vaccine, meaning they are able to understand and make decisions about their health.
 - Individuals aged 12-15 must provide written parental or guardian consent prior to receiving the Pfizer COVID-19

vaccine since it is still authorized under an EUA for that age group.

There are still many opportunities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in and around Chatham County. To see a full list, visit www.vaccines.gov.

COVID-19 testing is available in many locations across Chatham County, including three StarMed sites: Monday afternoons at Central Carolina Community College (CCCC) in Siler City, Wednesday afternoons at the Goldston Town Hall (includes vaccinations), and Thursday afternoons at CCCC in Pittsboro. Residents can visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting for a full local list of options. The Chatham County Public Health Department is currently working to expand testing options in the county and will provide updates as more sites become available.

People should seek a COVID-19 test if they have COVID-19 symptoms or have been in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of at least 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who tested positive. This includes those who are fully vaccinated.

If residents have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, they can call the CCPHD COVID-19 Vaccine Infoline at (919) 545-8323.

SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

“We can’t give them normal, but our goal is to give them at least a routine,” he said. “Just by masking we can go to some level of normalization ... or at least a routine that’s predictable.”

This year, the first day of school signified the opening of Seaforth High School — the first high school built in Chatham since 1972 — for 9th and 10th grade students.

Monday also marked the first day of school for hundreds of kindergartners — a milestone Jackson has commemorated since his first year as a

superintendent in 2009 by accompanying a kindergarten student to class on their first day. Though he usually would ride the bus with that student to school, due to COVID-19 protocols, this year he greeted North Chatham Elementary student Jaedynn Evans at school.

More than 8,400 students returned for in-person learning on Monday, the district said, joining the 98 students from Chatham School of Science & Engineering Early College who started in early August. In addition, 210 students started school remotely through the district’s virtual academies. At the board’s Aug. 5 meeting, the district extended the enrollment

deadline for its K-12 virtual academies through Aug. 8; about 60 more students enrolled during that time, based on previous numbers from the district.

Last year, the district’s virtual academy served around 25% of the district at any time, with around 75% of students opting to attend in-person and hybrid school when it was offered. This year, virtual-only students make up less than 3% of the student population. Still, the district felt it was important to offer such an option, even though it wasn’t required by the state this year.

“As we think about services post-pandemic, we have to think about the

opportunities we provide for students and families,” Amanda Moran, the district’s assistant superintendent of academic services and instructional support, previously told the News + Record. “We want our students and families to have as many options as possible.”

‘It felt great’

Northwood High School English Teacher Eliza Brinkley said the first day was a success, though the return to a fast-paced day this year will take some getting used to, “since things just generally moved more slowly for the past year and a half, even when we got back to in person last spring.”

“It felt great to be back in person and on a typical schedule,” Brinkley said. “I also am feeling safe since our administrators have been very clear that mask wearing is a must for everyone.”

At the time of the district’s Aug. 5 meeting, at least 48 school districts had defied state masking guidance, opting instead to make masking optional in schools. Since then, more than 20 districts have reversed course in response to clusters in school or further evidence of the delta variant; 27 of N.C.’s 115 total districts had said they will allow masks to be optional as of Tuesday afternoon. All of those districts are in areas that voted for former president Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election, The News & Observer reported.

While masking and social distancing protocols will continue at CCS this year, other protocols have changed. For example, under new state guidance, schools no longer need to



Chatham County Schools Superintendent Anthony Jackson visits Northwood High School on Tuesday morning, as part of his first week of school tour. CCS started school Aug. 23.
Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

do symptom screenings for students and staff at the beginning of a school day. Disinfecting and cleaning processes — formed in conjunction with Chatham County Public Health Department and the district’s supplier of custodial supplies — include daily cleaning of touch surfaces, cleaning of buses after morning and afternoon routes and frequent cleaning of main offices, reception areas and restrooms in schools.

The quarantine guidelines are also different this year, under state guidelines. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 but was masked, schools will not have to enforce a two-week quarantine period for students potentially exposed to that student — so long as those students were also masked.

The district will post weekly case reports, including any clusters, on its website by the end of the business day every Friday. Last year, the district reported minimal clusters, suggesting that cases present in school buildings were the result of community spread and not school spread. Health experts have long cited masking as an important mitigation strategy in preventing

such school spread.

CCS’s reports will be posted at <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/Page/23355>.

In an introductory message to parents at the beginning of a back-to-school parent toolkit for the district, Jackson said this was a big reason the school system would continue to require masking, likely until vaccines are available for school-aged students. The toolkit document is available on the district’s website.

The Centers for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics, N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Chatham County Public Health Dept. and ABC Science Collaborative all recommended universal masking in schools.

“The beginning of a school year provides us the opportunity to start again,” Jackson said in his introductory message. “The last two school years have been disruptive for our students. Our goal is to give our students the best school year ever, despite the pandemic.”

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

Ranking Your Goals: A Smart Move

Like most people, you may have several financial goals. But can you reach them all?

It would be simple if you had great wealth. But you’ll likely need to rank your goals in terms of their importance to your life and then follow appropriate strategies to achieve them. By doing so, you may end up getting pretty close to covering each of your objectives, in one way or another.

When prioritizing your goals, consider following this process:

- **Identify goals as “must have” or “nice to have.”** Making sure you don’t outlive your resources is a must-have goal, so you need to be as certain as possible of achieving it. On the other hand, a nice-to-have goal might be something like buying a vacation home. If you don’t attain the money needed for this goal, you do have room to compromise, perhaps by scaling down to a smaller home in a different area or just renting a place for a few weeks a year. Having this flexibility can provide a psychological benefit, too. Since this goal doesn’t have an either-or outcome, you won’t have to feel that you failed if you don’t get the big vacation home — instead, you can still enjoy the results of your investment efforts, even at a more modest scale.
- **Put “price tags” on your goals.** You need to know what your goals will cost. Even if you can only make an estimate, it’s essential to have some figure in mind. As time goes by, you can always revise your projected costs. To arrive at these price tags, you may want to work with a financial professional who has the tools and technology to create hypothetical illustrations and scenarios.
- **Follow an appropriate strategy.** The nature of your goals and their estimated cost will drive your investment strategy.

So, for example, using the must-have goal mentioned above — the need to avoid out-living your money — you’ll want to balance your growth objectives with your comfort with risk, as well as maintain an appropriate withdrawal strategy when you’re retired. However, for a nice-to-have goal, such as your large vacation home, perhaps you don’t need the same urgency — consequently, with part of your portfolio, you might be able to take more risk in hopes of greater returns. And if you fall short, you can always go with Plan B — i.e., the smaller home or the rental experience. But if your “nice to have” is closer to a “must have” in this area as well, you might want to focus less on achieving greater returns and instead look at ways of adjusting your budget to save more.

• **Monitor your results.** As you pursue your goals, whether must have or nice to have, you’ll want to check your results regularly. If you think you’re not making enough progress toward your desired goal, you may need to make adjustments. But don’t overreact to short-term swings in the financial markets or in the value of your portfolio, or take on an inappropriate amount of risk. When trying to reach your goals, you can alter your path, but it’s usually not a good idea to change directions altogether.

The decisions involved in identifying, prioritizing and achieving your goals can be somewhat involved. But by following a well-designed process, you can help yourself get to where you want to go.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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OBITUARIES

SKINNER ARTHUR WHITE III



Skinner Arthur White III, 54, of Siler City passed away on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Mr. White was born in Chowan County on June 13, 1967, the son of Skinner Arthur White Jr. and Judy Goodwin White. Art graduated college at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1989, earning his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He was the Co-Owner of Bestfood Cafeteria and Hayley Bales Steakhouse and was always there greeting you with a big smile. Art was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church. He was also a member of the Chatham Charter School Board, and a lifetime member of the Chowan County Hunting Club. Art loved playing golf in his free time. He especially loved traveling and going to the beach with his wife India and family. Art adored his wife India, and he was a wonderful father and grandfather. Art loved spending all the time he could with his family, especially his grandson Ranson, and you could always find him cooking or outside grilling for them on a nice day.

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, India Potter White; sons, Skinner Arthur White IV of Christiansburg, Virginia, Tyler Ranson White and wife Fernanda White and their son, Ranson Ace White of Siler City, and Zachary Brandon White of Floyd, Virginia; parents, Skinner "Buddy" Arthur White Jr. and Judy Goodwin White; brother, Barry White and wife Laura and their daughter Molly White of Edenton; sister, Mary Jo Collins and husband Chan and her children Kenzy Turner, and Joseph and Jenny Collins, all of Edenton.

The family received friends Thursday, August 19, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A celebration of life was held at 12 p.m. on Friday, August 20, 2021, at the Chatham Charter Soccer Field, 2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City with Rev. Brian Biggers and Rev. Robbie Maddox officiating.

Memorials may be made to Fellowship Baptist Church Building Fund, 120 Fellowship Church Road, Siler City, N.C. 27344 or to the Eagles Nest Regeneration Ministry, 148 Rehoboth Lane NE, Floyd, Virginia 24091.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the White family.

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

JANE MARIE BECK BRYAN



Jane Marie Beck Bryan, age 63, of Pittsboro, died Thursday, August 19, 2021, at home surrounded by her family.

Jane was born in Lee County, North Carolina, on December 26, 1957, to the late Charles Perry Beck and Margaret Isabelle "Polly" Brice Beck. She was also preceded in death by her sister, Linda Beck Ellis, and sister-in-law, Loretta Scott Beck.

As a young girl, Jane was very artistic and creative, a gift that she

carried with her throughout her life and career. The second of four children, she enjoyed playing with her siblings along with the many children in her neighborhood, road trips with her family, 4-H, and various clubs at Sanford Central High School.

Above all, Jane loved her family and friends beyond words. Atlantic Beach, N.C., where she enjoyed the summer months and the sounds of Carolina Beach Music, always held a special place in her heart. She loved spending sunny, carefree days with family and friends on Wade Shores enjoying cheeseburgers hot off the grill and fresh watermelon.

Throughout her life, she remained active volunteering with her church and her community which she loved dearly and made many lifelong friendships. As her family and friends can attest to, Jane never met a stranger. She saw potential in everything around her, always finding the best in people and she could always spot the perfect home décor element during her frequent trips to second-hand stores. Her home was her masterpiece, with every item meticulously placed and not a speck of dust to be seen (except for maybe a trace of dog hair from the family pets she loved so dearly over the years). She took such pride in her family and supported those she loved in times of great joy and sadness. Jane always put others first and had a gift of making everyone feel special, whether it was a birthday, holiday, special occasion, or simply for no reason at all.

Jane is survived by her husband, Clinton "Clint" E. Bryan III of Pittsboro; two sons, Clinton "Chip" E. Bryan IV of Charlotte, LTJG William Reid Bryan and fiancé Jessica "Jesse" Lilley of Lauderdale, Mississippi; one brother, James "Jimmy" Beck of Cameron along with his children, Jamie Beck and Tiffany Fallon; one sister, Laura King and husband Johnny of Sanford; sister-in-law, Kathryn "Kathy" Bryan Easterling and husband Bill of Pittsboro, along with their children Andrew Easterling and Blaire Easterling; several cousins; and two grand-dogs.

Jane's family would like to express their gratitude for the overwhelming support, thoughts and prayers provided by so many near and far.

A memorial service was held Sunday, August 22, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Pittsboro United Methodist Church with Rev. Sara Beth Pannell and Rev. Ray Gooch presiding. Inurnment followed in the church cemetery. Immediately following the inurnment, the family received friends in the Family Life Center at Pittsboro United Methodist Church.

In honor of Jane's legacy and lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Jane's memory to Pittsboro United Methodist Church and The Reel Housewives of Topsail Island (<https://reelhousewivesoftopsailisland.com/>), a non-profit that hosts an annual bike ride fundraiser for cancer research that she always enjoyed participating in on her beach cruiser.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

JEAN HAMMONS CHAPPELL

Jean Hammons Chappell, 83, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, August 16, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Cool Springs Baptist Church with Rev. Matt Martin officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Jean was born in Shouns, Tennessee, on July 26, 1938, to the late Ernest and Edith Lewis Hammons. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband James Edward "Ed" Chappell; brother, Willie Hammons. She was a retired teacher with the Lee County School System and Lee Christian School. She was a member of Cool Springs Baptist Church.

Jean is survived by her sons, James E. "Jim" Chappell Jr. of Cumming, Georgia, and Phillip Chappell of Holly Springs; brothers, Lynn Hammons of Gray, Tennessee and Larry Hammons of Erwin, Tennessee; five grandchildren and three grandchildren.

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

LOLA FAYE GARRETT COX

Lola Faye Garrett Cox, 82, of Sanford, passed away Saturday, August 21, 2021, at her home.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, August 26, 2021, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Rev. Chris Bryden officiating. Burial will follow at Jonesboro Cemetery. Friends will be greeted at the graveside after the committal service. Please observe COVID precautions and wear a mask.

She was born in Durham County on December 10, 1938, to the late Dallas and Callie Ashley Garrett. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Aubrey Foster Cox, a sister, Betty Smith, a brother, James Garrett and a grandson. Mrs. Cox worked in customer service for Coty Inc. prior to her retirement.

Surviving are sons, Gerald Cox, Aubrey Cox, both of Sanford; daughters, Tammy Gunter, Melissa Lovick, and Terrie High, all of Sanford; brother, Thomas Garrett of Sanford; five grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home, Inc.

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

RICKY WAYNE NORRIS

Ricky Wayne Norris, 67, of Sanford, passed away Sunday, August 22, 2021, at his home.

A celebration of life service will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Life Springs Church with Pastor Daniel Owens officiating. Masks are encouraged but not required during the service. The family will receive friends at the home of Ian and Amanda Norris County. He was born in Harnett County on February 4, 1954, to the late Clyde Sherril Norris and Dora Green Holder Norris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brother Lloyd Sherril Norris. He was a production planner at Magnetti-Marelli, retiring after 37 years of service.

Ricky is survived by his wife of 43 years, Gloria "Shugie" Reynoso Norris; daughter, Amanda Norris Scott of Sanford; brothers, Ray Norris of Broadway, Jerry Norris of Sanford; and three grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the funeral home to assist family with funeral expenses.

Arrangements by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

See **OBITUARIES**, page A9

WILBUR ARNOLD RIVES



Wilbur Arnold Rives passed away on August 21, 2021, at UNC Hospice in Pittsboro. A kind, sweet, and humble man of faith, we know he has reunited with his Lord and Savior and his loving wife, Betty, in their heavenly home.

He is loved and survived by his daughter Sandra and son-in-law, Jeff Roscoe; two grandchildren, Phillip Roscoe and Nikki Roscoe Julian (Huston); brother, William Rives; and sisters-in-law, Bobbie Rives,

Leora Rives, Mary Cox, Jeanette Phillips, and Elmo Phillips; special cousin, Bobby Woody (Sue); and countless nieces, nephews, cousins, and devoted friends.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Betty Phillips Rives; sister and brothers, Ruby Bouldin, Donald Rives, Gerald Rives; and brothers- and sisters-in-law, Arthur Bouldin, Elaine Rives, B.F. and Hazel Phillips, Bobby Phillips, Lewis Phillips, and Arbutus Cox.

Wilbur was born on August 28, 1932, to Lois and Kenneth Rives on the same farm in Bear Creek where he lived for nearly all of his almost 89 years. He graduated from Bon-lee School where he met and began courting Betty. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and spent two years at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, before returning to his homeplace in Chatham County and raising chickens, cattle, and other livestock. He and Betty had one daughter, Sandra, and together they filled their home with love, joy, wit, and laughter, which continued when grandchildren came along.

He was an active member of Meroney United Methodist Church throughout his life and dearly loved his church family who were always a great source of happiness for him. He served 25 years on the Chatham County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. Over the years, he regularly attended meetings of the Cattlemen's Association and Central Carolina Antique Tractor and Machinery Club. In his later years, Wilbur could often be found at Elois' for lunch or Saturday breakfast where he enjoyed the company of friends like Winfred Allen at the communal table and extra kind waitresses like Rhonda Stevens.

Wilbur will be remembered for the love he showed to others, his kind and gentle nature, and his dry sense of humor. The family invited all to join them in honoring his legacy at the funeral services on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Meroney UMC. Services will be held inside, followed by a brief graveside service and a time for outdoor visitation at the church's picnic shelter. Given the spread of the COVID Delta variant, the family wants to extend their sincere understanding for those who choose not to attend the service and will livestream the service on the Meroney UMC Facebook page. For the health and safety of everyone in attendance, the family requests that all attendees wear masks while inside the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meroney UMC, 10568 N.C. Hwy. 902, Bear Creek, N.C. 27207 or to a charity of your choice.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Rives family.

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

JUDITH ANN COCKMAN KIDD

Judith Ann Cockman Kidd, 80, of Bennett, passed away on Friday, August 20, 2021, at her home.

She was born in Chatham County on January 8, 1941, to Alex Allen Cockman and Martha Alberta Phillips Cockman. She was a member of Beulah Baptist Church and retired from Selig after over 20 years of service. In addition to her parents, Judy was preceded in death by her brother, Wayne Cockman.

She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Wendell Kidd of the home; sons, Keith Siler of Mocksville, Darien Chris Siler of Raleigh and Jeff Kidd of Richmond, Virginia; step-daughter, Karen Williams of Eagle Springs; sister, Janice Phillips of Bear Creek; brother, Rickey Cockman of Bear Creek; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The funeral was held on Monday, August 23, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Beulah Baptist Church, with Rev. Dr. Neal Jackson, Rev. Dr. Curtis Barbery and Rev. Darrell Garner presiding.

Memorials may be made to Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 8454 Howard Mill Rd., Bennett, N.C. 27208 or a charity of one's choice.

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

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

JERRY WAYNE IVEY

Jerry Wayne Ivey, 78, of Carthage, passed away on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at his home.

He was born in Bladen County on July 21, 1943, to Darius and Minnie Elizabeth Bordeaux Ivey. He was U.S. Navy Veteran (Vietnam) and served on the USS Enterprise. He retired as a mechanic at Shamrock, after 35 years. In addition to his parents, Jerry was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Jo ("Sue") Ivey and two brothers.

He is survived by his step-daughter, Dana Trent of Asheboro; step-sons, Mike Teague of N.C., Bobby Tucker of Siler City, and Terry Phillips of Asheboro; sisters, Bonnie Ivey of Elizabethtown, Nancy Smith of Climax, Sally Milczakowski of Elizabethtown; 14 step-grandchildren, and eight great step-grandchildren.

The family will hold a memorial gathering at a later date.

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

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

JOHNNY 'COOT' EUGENE SMITH

Johnny Eugene "Coot" Smith, 67, of Siler City passed away Friday, August 20, 2021, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Services are being provided by Knotts and Son.

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OBITUARIES

Continued from page A8

MICHAEL CAVINESS



Michael Caviness passed away on August 17, 2021, at the age of 66, in his hometown of Sanford, North Carolina. He faced his battles with low vision and cancer the same way he did life: with courage, dignity, humor and the peace of God. He was our Superman...strong and positive until the end.

His greatest loves in his life were God and his family. And if he were here today he would tell you to look carefully at what you prioritize in life because love is all you take with you from this life to the next.

For Mike, his wife Delores — his 8th grade crush — and his children were the core of his heart. William, a confident and successful man, husband to Bridgit and loving father to Cobey, made Mike very proud. Jennifer, the little “mini-me” had daddy wrapped up in love...his precious little girl. Jennifer and husband Daniel brought “princess” Olivia into our world and much to Mike’s delight, she has become the inheritor of the “Pop Pop” crazy gene.

Always quick witted with a unique sense of humor Mike loved to banter with family and friends about college sports, squirrels, and even the consumption of crazy foods. He enjoyed making people laugh. He understood the brevity of life and sought to bring laughter and joy to everyone he met.

Mike had a career/work like everyone else but he never believed that they defined his life. No, a life is marked by the love you share, the friends you make and how you care for others. Your life should be a light to the world because you reflect the love of God.

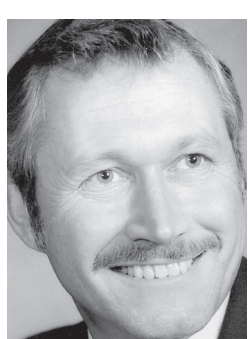
Mike’s celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on September 18, 2021, at 1 Hope Assembly in Sanford, North Carolina. The memorial will be conducted by Pastor Greg Davenport with additional comments by family and friends. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider a contribution to CARA animal rescue, UNC Cancer Hospital or your favorite charity.

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

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

Services are entrusted to Miller - Boles Funeral Home of Sanford.

JOHN WALTER ETCHISON



John Walter Etchison, 83, of Siler City passed away on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at Transitions Hospice Care, Raleigh.

Mr. Etchison was born January 12, 1938, in Davie County, N.C., the son of Everett and Lola Sofley Etchison. John was a 1960 graduate of N.C. State University. Following his graduation, he served in the U.S. Marine Core Reserves for six years. John was a member of various civic clubs and served as the Supervisor

of the Chatham County Soil and Water Conservation for 35 years, and as chairman for 30 years. John began his career with the Forsyth County 4-H Clubs as well as a Chatham County Livestock Agent for the N.C. Extension Service. He then worked at Planters National Bank/RBC Centura. In his early career, he was a Farm Loan Officer, and later became the City Executive of the Siler City office in 1967. He remained in this position for 28 years until his retirement in 1992. John and his wife Rachel farmed all their lives, until he retired from chicken farming in 2010. He continued raising beef cattle until his passing.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Rachel Estes Etchison; daughters, Tonya Balan and husband Charles of Pittsboro, and Patrice Etchison of Cary; granddaughters, Laura and Caroline Balan; sisters, Betty West of Mocksville, Mary Martin “Marty” Babcock of Raleigh; and sister-in-law, Rebecca Estes of Mooresville.

Mr. Etchison laid in repose on Saturday, August 21, 2021, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home. A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at Oakwood Cemetery, N. Chatham Avenue, Siler City, with Rev. Casey Rayfield officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memorial Giving, Memphis, Tennessee 38105-9959 or at www.stjude.org/memorial.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Etchison family.

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

LEWIS JUNIOR MCDUGALD

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

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 20, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

TAMARA ANN WICKER

Tamara Ann Wicker, 49, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at her home.

The memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

TIMOTHY TERRELL AUSTIN

Timothy Terrell Austin, 42, of Pittsboro passed away on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, August 26, at St. Andrews Christian Church, with burial following in the church cemetery.

MARIE A. (CROSS) BOONE

Marie A. Cross Boone, 64, of Asheboro, passed away Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at Hospice of Randolph County.

Services are being provided by Knotts and Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

ROOSEVELT RENALDO GRADY

Roosevelt Renaldo Grady, 62, of Columbia, S.C., passed away on Thursday, August 19, 2021, in Sanford.

Services are being provided by Knotts Funeral Home.

DAMON HARRIS

Damon Harris, 30, of West End passed away on Friday, August 20, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

Leaird, Joe Leaird and JT Leaird. She was a member of Spring Hill United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her brother, Van Leaird of Lillington.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

JAMES HOWARD QUICK

James Howard Quick, 64, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, August 11, 2021, at Genesis Healthcare in Siler City.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 21, 2021, at Trinity United Methodist Church. Burial followed in Minter Cemetery.

MARY LOIS LEAIRD

Mary Lois Leaird, 74, of Broadway, died Sunday, August 22, 2021, at the SECU Jim and Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m. Wednesday, August 25, 2021, at the Spring Hill United Methodist Church with Rev. Bobby Rackley and Rev. Terry Williams

officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends in the church sanctuary from 1 to 3 p.m., prior to the funeral service.

Mary was born in Harnett County, daughter of the late Cyrus Cris Leaird and Elva Gray Holly Leaird. She was preceded in death by her parents, and brothers, Bobby

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-Blake Hogg,
General Manager

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WASIM CHAUDHRY



Wasim Qudoos Chaudhry, 33, of Siler City, passed away on Friday, August 20, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Mr. Chaudhry was born in Randolph County on May 23, 1988, the son of Abdul and Shamim Chaudhry. Wasim graduated from UNC-Greensboro with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He later became Vice President of Chaudhry Halal Meats, where he worked with his family. He loved to ride motorcycles and fast cars. Wasim adored his wife and daughter. He was loved by his family and all his employees. Wasim was the guy you wanted to hang around with. The vacuum his death created can never be filled. He is preceded in death by his grandfather, Muhammad Ibrahim Chaudhry.

He is survived by his wife, Rabia Ibrahim; daughter, Alaya Chaudhry; parents, Abdul and Shamim Chaudhry; brother, Atiq Chaudhry; and sister, Amina Abdallah.

A private service was held on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at Haji Khan Mohammad Memorial Park, Old Coleridge Road, Siler City.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Chaudhry family.

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

JAMES ‘JIMMY’ LOWELL COCKMAN

James “Jimmy” Lowell Cockman, 86, of Snow Camp passed away on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at Duke University Hospital, Durham, N.C.

Mr. Cockman was born in Chatham County, N.C., on October 19, 1934, son of James Amos and Swannie Marley Cockman. Jimmy worked as a Sergeant for the Chatham County Sheriff’s department for 25 years. In addition to his parents, Jimmy is preceded in death by his son, Thomas “Tommy” Cockman.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Sarah Frances Harris Cockman; brother, William “Billy” Cockman and wife Peggy of Siler City; special daughter, Sandra Cockman Strowd and husband Bob of Silk Hope; grandsons, Stephen Cockman and wife Allayna of Bear Creek, Ryan Cockman of Greensboro; several great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church Cemetery, 3631 Mt. Vernon Hickory Mountain Rd., Siler City, with Rev. Jason Dickerson officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Cockman family.

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'A BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR CAMPAIGN'

North Woods neighbors make headway in their fight to preserve land

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Two weeks after pledging to assist property owners in Pittsboro's North Woods neighborhood with their campaign to redirect the impending North Chatham Park Way road, Pittsboro's board of commissioners appears to have made good on its promise after insisting the N.C. Dept. of Transportation reevaluate the highway's planned alignment and more seriously consider a trajectory through Chatham Park-owned land.

In its regular meeting Monday, the board entertained a presentation from NCDOT explaining the latter's decision to build the North Chatham Park Way through privately owned land in North Woods. The road's design has been hotly contested for months, with NCDOT proffering several road "Alternatives" for public comment and discussion. The months-long conversation was abruptly cut short in June, though, when NCDOT announced it would move forward with plans to bisect the neighborhood, according to a NCDOT email obtained by the News + Record. The department had previously suggested it might amend the proposed alignment to circumvent the North Woods community.

The NCDOT-selected road alignment is known as Alternative 6 and would see the 2.7-mile, four-lane highway run through North Woods' 200-acre, private community of 17 properties. The four-lane highway is necessary, NCDOT has said, to serve the many thousands of new residents who will inhabit Chatham Park in coming years, and to mitigate traffic issues through downtown Pittsboro. Already, a section of the larger Chatham Park Way has been constructed between U.S. Hwy. 64 and Suttles Road, but North Chatham Park Way would extend the road to U.S. Hwy. 15-501.

Since learning of NCDOT's intentions earlier this year, the North Woods neighbors have campaigned for a compromise known as Alternative 7. In the board's previous meeting on Aug. 9, neighborhood representatives implored the commissioners to support them in calling for NCDOT to amend its plans. Instead of dividing the North Woods neighborhood, the Alternative 7 road alignment would run 200 yards east of Alternative 6, closer to the community's border with Chatham Park, which sits immediately to the east.

But in their presentation Monday, NCDOT representatives argued Alternative 7 was inadvisable due to its greater environmental impact.

"NCDOT determined that Alternative 6 was the least environmentally damaging, preferred alternative," said Teresa Gresham, of Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc., a Raleigh-based engineering consultancy. "It was anticipated to have the fewest impacts to streams, residents and businesses."

The commissioners agreed with the agency's decision to minimize environmental impact, but objected to its solution. Instead of shifting the road west, deeper into North Woods land, they said, NCDOT should move the highway east, entirely onto Chatham Park land. "I'm really concerned

about this," Commissioner Jay Farrell said. "I'm going to really be pushing for the DOT to examine going ... on Chatham Park's property."

Several commissioners and Mayor Jim Nass echoed his sentiment. "I would like for them to look at this alternative," Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said, referring to Farrell's suggestion.

But no formal alternative to traverse Chatham Park land has been studied by NCDOT. When Commissioner Michael Fiocco questioned why a road alignment through Chatham Park was not included among the options listed in NCDOT's presentation, Patrick Norman, NCDOT division 8 engineer, admitted his team had not thoroughly investigated that possibility.

"We have not studied that alignment in detail," he said, citing perceived inconsistencies with previously adopted plans as reason for having dismissed the option.

"But hearing the stance from the commissioners," he said, "... we will move forward with that review of that alternative."

For Mark Pavao, a North Woods neighbor who spoke at the meeting and has spearheaded

the community's efforts to shift North Chatham Park Way's alignment, the board's argument against Alternative 6 felt like a "breakthrough in our campaign," he told the News + Record.

"North Woods neighbors are very grateful to Mayor Nass, Mayor Pro Tem Baldwin and Commissioners (John) Bonitz, Farrell, (Michael) Fiocco and (Kyle) Shipp for their time and attention to learning about the potentially devastating impact of the proposed North Chatham Park Way," he said. "Commissioner Fiocco's suggestion, endorsed by all, to study a new alternative east of North Woods on high ground between two streams looks like a very good option. North Woods is thankful that our town leaders have asked, and NCDOT has agreed, to explore that option. Of course, any change will produce consequences that must be considered and weighed, but we are hopeful that our Pittsboro community will strongly weigh the benefit of preserving North Woods."

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

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Chatham County Farm Bureau's "Food Drive for Chatham" at Silk Hope Old-Fashioned Farmers' Days September 4th and 5th, 2021

Chatham County Farm Bureau will provide raffle tickets in exchange for food:

- 5 cans of food or \$5 donation for 1 ticket.
- 10 cans of food or \$10 donation for 2 tickets.

All food and money collected will be divided between Chatham's two food banks, CORA and West Chatham.

Raffle prizes include a Stihl chainsaw as a grand prize and several other prizes. Bring your cans of food to the Farm Bureau tent either day.



Prizes donated by Chatham Co. Farm Bureau, Pittsboro Feed Store/Pittsboro Pet Supply, Quality Equipment in Pittsboro, Southern States, Tractor Supply, Country Farm and Home and others.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

NINE FLEET

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 52 Give new weapons to | 96 Perceive | 2 "Dies —" (Mass hymn) | 40 Draft-eligible | 82 French inn |
| 1 By means of | 54 Fluctuate | 99 Imitated a sheep | 3 Similar | 41 Coercing | 83 2021 is one |
| 4 Seizes suddenly | 56 Cole — (shoe brand) | 102 — -pedi | 4 Car radiator covering | 42 Edifice | 86 Diner list |
| 9 Niche religion | 59 Curious pet | 103 "It's My Turn" singer Diana | 5 Toon pal of Stimp | 47 "Let's suppose ..." | 87 Sale rack caveat |
| 13 Cousins of rumbas | 60 Gift label | 106 Small, floating cephalopod | 6 "The Ice Storm" director Lee | 49 Like the study of habitats | 91 Pursued speedily |
| 19 Noah's craft | 61 Pro- — (some tours) | 109 Device used in cardiology | 7 Plastic pail or shovel, say | 50 County in the Bay Area | 93 Key related to C major |
| 20 Zellweger of "Bee Movie" | 64 Sport fish also known as "little tuna" | 113 Actress Eve | 8 Toxin fighters | 51 "Undo" mark | 95 Bungle |
| 21 Assistant of Frankenstein | 68 "Them's the breaks!" | 114 Everything | 9 Form a rough judgment of | 53 Bryn —, Pennsylvania | 97 Lead-in to center or dermis |
| 22 Mount where the 19-Across landed | 71 Title word before "Inferno" or "Peak" | 115 Venus de — | 10 Vanity | 55 Info that's not up to date | 98 Do lunch |
| 23 1987 comedy starring Nicolas Cage and Holly Hunter | 72 Came to rest | 116 9-to-5er's shout | 11 With | 57 Pub spigot | 100 Gift for music |
| 26 Set fire to | 73 Atlanta daily since 2001 | 118 Of a junction point | 12 "Lady and the —" | 58 Preposterous | 101 Clunker |
| 27 Streisand musical film | 77 "Game of Thrones" actress | 122 Gazed angrily | 13 Rum cocktail | 59 Bungle | 104 Wee bit |
| 28 Diner relative | 78 Charlotte — (Virgin Islands capital) | 124 Principle of capitalism | 14 Evita's land | 60 Preposterous | 105 Note |
| 29 Portion (out) | 79 Turning out | 129 Showing on TV | 15 See 11-Down | 62 Domestic household | 107 Very strong |
| 31 Part of "GWTW" | 80 Windy City airport | 130 Work to make | 16 Big name in faucet filters | 63 Hit hard, as the brakes | 108 One of a bowler's targets |
| 32 Mosque God | 84 Adobe Acrobat file | 131 Second-largest city of India | 17 Solemn vows (just prevail) | 65 Airline to Copenhagen | 109 "Horrible" cartoon |
| 35 Black-and-yellow stinging insect | 85 "— believer!" | 132 — out a win | 18 Expensive | 66 Apnea-treating doc | 110 Actress Kemper |
| 39 1993-2004 Chrysler sedan | 88 Almond-hued | 133 Distant | 24 Veteran | 67 Abel's brother | 111 Fire alert |
| 43 Thing to fly in the wind | 89 Actress Olin | 134 California, par example | 25 Casual statement of sympathy | 69 Blacklisting org. of the 1940s-50s | 112 Credit card lure |
| 44 Pertaining to | 90 Plaintiff | 135 Stellar hunter | 30 Comic shriek | 70 Petting zoo animals | 117 — -Chinese |
| 45 Seat in a bar | 92 Turns toward | 136 Abbr. that can precede nine key words in this puzzle | 33 Fleur-de- — (ins) | 73 2008-12 Mets pitcher | 119 God, to Gigi |
| 46 Seat in a church | 94 Darling child | DOWN | 34 Kitchen pest | 74 Roman 151 planet | 120 Inquires |
| 48 Things | | 1 Fluctuate | 36 Fabric flaw | 75 Suffix with planet | 121 Some blue jeans |
| | | | 37 Bardic verse | 76 Petty quarrel | 123 Brazilian city, in brief |
| | | | 38 Rainy | 77 Eight: Prefix | 125 Hamelin pest |
| | | | 39 Juicy gossip | 81 Doled-out share | 126 Slice of time |
| | | | | | 127 Yale attendee |
| | | | | | 128 Pi-sigma link |

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

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CHATHAM 250

Sidewalk Chalk Festival to connect art, creativity to the community

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County community members of all ages are invited to express their creativity and create a masterpiece at Chatham 250's Sidewalk Chalk Festival on Saturday, Sept. 11, at The Park at Briar Chapel.

The park is located at 1015 Andrews Store Rd., Pittsboro. In the event of inclement weather, the festival will be held Sept. 12.

All Chatham County artists — amateur and professional alike — are invited to draw their chalk creations inspired by Chatham County. Residents also are invited to spend the morning in the park enjoying the artwork.

Check in for sidewalk chalk artists begins at 8:30 a.m.; artists will draw from 9 to 11 a.m. Artists can register online at <https://www.chatham250.com/event-details/sidewalk-chalk-festival>. A tabletop drawing option is available upon request for those who are not able to draw on the ground.

“As we continue to celebrate Chatham County’s 250th anniversary, we are excited to offer this unique opportunity to celebrate art and creativity in our community while also being conscientious about COVID-19,” said Mallory Peterson, Program Supervisor with Chatham County Parks and Recreation and Chatham 250 events coordinator. “The event will take place outdoors and will allow for ample social distancing. Our priority is to celebrate Chatham County while making the participants and observing residents feel safe.”

Participants will be split into competition divisions (family, teens, adults, and seniors), and the winners will be selected by a panel of judges. The judges will be represented by the event sponsor, Chatham 250 planning committee, and Chatham County’s artist community. There will be a “Crowd Pleaser Award” selected by the community. All winners will be announced at noon and will receive creative arts-themed prizes.

The Sidewalk Chalk Festival also will provide an opportunity to celebrate the Creative Arts in Chatham County. The Chatham Artist Guild will host a few booths with art for sale, art-based outreach activities, and an art supplies drive for Chatham County students. Eric Sommer will play Roots Americana music during the event.

Chatham 250 would like to thank Carolina Meadows for their sponsorship of this event, as well as the United Way of Chatham County, Chatham County Parks and Recreation and Chatham Artist Guild for their participation in planning efforts.

For more information and to register for the Sidewalk Chalk Festival, individuals may visit <https://www.chatham250.com/event-details/sidewalk-chalk-festival> or contact Hilary Pollan at hilary.pollan@chathamcountync.gov or 919-545-8408. Information about other events and ways to celebrate Chatham County’s 250th anniversary can be found at chatham250.com.

Chatham 250's Sidewalk Chalk Festival will be held Sept. 11.

Anxiety without a pause: Parents reflect on pandemic schooling

Parents say that more than one year of distance learning was exhausting. Now a UNC-Chapel Hill researcher is studying parents' anxiety as their children go back to school.

BY CHIUNG-WEI HUANG
N.C. Health News

At 8 a.m. sharp, Laura Farnan, a parent in Chapel Hill of one rising 1st-grader and one middle school student, is all set. She sits beside her younger boy to make sure his eyes are on the iPad in front of him where his teacher begins the morning classes. Across the table, Farnan is relieved to see her older daughter making progress on school assignments without much adult monitoring.

This had been Farnan's routine for much of the pandemic.

After more than one year of virtual learning, North Carolina children and parents had a multitude of experiences. Some families found it rewarding. Others were more than eager to get their children back to in-person class.

“I'm happy that we have options and could be safe,” Farnan said. “They are old enough to understand why they are home because I know that some kids really wanted to go back to school.”

One North Carolina researcher, Cassandra Davis, assistant professor of public policy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, explored many issues related to homeschooling during the pandemic. She discovered that parents with children who struggled with distance learning experienced elevated levels of mental distress.

“I would absolutely imagine those who did day care that switched to virtual,” said Davis, also a parent of a preschool child.

Parents were forced to navigate distance education

Farnan and her kids were able to find creative ways to supplement their lack of social interaction. For example, her daughter connected with her classmates after school by playing video games while talking on the phone with them.

“They understand that this is for their own, and our, health and safety,” Farnan said. “As soon as they are fully vaccinated, they can go and meet with their friends.”

But it took time for many parents to find a rhythm of getting their kids through the school days while also working from home. Farnan spent mornings with her younger child sitting through the classes and shifted her work as a biostatistician at UNC-CH outside of her usual hours.

The increased load of juggling work and homeschooling was the tip of an iceberg.

The pandemic often was more challenging for families with more than one child. Some families had children in different grades, trying to understand different subjects while also at different technology skill levels.

The anxiety among parents came from children struggling with distance

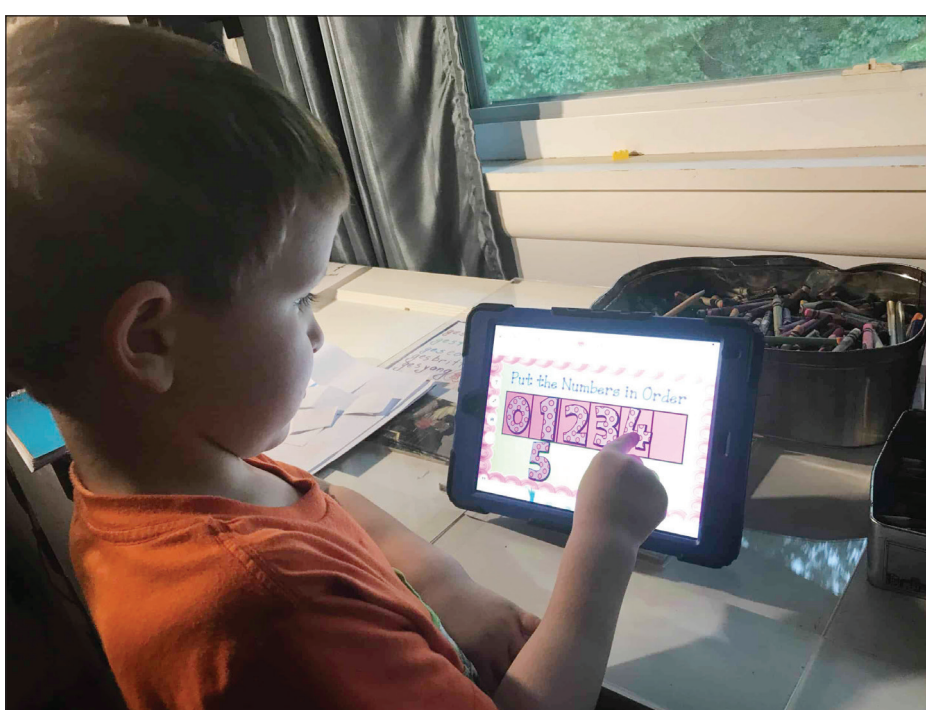


Photo contributed by Laura Farnan

Laura Farnan's kindergartner learning at home, using an iPad.

learning and needing help with homework, according to a study that surveyed 3,338 parents across the country for symptoms of anxiety and mental health distress. Davis is the lead author of the study.

In the survey, about 51 percent of the parents expressed that at least one of their children was struggling with distance learning. Parents whose children struggled with distance learning reported symptoms of anxiety that were higher than that of parents whose children were not struggling, the study noted.

“Initially, when I wasn't as skilled with homeschooling, it caused a tremendous degree of anxiety,” said Glorija Gladney, parent of a kindergartener and a 1st grader who attended the same Chapel Hill school as Farnan's.

Gladney also has a child who is a year old.

Their school opened to a hybrid model in the spring, offering in-person and virtual platforms. However, having the children back in the classroom did not produce the results that Gladney expected.

Most of the teachers were teaching from home or through video and audio media in a different classroom. Children accessed the lessons and assignments through screens and did not receive as much individual attention as some parents had hoped for.

“I was deeply disturbed with not just multi-month prolonged isolation, but with the fact that the virtual program seemed completely out of touch,” said Gladney. “They come home saying they had great fun playing and eating, but they didn't learn anything.”

Gladney's 6-year-old daughter, who did not read at the beginning of the year, worked with Gladney to finish her

assignment.

Anxiety around the road ahead

Gov. Roy Cooper and North Carolina lawmakers have ordered all public schools to open for in-person learning in the fall. Many school systems plan to abandon virtual options when they come back from summer breaks. This will be the situation for Farnan and Gladney.

For her part, Farnan is not confident that it's the best thing for her children to return to in-person classes until they are eligible for a vaccine. Currently, children under 12 are not eligible for immunization, although clinical trials are underway to test the safety and efficacy.

“Chapel Hill does not have multiple options for the fall,” Farnan said, “and we are actually devastated by that, because we will not let them go to school until after they get vaccinated.”

Sixty-three percent of the Orange County population is fully vaccinated, according to the state Department of Health and Human Services vaccine dashboard, one of the highest percentages among the 100 counties in North Carolina. Despite that high rate, some parents of school children still struggle over the risks their children face.

“I would suspect that they would have additional anxiety of not being able to rejoin life in ways that people who are fully vaccinated are able to do,” Davis, the UNC-Chapel Hill researcher who authored the study on parent anxiety, said in an interview.

While some are hoping and waiting for safe children's vaccines, others are trying to minimize the risk of contracting COVID by taking their own protective measures. Gladney's family has been using ideas from the DHHS'

StrongSchoolsNC Public Health guidelines, including wearing masks, going into isolation for at least 10 days if there's a positive case in the class, and routinely testing for COVID-19 while attending in-person classes.

“All those things make us feel better about our balance between making sure they get a normalcy, and carefully managing COVID risk exposure,” said Gladney.

Whether to get children back to school this fall depends on parents weighing the options among schooling models and children's and parents' needs.

“We know that if our goal is to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in schools, there are two effective ways to do that. One, vaccination. Two, masking,” said Kenecia Obie Zimmerman, professor of pediatrics at Duke University School of Medicine.

“The science suggests masking can be extremely effective, particularly for those who can't get vaccinated while COVID-19 is still circulating,” she said.

Having to make such judgment calls and decisions for a family's health could be difficult for parents who spent more than a year on an emotional roller coaster that included remote learning, hybrid platforms and plans to return to in-person school.

“It's different anxieties and different volumes throughout this whole time,” said Gladney.

Much more research will be necessary to determine the extent to which those elevated anxiety levels remain or disappear as the state tries to push beyond the pandemic. That is a question that Davis is asking in her studies.

“We are looking at the relationship of parental trust in their schools that we hope to get out soon,” said Davis in the interview. “We are interested to see how that gets directed during a pandemic, and between parents and educators.”

Now, the highly infectious coronavirus Delta variant is spreading across the country and North Carolina, which only has 46% of the total population fully vaccinated. Parents are likely to have concerns about attending schools, whether virtually or physically, when they come back from summer break, according to Davis.

“The conversation of COVID impact on mental health and the long term impact on education is going to continue for a little bit longer,” she said. “It impacts everybody.”

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JORDAN-MATTHEWS 4, NORTHWOOD 1

Jets' electrifying second-half performance seals season-opening soccer win over Chargers

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Most flights get canceled when lightning strikes in the area.

But the Jets just powered right through.

Jordan-Matthews' men's soccer team (1-0) earned a season-opening victory on Thursday evening, 4-1, in an inter-county battle against the formerly unbeaten Northwood Chargers (2-1).

Despite sweltering heat, 90-degree temperatures and sporadic flashes of lightning — which ultimately led to a 30-minute second-half delay —

the Jets weathered the storm of obstacles to take home their first win of the young season.

And the game's turning point can be defined by one well-executed moment.

Mere minutes into the second half, J-M's Brian Hernandez — dribbling the ball in Northwood territory — lured a Chargers defender in the direction of midfield before spinning around, cutting to his left and outpacing him as he charged toward the goalkeeper.

Once he lost the defender, another came up to pressure him, acting as the last line of defense before the keeper. Hernandez, thinking quickly,

dumped it off to Alexis Ibarra, a 2020-21 all-state selection, who took an almost immediate 25-yard shot that forcefully floated in between two Chargers and over the keeper's head before smashing against the top right corner of the net.

Ibarra's stunning goal — made possible by Hernandez's high-I.Q. play — gave the Jets a 2-1 lead they'd never relinquish, leading to the team's first win of the 2021-22 season.

"Ibarra's strike from distance in the 45th minute for the go-ahead goal was the stuff of movies," Kevin Forster, Northwood's

See **JETS**, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews players celebrate one of the team's goals in the Jets' 4-1 season-opening win over Northwood last Thursday in Siler City. J-M came back from a 1-0 deficit in the first half to win.

Heat and overpriced drinks: I missed stadiums

It'd been 618 days since I last attended a major sporting event.

On Dec. 12, 2019, I visited Baltimore for the sole purpose of watching the Ravens — then 12-2 en route to one of the best seasons in franchise history — kick the snot out of the lowly New York Jets (5-9).

And that they did, winning 42-21 on Thursday Night Football and clinching the AFC North division title with minimal effort needed.

My friend and I sat on the top row at M&T Bank Stadium, powering through what had to be similar temperatures to those typically displayed on the thermostats used by penguins and polar bears.

But all of the shivering and complaining aside, it was glorious.

And I've been riding the high of that night all of the way through the COVID-19 pandemic, through the image of empty stadiums around the world, through the suspension and resumption of both the NBA and NHL seasons last year and through the reintroduction of fans to arenas over the last few months.

As many sports fans have over the last 18 months, I've been fiending for the opportunity to watch a game in-person, to cheer in unison with thousands of people who share the same passion as you, to act

See **STADIUMS**, page B5

'I HAD TO DO SOMETHING' DURING PANDEMIC

Virtual classes, on-demand videos kept Ara's martial arts studio afloat



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The advanced class at A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy (top row, from left to right: Eli Ara (black), Antonio Ara; middle row, from left to right: Vennus Paz, Zach Riggsbee, Fischer Pike, David Jiminez; bottom row, from left to right: Yoxander de la Cruz, Canne Applewhite) poses for a group shot following their class on Monday.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Practicing martial arts is inherently known as an in-person activity, since sparring with and learning from instructors and other pupils is a core aspect of mastering any fighting art form.

From having your form corrected in real-time to understanding new moves through demonstrations and repetition, in-person instruction allows students of all ages to learn in environments tailored to their skillsets and interests, where they can focus on nothing but honing their abilities.

But as the COVID-19 pandemic raged on last year, most martial arts studios across the country — including Siler City's A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Acad-

emy — were forced to step away from training in-studio and shift to an entirely new location: students' homes.

"During the pandemic, we kept all of our students doing virtual classes," Antonio Ara, owner of Siler City's A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy, told the News + Record. "I have a virtual class platform and we'd make videos and try to keep students busy training."

Taekwondo has been a part of Ara's life for 38 years, his journey starting when he was just 9 years old still living in Cancun, Mexico.

In nearly four decades in the sport — nearly three as a competitor and business owner — he's won plenty of competitions, qualified for the Mexican Olympic Trials in taekwondo at the age of 18 and built up one of Chatham County's most notable martial arts studios in A.F.E. TKD.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy student Emely Sorto throws a kick during the beginner's class on Monday. Her yellow belt signifies that she's been practicing at the studio for at least 6 months.

However, despite his wide range of experience combined with his deep love for taekwondo, nothing could prepare him for the coronavirus pandemic. It consistently tested his studio's ability to retain members, create revenue and foster the sense of community he's been building for nearly a decade in Siler City.

"During all of that, I would spend hours in the dojo making videos," Ara said. "(My daughter) offered virtual classes online every Sunday. ... Keeping the people interested, that's the biggest challenge and we spent a lot of hours, time, to try and make it happen."

Even with no in-person classes, the cost of an A.F.E. TKD membership remained the same price to soften the revenue-losing blow of those canceling

See **MARTIAL**, page B4

What I learned from COVID-19

I tested positive for COVID-19. After 15 months of carefully avoiding the virus by limiting contact with large groups, wearing a mask and getting vaccinated, it finally got me.

Following my second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, I slowly began easing my own restrictions. I still

wore my mask, but I definitely let my guard down a little bit when the spread seemed to slow down. The conflicting theories about what vaccinated people were allowed to do confused me, and I was willing to take the chance of seeing my friends after we were all jabbed.

I'm not sure where I contracted the virus and I'm equally not sure when I first had it, because I had some sort of symptoms for four weeks.

It started out as a mild sore throat. And when I say mild, it didn't really feel that out of the ordinary. After watching

Giannis Antetokounmpo drop 50 points in a clincher against the Suns, I figured I'd started to lose my voice.

Two days later, it was gone, but my sinuses felt a little more clogged than usual. Again, nothing that even made me feel that sick. I packed and then unpacked my entire college apartment during this time and didn't take a single day to relax. It was unclear to the nurse whether these symptoms were COVID-19 or made my body vulnerable to it in the coming days.

When I moved into my new apartment in Columbia in early August, I developed a cough. It wasn't the dry cough that everyone else seemed to be getting and it wasn't anywhere near the worst I've ever had, but at that point, I'd had enough of feeling off and went to get tested. I just wanted to figure out what was wrong.

That cough remained for nearly two weeks. It felt like my body was trying to get rid of the junk in my chest and that was its way of doing so.

And that was it. Those were my

symptoms. Thankfully it seems that the vaccine did its job and protected me from any serious illness. Prior to the creation of the vaccine, most college students I know had developed a fever, a loss of taste and smell and significant fatigue. I had none of those.

The worst I felt was the day of my grandpa's funeral, but that was because I couldn't be with my mom.

The first few nights after I learned that I had tested positive were difficult. In general, one of my greatest worries is getting sick, and hearing that you contracted a deadly virus isn't comforting for anyone. And I was alone, nearly two hours away from my parents.

I debated going home, but because my symptoms were manageable on my own, I didn't want to chance getting my family ill.

I wasn't exactly productive during my quarantine. I had heard stories of people developing new hobbies or watching a new show during their extended isolation. But not me. I watched baseball. A lot of it.

For three consecutive nights, I was probably one of eight people in the state of Missouri watching the San Diego Padres vs. the Miami Marlins at 11:30 p.m. I FaceTimed friends while streaming a random Blue Jays-Mariners game and saw Tim Anderson hit a ball into the Iowa cornfields.

I'm not much of an introspective person. But lemme tell ya, when you're stuck in a house by yourself for 10 days, you've got some time for thinking.

During those 10 days of isolation, I feel like I grew up. I had always told myself that if I got sick at college, I'd call my parents and come home. In reality, I didn't need them. Of course, I appreciated the grocery deliveries and packages they sent, but I realized that I could take care of myself, too.

And while I'm not grateful for COVID-19, I do feel that I became stronger because of it.

CN+R Intern Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Maxbaker_15.

YELLOW JACKETS 62, CHARGERS 0

Northwood trounced by Lee County in season-opener

BY MITCHELL NORTHAM
News + Record Correspondent



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood's football team charges out of the endzone before a game against Lee County last Friday in Pittsboro. The Chargers ended up losing their season-opener, 62-0, after lightning postponed Friday night's game into late Saturday morning.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood's Jalen Paige (3) searches for a hole to run through against Lee County last Saturday in Pittsboro.

PITTSBORO — Sometimes, in football, one team is the bug and the other is the windshield. Against Lee County, the Northwood High School Chargers were bewildered insects, blindsided by a semi-truck, leaving their mistakes exposed and splattered all over the field. Mother Nature attempted to intervene in the lopsided contest, but not even she could prevent the Chargers from taking a beating.

In a game played over the course of two days due to untimely lightning shooting across the Friday night sky, the Lee County Yellow Jackets ran over, around and past the Northwood Chargers on their way to a dominant, season-opening 62-0 road victory.

When the contest ended beneath the hot sun Saturday afternoon, after the clock ran continuously for the second half, Lee County (1-0) had accumulated 471 yards of total offense to Northwood's 73.

"They're a much more athletic team than us right now," third-year Northwood coach Cullen Homolka said after the loss. "We got to learn from it. We got to move on and we got to get mentally tougher. We got to get physically tougher. We got to start doing things disciplined. You know, all the discipline that we had, that we've worked so hard for, it was like it was just forgot

about the second the whistle blew."

The Chargers (0-1) looked far from the team that finished last spring's regular season with a 6-3 record and won a playoff game. Northwood didn't register a first down until the end of the second quarter, thanks to a four-yard burst up the gut from senior Dashaun Vines-McSwain. But with time expiring and the Chargers trailing 48-0 by then, it was difficult to build momentum from that small slice of positivity.

Northwood didn't register its second first down until the final drive of the game off of a five-yard scamper. It drew a cheer from the smattering of Northwood fans enduring the heat Saturday afternoon, but the promising drive fizzled out with a

whimper just four plays later.

"We got to get back to our basics," Homolka said. "Right now, we got guys that are being impatient and they're jumping to conclusions before the play happens and not trusting the process. And those are the things that we got to work on."

On the other side of the ball, the Chargers didn't seem to have an answer for the right arm of Yellow Jackets senior quarterback Will Patterson, or the quick legs and sharp vision of sophomore running back BJ Brown Jr.

Play stopped Friday night around 7:40 p.m. because of the inclement weather, and resumed at 11 a.m. on Saturday. Patterson, Brown and the Yellow Jacket offense were unfazed by the sus-

pension.

By the time the first lightning delay was called Friday night — with 10:29 remaining in the second quarter — Patterson had already torched Northwood's defense for touchdown strikes of 23 and 50 yards. He threw his first score through the air while facing a bit of pressure, but Lee County's TJ Johnson leapt into the air and snagged the jump ball in the end zone for the opening score of the game.

In all, Patterson threw for 216 yards and four touchdowns.

Brown notched the second touchdown of the day for Lee County, taking a handoff from Patterson before slicing into end zone untouched. He totaled 112 rushing yards on 13 carries for the Yellow Jackets.

For Northwood, Vines-McSwain and Jalen Paige paced the offense, with the smash-and-dash duo combining for 56 yards of the Chargers' offense. Northwood did not attempt a pass in the game, sticking to their conservative style amidst the blow-out, but both Will Smith and Carson Fortunes saw action under center.

Of the few positives that Homolka saw in the unbalanced outcome was the effort some of his budding players displayed, and the resiliency shown by a few of his veterans.

"There's some young kids that showed up with

some heart today and some older guys that tried to lead the team," Homolka said.

Northwood, the reigning co-champs of the Big Eight Conference, will attempt to get back on track in Siler City on Friday, Aug. 27, in a road contest against Jordan-Matthews, who also endured a shutout loss, 45-0, to Southwestern Randolph on Friday.

"The depth chart will change," Homolka said. "We're going to evaluate the film. We're going to figure out who wants to be out there. And those are the guys we're going to play."

JETS

Continued from page B1

head coach, said. "We gave him too much space and he made us pay."

From that point forward, J-M scored two insurance goals — including one on a header by Paul Lujan off of a beautiful deep pass from Armando Rocha in the 60th minute, followed by a goal of Hernandez's own in the 68th minute — that sealed the victory.

With just 20 minutes left to play and the Jets leading 3-1, a vibrant flash of lightning in the sky forced the 30-minute delay, despite no rain, due to the NCHSAA's inclement weather guidelines.

Even after the break — which saw all of the players, coaches and spectators head into the school to wait out the lightning — J-M never faltered, aside from a goal by Northwood's Gabriel de Bueno that was erased by an offsides call.

"We have some firepower up front, so we want to be able to distribute that as much as possible and not be one-dimensional," Paul Cuadros, in his 20th season as the Jets' head coach, said after the game. "It's very dynamic, so it's really difficult to defend against them, because they're tricky, too. They're going to dribble around you, cut inside you, cut outside you or just flat-out beat you on the run."

For most of the contest, namely the first half, the Chargers' defenders were up to the task of defending J-M's speed and agility.

Northwood midfielder Walker Johnson was one of the stars of the show, singled out by Forster for his ability to lock down the middle and "(bring) great energy" on the field.

The Chargers' keeper, Jay Callis, had 10 saves on the night and was visibly one of the team's biggest leaders, consistently communicating with his teammates using callouts that could be heard



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Adam Beaulieu slices the ball downfield in his team's 4-1 loss to Jordan-Matthews last Thursday in Siler City. The Chargers' lone goal came in the first half of the game.

from even the highest part of the stands.

Yet, the second half proved that you can only hold the Jets back for so long.

"J-M produced two absolute quality playoff-type goals in their first game of the season," Forster said, "so you've gotta tip your cap to them."

Despite the Jets' three-goal win, the game was much closer than the final score indicates.

In the first half, Northwood opened up the game's scoring with a goal by Gabriel Chirino on a deep assist from Adam Beaulieu. Chirino waited for Ricardo Rocha, the Jets' keeper, to step up in the box before slotting a shot to the left side of the net and giving his team a 1-0 lead.

It took until the 27th minute for J-M to get on the board, which came off of a shot by Zander Ocampo on a gutsy pass from Lujan.

The half wasn't the cleanest for the Jets, who got beat a few times by the speed of Northwood's Chirino and Jose Enamorado, but taking a 1-1 game into the break felt like a win for both teams, who were

locked into a competitive rivalry match with stormy conditions looming.

Cuadros credits some of the team's first-half struggles to nerves and emotions.

After all, it was the Jets' first time on the field this season compared to it being Northwood's third game in four days.

"It was just (about) settling down since this is our first game," Cuadros said. "I think if we had a scrimmage before, we would be much more on point. Guys are learning new positions, guys are learning how to handle their feelings and nerves and all that kind of stuff."

But J-M wasted no time taking over the final 40 minutes, shutting the Chargers out for the remainder of the game while knocking in three goals of their own throughout the half.

"In the first half, we were definitely not winning as many balls as we should have, so that really allowed Northwood to stay in the game," Cuadros said. "Once we kind of cemented that and locked that down, then we began to find opportunities."

Thursday's contest marked the Jets' first win over the Chargers since 2017, having gone 0-1-1 against them over the last three seasons, including a 7-0 thrashing by Northwood during the 2019 season.

"There's no doubt about it, it's a rivalry game," Cuadros said. "It's always an interesting game because of that. The boys are going at each other, so it has a bit of a playoff-level experience to it because people want to win for pride for the county."

Coming off of a 10-2, conference title-winning season that saw them win a playoff game before falling in the second round, the Jets are primed — with three all-conference returners and plenty of veteran leadership — to compete for the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference title this season.

And the Chargers, who earned two wins against Seaforth and Carrboro by a combined score of 8-1 before falling to the J-M on Thurs-

day, have a great shot to do the same in the Central 3A.

"In the end, this is a rivalry game and we lost, so now we have to learn from the loss and see how we can improve from here as a team," Forster said. "I hate it for our seniors and I

hate to lose, but we will be better because of this game. Hopefully, we have a great season ahead and J-M does as well."

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



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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

We're finally back with our first full version of the Chatham County Athletics Rundown since June 30. Balance has been restored. This week, at least one of Chatham's varsity football programs — currently 0-3 combined — is bound to get a win, thanks to the Friday matchup between Jordan-Matthews and Northwood. Plus, cheerleading, cross country, women's golf, men's soccer, women's tennis and volleyball are in full swing, making for what is shaping up to be a great week of local sports action, per usual. Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, August 25

Golf: Chatham Central women at Southern Alamance (North Rowan also participating), 4 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Charter women at Franklin Academy, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women vs. Chatham Central, 4:30 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter men vs. Cornerstone, 5 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham

Charter women at Clover Garden, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Northwood women at Lee County, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men vs. Apex, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 26

Tennis: Northwood women at Union Pines, 4 p.m.
Cross Country: Northwood hosting Chatham County Championships (against Chatham Charter, Chatham Central, Graham, Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth), 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Charter women vs. Cornerstone, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Seaforth women vs. Southern Wake, 4:30 p.m.
Cross Country: Chatham Charter at Triangle Math and Science Academy (against Clover Garden, River Mill, Southern Wake, Triangle Math & Science and Woods Charter), 5 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Central women at Southern Lee, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Northwood women vs. Seaforth, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Woods Charter women at River Mill, 6 p.m.
Friday, August 27
Soccer: Woods Charter men at Neuse Charter, 2 p.m.
Tennis: Northwood

women vs. Carrboro, 4:30 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men at West Johnston, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter men at N.C. Leadership Academy, 7 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women at N.C. Leadership Academy, 7 p.m.
Football: Chatham Central at South Davidson, 7:30 p.m.
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. Northwood, 7:30 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Raleigh Charter (played at Wake Med, NCSCA Kick-off Classic)

Saturday, August 28

Soccer: Woods Charter men at DSA, 9 a.m.
Soccer: Northwood men at West Carteret (played at Wake Med, NCSCA Kick-off Classic), 11 a.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, August 16

Soccer: The Woods Charter men suffered a four-goal road loss to the Eno River Bobcats, 6-2, in their season-opener.
Volleyball: The Seaforth women won their first-ever game as a program against the Southern Wake Academy Lions in dominating fashion, 3-0.
Soccer: The Northwood men defeated the Seaforth Hawks, 5-0, in their season-opener at home. Scoring for the Chargers were junior Gabriel Chirino, senior Ayden Turner, junior Noah Hyman, senior Martin Gallegos and junior Benjamin School-

craft, each with one goal apiece.

Tuesday, August 17

Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women fell to the North Moore Mustangs in their season-opener, 3-1.
Volleyball: The Woods Charter women lost a close season-opening match to the Eno River Bobcats, 3-2.

Wednesday, August 18

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women earned a season-opening victory over the Union Pines Vikings, 5-4. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were senior Lorelei Byrd (6-2, 6-1), senior Emily Stecher (6-2, 6-3) and junior Lillie Jones (6-1, 6-3), while the duos of senior Ashlyn Hart & Byrd (8-5) and Stecher & Jones (8-4) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews women lost a lopsided season-opening match, 8-1, to the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, with sophomore Jillian Bogart being the lone Jet to win her singles match (7-6, 5-7, 10-7).
Soccer: The Chatham Charter men were trounced in their season-opener, 9-0, by the N.C. Leadership Academy Falcons.
Volleyball: The Chatham Central women lost their season-opener to the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 3-1, with Bears' sophomore Cassie McKeithan leading the way with 8 kills (36.4 kill %).
Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women

earned their first win of the season on the road against South Davidson, 3-1.

Volleyball: The Seaforth women were swept by the Northwood Chargers, 3-0, in their first home loss as a program.

Soccer: The Northwood men defeated the Carrboro Jaguars on the road, 3-1. Scoring for the Chargers were senior Ayden Turner (2 goals) and junior Javier Bautista (1 goal).

Thursday, August 19

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women earned their first win of the season in a 3-0 sweep of the Vandalia Christian Vikings. Leading the Bears were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (6 kills) and sophomore Cassie McKeithan (5 kills).
Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women fell to the Eno River Bobcats, 3-0, at home.
Volleyball: The Northwood women swept the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 3-0.

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women swept the Research Triangle Raptors, 3-0, for their first win of the season. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Lexi Smollen (18 kills, 58.1 kill %), senior Ada Green (4 kills) and sophomore Emma Cope (4 kills).
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men earned a comeback win over the Northwood Chargers, 4-1, in their season-opener. Despite a second-half lightning delay, the Jets were able to score four unanswered goals to claim victory

against their inter-county rivals, primarily thanks to goals by Zander Ocampo, Alexis Ibarra, Paul Lujan and Brian Hernandez, all with one goal apiece. Scoring the lone goal for the Chargers was Gabriel de Bueno. See game report in this week's edition.

Friday, August 20

Football: Northwood was trounced by the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 62-0, in its season-opener, which was finished on Saturday morning after a lightning delay on Friday. The Chargers offense only mustered 73 total yards compared to the Yellow Jackets' 471 yards. See game report in this week's edition.

Football: Chatham Central lost a close game to the Trinity Bulldogs, 22-12, in its season-opener on the road.

Football: Jordan-Matthews was shut out in its season-opener, 45-0, by the Southwestern Randolph Cougars.

Soccer: The Woods Charter men were shut out by the Research Triangle Raptors, 5-0, to remain winless on the season (0-2).

Volleyball: The Northwood women earned a tournament victory, 3-2, over the West Forsyth Titans.

Saturday, August 21

Volleyball: The Northwood women fell in a tournament game against East Chapel Hill, 3-2, for the Chargers' first loss of the season.

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

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Jordan-Matthews High School partners with Mountaire Farms for premier athletic sponsorship

From Jordan-Matthews High School

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews High School is a long-standing staple in the Siler City community with over 900 students — and over 200 student-athletes. With an athletic program dating back to 1957, current Athletic Director Josh Harris has helped foster a new partnership between Jordan-Matthews and Mountaire Farms, the world's fourth-largest poultry production company that calls Siler City home for one of their processing plants. Jordan-Matthews Athletics plays a critical role in not just the school, but in the community as a whole. As the only high school in Siler City, there are dozens of opportunities for students to find the right sport or activity for them.

"Our school helps build the future of Siler City," J-M Vice Principal Mary Margaret Dark said. "We're always looking for new partnerships to help our students grow and Mountaire Farms has offered to help." Prior to their first football game on Friday night, Mountaire Farms had the chance to meet student-athletes who will benefit the most from this premier athletic sponsorship. "Mountaire Farms is proud to not only support youth in the community but also to foster an ongoing partnership with them," Mountaire Farms' Community Relations Manager Sasha Duncan said. "We have a large footprint in this town and we want to let people know that we have lots to offer — partnerships, learning opportunities, jobs and more."

Duncan said the partnership between Mountaire Farms and Jordan-Matthews High School includes financial support of the school's athletic department and working to build relationships with the school's faculty and staff. "A few weeks ago, we brought their Leadership Team lunch during their retreat, and last Tuesday we brought all 115 teachers lunch during their back-to-school kickoff," she said. "Going forward, we are working with several of their clubs and organizations to continue to grow the partnership. The Premier Athletic Sponsorship was just a starting point for both of our organizations. Mountaire is excited to grow the partnership in any way." "Our school is really excited about this partnership," J-M Athletic Director Josh Harris said. "Our buildings are just a half-mile away from each other, so it made sense for us to combine efforts and work together."



Submitted photo

Mountaire's Sasha Duncan (holding banner, left) and Carl Barnes (beside Duncan) pose with Jordan-Matthews Athletic Director Josh Harris and athletes. Mountaire has become a premier sponsor of J-M's sports teams.

MARTIAL

Continued from page B1

their memberships. Before the pandemic, Ara said his studio had upwards of 150 students attending classes as his business continued to grow, but last year, that number dropped anywhere from 50-85% at a given time, with the number of active memberships falling to as low as 20-30 students in total at its worst. "We didn't make any videos (before the pandemic), but I decided to do it because I wanted to keep the business," Ara said. "I had to do something because the people didn't want to pay (without classes) ... and they (were) canceling (their memberships), so I couldn't support my family and I couldn't support the business. I made that decision (to go virtual) because I had to do something to keep my program going." On top of live virtual classes and pre-recorded videos, students had access to occasional one-on-one, private in-person sessions with Ara with social distancing guidelines in place that they might have taken once a week, with the rest of their week taking place online. While it wasn't the most ideal situation for such a hands-on sport, it scratched the taekwondo itch that some students had, allowed Ara to keep



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy students Fischer Pike (front) and Zach Riggsbee (back) practice their form during the advanced class on Monday.

the lights on and provided students with a way to continue their martial arts journey inside of their homes. It also kept some of Ara's students busy and gave them a sense of belonging during such a difficult time, one where isolation was commonplace. "To be honest about the pandemic, a lot of people have been feeling depressed, especially a lot of kids," Ara said. "So one of the main reasons I kept my program was because a parent might say, 'What am I going to do with my son? What am I going to do with my daughter?' and I'd say, 'I'm here for you.'" By March of this year, A.F.E. TKD had re-opened its doors for in-person classes — COVID-19 guidelines still in place — giving Ara a chance to rebuild the success that his business saw pre-pandemic. Video production and

virtual classes effectively stopped once the studio re-opened, but new (or returning) students still have access to all of the online content produced during A.F.E. TKD's shutdown, allowing students to remain online for now if they're still uncomfortable with coming into the studio. Ara said his student count — a mix of returning and brand new members — is gradually increasing, with more and more showing up each month, but some months are more consistent than others. Like the rest of the country, he isn't out of uncertain territory just yet. "All the work that I did is still available for everybody, so they can do physical or they can do online," Ara said. "Right now, I live day-by-day, work hard every single day. Whatever happens is going to happen. ... I do my best every single day to keep my students, to do things for the community. That's what I'm focused on."

A.F.E. TKD, which opened in Siler City in 2014, is one of the county's largest martial arts studios, offering taekwondo for a variety of skill levels and age groups, kickboxing, personal workout training and indoor soccer. One of Ara's selling points is his commitment to getting his students into more local, national and even international competitions, with plans to take a group to Las Vegas for the USA Taekwondo Grand Prix in 2022, an event that could pave the way for some of his students to make it to the U.S. Olympic Trials in taekwondo for the 2024 Summer Games in France. He's no stranger to important competitions or hardcore training, having taken 18 competitors to the 2021 North Carolina BODYARMOR State Games this past January, where his team took home 22 gold medals, seven silver medals and two bronze medals. "Like I tell all of my

students: if you train, it doesn't matter what color belt you are, it's just how much effort you put on the mat, how much you're training," Ara said. "If you're training hard, you'll get better. I have a strategy when I teach them because I know them, I know how I can put them at the next level ... and I've been seeing improvement." As things begin to return to normal for Ara's studio — which includes an important belt testing ceremony on Saturday, Aug. 28 — he continues to reinforce the importance of getting involved in martial arts, especially at a young age, and encourages anyone interested in taking taekwondo to give it a shot. He even offers a free trial class for any prospective students to test the waters before becoming a member. "It's not just about the kicking and punching, it's about the life skills that you learn through the process," Ara said. "They can do (typical sports like soccer), but that's temporary. You do one, two, three months, then it's over. Here, we're creating habits, to train your body and mind. That's a lot of benefits. ... I'm still encouraged that this program is one of the best programs in town." Ara's daughter and primary assistant, Eli, who's 14 years old and has been involved in

taekwondo since she was 2, agrees. "I like that I'm teaching (the kids) how to defend themselves, so I know they're going to be safe," Eli said. "I just love the kids. ... Once they get used to coming here, they start to have more confidence because it takes confidence to even get on the mat." For more information about taking classes at A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy, visit its website at www.afetkd.com or call 919-799-7500. Tuition for the taekwondo program starts at \$99/month. Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy owner, founder and master instructor Antonio Ara (front) practices his kicking form during the beginner's class on Monday. Ara has been practicing taekwondo for nearly 40 years.



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

August 26th through September 1st

Thursday, August 26th

- [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 27th

- [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 28th

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

Tuesday, August 31st

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

Wednesday, September 1st

- [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 📶 🦶
- [Chronic Disease Self-Management](#) at 2:00 PM 📶

📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

🦶 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**

💰 **Fee Required for Participation**

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THE CLIPBOARD | CHRIS CALLICUTT, CHATHAM CHARTER MEN'S SOCCER

With 15 players on roster, Knights' Chris Callicutt strives to rebuild Chatham Charter's soccer program

Last season, Chatham Charter was one of many 1A schools in the state to not field a men's (or women's) soccer team, citing both a lack of interest

and COVID-19-related challenges as primary reasons for the absence of action on the pitch.

But things are different this year, with the Knights playing their first soccer games since the 2019-20 season. Their journey to rebuild the program began with two straight losses to start the season — a 9-0 defeat to N.C. Leadership Academy on Aug. 18 and a 7-4 loss to Providence Grove on Monday — but the simple fact that soccer is being played at both Siler City high schools this year is plenty reason for excitement and optimism.

With Chatham Charter's season getting under way last week, the News + Record sat down with Knights first-year head coach Chris Callicutt to discuss the obstacles of restarting the Knights' program, his background in sports other than soccer and his outlook for the remainder of the season.

Callicutt is in his fourth year as a health & physical education teacher at Chatham Charter — three years at the middle school level, now at the high school level — taking over the men's soccer head coaching job this summer after former Knights head coach Scott Kidd became

the Town Manager of Liberty. (Kidd remains an assistant under Callicutt.) He has a playing/coaching background in both basketball and tennis, with soccer not being his "natural sport," he said, but he's gleaned enough knowledge from Kidd to make him confident enough to revitalize the Knights' program.

How does your basketball and tennis background help you become a better soccer coach? Obviously, there are a ton of differences but there are plenty of similarities.

CHRIS CALLICUTT: There's some athletic standpoints, as far as skills, that can correlate between all three, whether it be footwork, stamina, cardio, athleticism and things of that nature. Also, as far as the similarity with basketball, I feel that with spacing, defensive strategies and offensive strategies, there's a lot of stuff that you can pull from as far as play design and different formations that can sort of correlate between basketball and soccer that are somewhat similar, similar enough to where you can put them into place and the guys can understand them.

What made you want to take over a program that's rebuilding versus taking over another that already has the pieces in place?

Being a rural team, soccer is not going to be the natural first sport, so I saw it as an opportunity for myself to get some kids invested and interested in an opportunity and get them in a mindset that they

are going to be a part of something bigger, whether it be this year or two years or three years down the road, when we can restart something and make it into, eventually, an annual conference champion. That's the ultimate goal. But when you have teams in your conference who are more metro-oriented that have soccer clubs every weekend, things like that, you're put behind the 8-ball a little bit. But at the same time, that's what I like to build within my players. I like to give them a challenge and give them something to work for.

What are some of the challenges you've already experienced in trying to rebuild a program that didn't field a team last year?

Numbers, in general. Our first workout, I think we had four guys and now we're up to 15. So between the sheer willpower of the players to recruit their friends and say, "Hey let's be a part of this bigger thing, let's challenge ourselves, learn a new sport and get better every day," that's really a testament to the kids and how much they wanted to have a team.

That was one of our main challenges — just sheer numbers. And now that we have 15, we have a little bit of flexibility for injuries or anything that may happen — bad luck throughout the year. We still have a couple of subs that we can plug in. I pretty much play all of my guys every game to give them some experience. Now that the players have kind of worked themselves and gathered themselves up and

got some friends involved, we have plenty of kids now and we're looking forward to a good season.

And I would say another challenge would be the heat. With soccer, per NCHSAA rules, wet-bulb temperature is a big hot topic now. You've got to sort of check that before every practice and every game. You've got to have your hydration breaks. In a 90-minute practice, you may have to spend 20 minutes of that in a rest time. Just the safety of the kids, keeping them in shape and getting them in shape while at the same time being in the heat has been a little bit of a challenge.

When you saw just four players at the opening workout, what was going through your mind? How were you able to increase participation from that point forward?

I mean your core four that showed up were the guys who really wanted to play. I knew that if I challenged them that they would come through and they did. Then, they challenged others to come through. At the same time, I knew that (former Chatham Charter men's soccer head coach) Coach (Scott) Kidd said in his first workout two years ago, he only had five and he ended up with 11 or 12 that year. He said, "Coach, don't get discouraged. It's the first day. It's 97 degrees out here, it's 8 in the morning. Don't worry about it now, just get the kids working," and his advice paid off. He had been through kind of that process before of trying to field a team and did a good job with it, so he basically just said, "Stay optimistic and, hopefully, the kids will respond," and they did, for sure.

The season-opener against N.C. Leadership Academy didn't necessarily go the way you might have hoped it would, but that game aside, what are your expectations for your first season with the Knights?

Being a first-year head coach and with a lot of teams taking two years off with COVID, I'm not sure what all our conference has yet, so it's going to be kind of a feeling-out process. But I would love the challenge because we have, I think,

a lot of good pieces on our team that can do their roles extremely well and we're finding out who those guys are. There's some good pieces there, a good mix of experience, a good mix of athleticism and a good mix of good role players. I think we have a chance to be a good, cohesive team with the more reps we get. So the first month and a half here is going to be non-conference. We won't start our conference season until the beginning of October, so we're going to have, I think, seven or eight games before then to kind of work out the kinks, feel out the process and figure out who's going to be best at what spot. Last week during our game was the very first time that I had all 15 guys in the same spot at once. I was still adding guys the day before the game, so we hadn't even had a full team practice yet where we could scrimmage all together. It was very much a feeling-out process, plugin' and playin' to see who could fit where and just finding out what we have. It was more of a dry run, so to speak, and now we have a better feel because we've had a few more practices.

You've mentioned some of the good pieces you have on your squad, so who are some of those pieces and what are you looking forward to most about them?

On the defensive end, out of the 15 kids that I have, I only have two returners, if that tells you anything. One of those returners is Cedric Schwartz; he will be playing on the defensive side of the ball as a centerback, primarily. He brings experience, toughness, leadership and has all of the qualities you would want in a team leader. He doesn't give up, he encourages the guys, he's got some good size to him. He's just going to be a force to be reckoned with on that back line. He's a junior.

And then for our senior, I wasn't sure if he was going to play because it took a little coaxing, but I'm happy to see Casey Wanless return. He's going to be kind of our field general, which is what I'm going to call him because he's going to be in the midfield and sort

of working the ball along, helping on defense, distributing the ball on offense and finishing as needed on the front line. He's really embraced that leadership role and has almost turned into a senior assistant, so to speak, where he might take some of the younger guys who've never played before and show them a couple things while I'm working on another drill over on the other end of the field. He's been a great asset to our team since coming back.

On the offensive side, just to kind of round out each side, I'm really excited about a couple of younger guys that are coming in. That includes Aaron Kreiss; he's a German exchange student. He's coming to us as a sophomore and he'll be playing some striker and some midfield. He'll kind of float because he's that good with the ball on his feet. He has a lot of skill. He's a good finisher, good with the ball and just does a great job.

What should fans be excited about in the Knights' first season in two years?

You're going to see energy, regardless of what the scoreboard says, and you're going to see a lot of excitement from our guys and you're going to see us getting better with each game, each practice and each day. And I think with restarting a program from almost scratch with only two returners out of 15, I think that's all you can ask for in year one. And if we get the results that we want, then fantastic, whether that be a conference championship or we're in contention all year, that's great, but I think you're going to see the energy and the want-to from these guys. That never-give-up attitude and you're going to see that each and every day and, hopefully, we get better each and every day. You're just going to see the results come as we keep putting those aspects forward.

Chatham Charter's upcoming schedule

- Aug. 25 vs. Cornerstone (1-0)
- Aug. 27 vs. N.C. Leadership Academy (3-0)
- Aug. 31 vs. Bethany (1-1)

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STADIUMS

Continued from page B1

foolish when your team does something exciting and not be judged for it.

I've obviously been to plenty of high school games over the last seven months since joining the News + Record — too many to count at this point — and I've even attended a couple of minor league baseball games, but nothing compares to the atmosphere of a stadium that fits tens of thousands of people.

Professional (and college) sports just hit different.

And after a long wait of nearly two full years, that streak of 618 days — unlike my Orioles' current 18-game losing streak, longest in MLB since the 2005 Royals — was finally broken this past weekend.

Those same Ravens were in Charlotte last Saturday night to take on the Panthers in a preseason NFL contest, so it would have been a travesty for me not to be there.

Donning my no. 44 jersey with the last name of Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey on the back, I strode into Bank of America Stadium alongside my girlfriend, best friend from college and his girlfriend, with a grin on my face and a slight feeling of anxiety beginning to wash over me.

ed to be there? No doubt.

Was it a tad overwhelming being around a large group of people for the first time since the pandemic began? You bet.

According to ESPN, there were 68,061 fans in attendance for the Panthers' first home game of the season, 92% of the stadium's total capacity.

With the Delta variant leading to a large spike in COVID cases in N.C. — including a daily average of nearly 5,000 new cases per day in late August, compared to a little less than 2,000 cases per day at the end of July, per the NCDHHS — being around that many folks at once was, to put it simply, nerve-wracking, despite my vaccination status.

However, in our section, which was again towards the very top corner of the stadium, we weren't sitting side-by-side with anyone else, so once the game got started, my nerves settled down and things actually started to feel ... normal ... again.

While there have always been plenty of things I disliked about attending games, I found that this time, after having them stripped away from me for so long, I was actually grateful for the minor inconveniences that give stadiums their personality.

The trek from the base of the stadium to its summit — including the winding ramps and long staircases that are

required to be taken to get there — in the August heat was miserable, but yet, I was happy to do it.

I found myself unbothered by the closeness of the bathroom's urinals, the long lines to do just about anything and the occasional family of spectators that force you to stand up out of your seat so they can get by you.

I even handed the vendor my debit card with a smile as he charged me over \$25 for two beverages.

Ah, how I missed overpriced stadium food.

All in all, my favorite player, Lamar Jackson, may not have taken a snap in a fairly meaningless preseason contest — nor did plenty of other Ravens and Panthers starters — and the game might not have been game-of-the-year material (the Ravens won, 20-3, after the game was tied 3-3 at halftime), but simply being at an NFL game after so many days away made it just as fun, just as exciting and just as worth it as that frigid December night back in 2019.

Plus, the Ravens' win gave them their 19th-straight preseason victory, an NFL record streak that dates back to 2015.

Now that's one streak I'd be happy to see continue for eternity.

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

A guide to the Compact Communities Ordinance

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners' lengthy Aug. 16 meeting included three contentious public hearings, which included discussion and questions about rezoning requests and compact communities.

What is the county's compact communities ordinance? At prior board meetings, commissioners discussed the possibility of repealing or changing its compact communities ordinance, which was created 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.

"The CCO was adopted in 2004 to address Briar Chapel," County Planning Director Jason Sullivan told the News + Record, "and certain sections are outdated based on other regulations that have been adopted in the intervening years."

For example, the stormwater and riparian buffer provisions in the ordinance are no longer applicable because of other ordinances adopted or amended since 2004. Additionally, Sullivan said the CCO was designed for projects "with a bigger footprint" and developers of smaller projects submitting applications under the CCO are requesting waivers of the standards due to site

constraints.

"It is lengthy but does explain all the reasons the Chatham County Board of Commissioners adopted the CCO in 2004," Sullivan said of the proposed section. "I think the takeaway from this section is that the regulations in the ordinance are intended to implement all these objectives and are not intended to be options on a menu."

The full list of purposes outlined in the ordinance can be seen in the adjacent box. The top three reasons listed include helping implement the Chatham County Land Conservation and Development Plan, protecting Chatham's "rural character by adequately buffering compact communities from neighboring properties and roadways" and promoting new communities that support mixed-use development.

The CCO is restricted within a small area of the county, Sullivan said, and it allows up to two dwelling units per gross acre of land — the only regulation that allows a higher density.

"Otherwise, development densities range from one dwelling unit per acre to one dwelling unit per five acres," he said.

At the board's July 19 meeting, Commissioner Diana 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 ordinance 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 the time. "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."

Sullivan said the UDO is intended to "update, modernize and integrate" existing regulations into a single user-friendly document. It will also help implement the future vision of the county laid out in the 2017 Plan Chatham document (www.chathamcountync.gov/comprehensiveplan).

The Land Use Action Items recommends

Purposes for CCO, as listed in ordinance:

- A.** Help implement the Chatham County Land Conservation and Development Plan;
- B.** Protect Chatham County's rural character by adequately buffering compact communities from neighboring properties and roadways;
- C.** Promote new communities that support mixed-use development, anchored by a village center composed of commercial, civic, and residential uses that add to Chatham County's tax base, help residents meet their daily needs, and preserve Chatham County's small-town atmosphere;
- D.** Allow for compact village-style development surrounded by protected green space, at a size that is easily walkable and bikeable by residents of all ages;
- E.** Help meet the need for community facilities such as schools, stations for police, fire and EMS, recreation facilities, solid waste/recycling collection centers, libraries, and community centers on sites that are physically integrated into the community;
- F.** Ensure sustainable water provision and wastewater

treatment in a way that does not create a future economic burden for the taxpayers of Chatham County;

G. Protect Chatham County's water quality and water resources, minimize its energy use, reduce household transportation costs, and protect its air quality;

H. Establish a grid network of streets that provides multiple connections to different destinations, includes safe places for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel throughout the community, and allows for efficient transit service when and if it becomes available;

I. Include a mix of housing types that are architecturally consistent, designed to promote safe, walkable neighborhoods, and affordable to a range of residents in Chatham County;

J. Include neighborhood parks, active recreation areas, and larger open spaces throughout the community that are linked together by sidewalks and trails;

K. Provide greater environmental, economic, and social benefits to Chatham County when compared with conventional development.

creating a set of mixed-use zoning districts that can apply throughout the county, and the CCO is one of several ordinances referenced in Plan Chatham as an example of a starting point for

the creation of such new districts.

"Two consulting firms have been selected to draft the UDO," Sullivan said. "Contract negotiations are being finalized, and we hope to have it

underway in the next few weeks."

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

A new kind of inventory story

"Now we season it. Where's the salt and pepper?"



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

A blank look and a couple of very slow blinks. "I don't have any."

If the child had come to the door dressed in an Easter Bunny costume, I couldn't have been more shocked.

"You don't have salt and pepper? You can't cook without salt and pepper."

I was at the apartment of a young acquaintance, helping her, a very novice cook, make dinner.

I had a feeling we were in trouble when I looked at the recipe and asked where was the garlic.

Strike one. We were making a one-pot Alfredo. There were also no herbs, no cheese and no heavy cream.

You can tell dinner is less than a success when the best thing on the plate is a bagged salad with iceberg lettuce and red cabbage, topped with bottled Ranch.

The young woman had moved to town and into her own apartment back in the early spring. After all the boxes and furniture have been delivered and unpacked, then it should have been time

to stock the larder. The idea of a fully stocked pantry is to have enough varied provisions on hand so that when you cook, you only need to buy fresh stuff.

These recommendations are based on what our family eats, and the way I cook, but the fundamentals are there. Of course, the list will change according to your own tastes and any dietary restrictions.

First up are shelf stable goods. Flour, both all-purpose and cake flour, if you bake. White sugar, brown sugar and powdered sugar. Cocoa and leavening agents (baking powder and baking soda). Cornmeal. Vanilla extract, almond extract, cinnamon and whole nutmeg. Some dried fruit, oats, tea bags and coffee. Liquid sweeteners, like honey and maple syrup. And of course, kosher salt and pepper corns.

White, brown and wild rice. Pastas: one long type like linguine, one large, extruded pasta like cavatappi, and one small style. Grits — long cooked, they can act as a starch for any meal of the day. A bag of dry beans, and some canned; I usually have cans of garbanzo and pigeon peas.

Beef and chicken stock. Canned tomatoes and tomato paste. Chilis and tuna. Peanut or other nut butters. You need two types of oils, an extra virgin olive oil, and a light, neutral tasting oil with a high smoke point for frying; I use grape seed, but canola or peanut works well, too.

Flavorings and spices: Worcester-

shire sauce, and at least two types of vinegars. Dijon and whole grain mustard. Jarred spices, like smoked paprika, Chinese 5-spice, dry mustard, and spice blends (I love Caribbean adobo). As for herbs, fresh is usually best, but there are a few exceptions. Woodier herbs are okay, like bay leaf and rosemary. I also keep dried thyme on hand in case I can't get my hands on fresh.

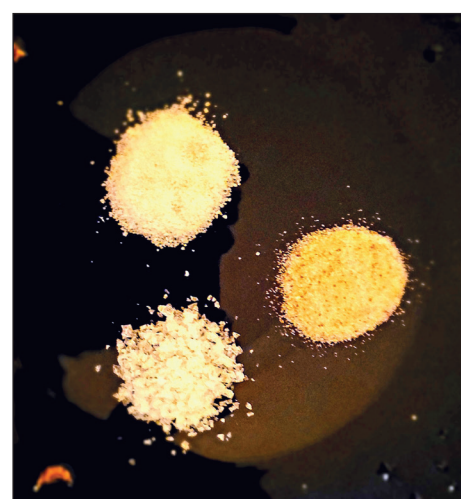
Fridge staples: mayonnaise, ketchup, pickles, capers, olives, sun-dried tomatoes, and jams and jellies. Depending on your uses, whole milk, skim milk and heavy cream or half-and-half. Eggs and butter.

Your freezer's also an important part of your pantry. Bread and cheeses will keep a long time, and you then have it when needed. A couple bags of frozen veggies and fruits. I keep peas, shoe-peg corn, and berries. Salad shrimp is also terrific to keep on hand because you can toss it into many dishes. I also keep nuts in the freezer. And don't forget ice cream.

In the produce trade, hardware is hardy, storable items. Apples, onions, shallots and garlic. As well as boiling and baking potatoes.

If your kitchen is well-stocked, you can then cook dishes without leaving home to pick up extra ingredients.

The first and most important purchase must be salt. It is necessary to our bodies, minds, and before refrigeration, safe consumption of preserved foods. Salt is so im-



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

The salts, from top, clockwise: Classic kosher, Pink Himalayan, and Malden Flakey Sea Salt.

portant, the first and most far-reaching act of civil disobedience by Gandhi was his 24-day salt march to the sea, in protest of the British monopoly and taxation of Indian salt.

Below is a recipe that is a clear illustration of what salt or the lack of it, can do to a dish. Think of salt as a wind that blows away the mist that obscures and diminishes flavor.

Thanks for your time. Contact me with questions and comments at dm@bullcity.mom.

Syracuse Salt Potatoes

Adapted from Allrecipes.com

Salt potatoes are a regional specialty of Syracuse, New York, a.k.a. The Salt City. Salt potatoes date to the 1800s, invented by local salt mine workers who created a simple and inexpensive lunch by boiling small potatoes in brine. The potatoes are still very popular today with the Central New York crowd, making an incredibly easy and delicious side dish.

- Ingredients
- 4 pounds new potatoes
 - 1 1/2 cups fine salt
 - 8 tablespoons butter, melted
 - 1/4 cup thinly chopped chives
 - 1/2 teaspoon freshly cracked pepper

Instructions

Wash the potatoes and set aside. Fill a large pot with water; stir in salt until it no longer dissolves and settles on the bottom. Place potatoes in the pot and bring to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are tender but firm, about 15 minutes. Drain; cover to keep hot.

While the potatoes are cooking, melt the butter in a small pan over medium high heat, or in microwave. Pour over potatoes, sprinkle on chives and pepper, and gently toss to coat. Serve immediately.



This Community ROCKS!

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



To DONATE:



For help or to help:



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

Thank YOU!

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

Promising yet derivative 'Reminiscence' proves forgettable

A Frankenstein's neo-noir, "Reminiscence" is a mélange of mystery and sci-fi tableaux. Written and directed by "Westworld" co-creator Lisa Joy, the film is like "Chinatown" mashed up

with "Blade Runner" and a patchwork of "Minority Report," "The Matrix," "Strange Days," and even "Vertigo."

If that description sounds tempting to watch, you would not be off-base. "Reminiscence" is a visual beaut, full of genre atmospherics and a first-rate cast. But for a narrative steeped in memories, the story proves as forgettable as it is derivative.

The headliner of the film is its milieu, a postmodern rendering of Miami after the tides have risen and the temps have skyrocketed. Set in the near future, flood waters have submerged most of the region, leaving two cities in its wake. The first, called the "Sunken Coast," resembles a dystopian Venice, where the hoi polloi have become nocturnal because it's too hot outside

REMINISCENCE

GRADE: C+

DIRECTOR: Lisa Joy

STARRING: Hugh Jackman, Rebecca Ferguson, Thandiwe Newton and Cliff Curtis

MPAA RATING: PG-13

RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 55 min.

during the daytime. Behind giant dam walls lies "Dry Land," where the wealthy live lives of preserved privilege.

The setting is the residue of decades of environmental decay and a border war the story tantalizingly hints at. A veteran of the war is Nick Bannister (Hugh Jackman), who is now a literal and figurative private eye. With his platonic partner Watts (Thandiwe Newton, making the absolute most out of a one-note role), he runs a business that allows people to recount and relive old memories using an aquatic sensory deprivation tank. One day in walks Mae (Rebecca Ferguson), the film's femme fatale, who shows up at closing time because she forgot where she



Courtesy of FilmNation Entertainment

Hugh Jackman and Thandiwe Newton star in 'Reminiscence.'

left her keys. The memory machine allows Bannister to both watch and record a subject's recollections, and he quickly learns that Mae is a bewitching yet melancholy lounge singer whose shapely crimson stage gown makes Nick go gaga. Nick tracks down Mae to return earrings she left behind (that old trick), and they embark on a whirlwind romance

that ends abruptly when Mae vanishes without a trace.

The overwhelming authenticity of "Reminiscence" is grounded in the notion that the hardboiled Nick would fall head-over-heels for Mae at first and only sight, then literally uproot his life, his career, and his relationship with Watts in order to track Mae down and find out why she ghosted him. That sort

of plot turn happens in films of this genre, but only after a genuine effort at relationship and romance building. In the context of the film's chronological hopscoching, Nick just comes off as rather stalkerish, and his obsession is not only dubiously believable but the entire premise of the film is grounded in it. Consequently, it is a fatal flaw that undercuts the rest of the film, no matter its other nominal merits.

Nick's single-minded search leads him to an Asian drug kingpin named Saint Joe (Daniel Wu), the family of a wealthy area land baron, the private life of a former client, and a crooked cop. There's infidelity, corruption, and murder, all held together by the thinnest sinew of contrivances and coincidences, none of it developed to its necessary extent.

"The past can haunt a man," growls Nick the narrator at one point, an example of the nondescript script at play here. "Reminiscence" holds your attention, from its visual palette to its world-building, performances, and the expectation of a plot payoff by film's end. Alas, the real reminiscence becomes of previous and better movies of this sort.

CCCC hosts College Connections experience

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Nine students successfully completed summer requirements for Central Carolina Community College's College Connections free first-year experience and have chosen to continue their academic journey at the college.

The no-cost program is designed to offer a cohort

of incoming freshmen the chance to prepare for college life, focus on career exploration, earn free summer course credit, enrich their academic skills and have fun with new friends. This cohort will have additional opportunities beyond the summer to earn micro credentials and stay engaged socially during their time at college.

The eight-week sum-

mer semester program included a free laptop and lunch each day. Students had the opportunity to meet more than 30 college faculty and staff who helped them decide on academic and career plans for their futures.

Student comments included:

• "All the faculty had great energy and inspired me to work toward my goals. I am so grateful for this experience."

• "This program means that I have a whole new world opened up to me. I learned how to use my computer in a way I never thought I could."

• "This program gives you opportunities that you won't experience anywhere else. It helps you find your passion, your drive, what you want to progress in life with. They also help you understand college life, and you get to meet

faculty."

• "This program means knowledge. It lets you know you are not alone."

Dr. Cristy Holmes, CCCC Associate Dean of University Transfer and Academy Advising, said the College Connections Experience positively impacted everyone involved.

"I'm not sure who was more excited about the opportunity, the students or the staff," said Dr. Holmes. "The

students were hungry to learn how to navigate college life. They were surprised by the variety of academic pathways, resources, and career opportunities open to them. Seeing the college through the students' eyes reminded me why we do what we do."

Those with questions about this program can contact Dr. Holmes at 919-718-7225 or by email at cholm786@cccc.edu.

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CCPHD COVID-19 UPDATE

Health Department only offering COVID-19 booster shots to the ‘moderately or severely immunocompromised’

CN+R Staff Report

Chatham County will offer booster COVID-19 shots to people with conditions that make them “moderately or severely immunocompromised,” the Chatham County Public Health Department announced in a release Wednesday afternoon.

- This includes the following individuals:
- Those who are receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
 - Those who have received an organ

transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system

- Those who have received a stem cell transplant in the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Those with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Those with advanced or untreated HIV infection, and those receiving active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may

suppress your immune response.

Booster shots are currently approved for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, making them a third dose of those vaccines. Officials have not yet recommended booster shots for people who got the one-time Johnson & Johnson vaccine, though they’ve said they anticipate eventually doing so.

CCPHD Director Mike Zelek said in the announcement to check with a doctor or medical provider if you fall into one of the above groups or are unsure. For now, booster shots are not yet

authorized for anyone else, and they do not expect them to be for another month. Until they are authorized, the health department said that it is not able to administer vaccines to others or schedule appointments for them, but will pass along more information as it becomes available.

Vaccines remain the most effective way to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death due to COVID-19, the release said. For a list of providers in Chatham County and beyond, visit Vaccines.gov.

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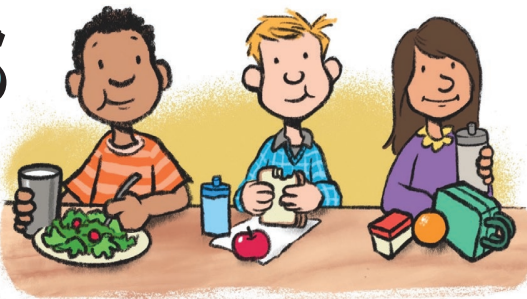
Kid Scoop .COM THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE

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Make New Friends Game!

Try this fun back-to-school activity. You might spot a new friend!



HOW TO PLAY BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO:

1. Make copies of the Back to School Bingo Game and pass them out among a group of kids around your age. These could be classmates, teammates, members of a club or even kids who live near you.
2. Each kid completes the information in each square. When you finish this, the Bingo Cards will have a lot of information all about each of YOU!
3. Share your cards with other kids and spot kids with similar answers.
4. When you spot a match, put your initials on each other's cards.
5. How many matches can you find?

BACK TO SCHOOL BINGO
A Make-New-Friends Game

Favorite subject: _____ Initial: _____	Birthday: _____ Initial: _____	Favorite ice cream: _____ Initial: _____	Where I was born: _____ Initial: _____
Favorite color: _____ Initial: _____	Favorite team: _____ Initial: _____	Favorite book: _____ Initial: _____	Favorite movie: _____ Initial: _____
Pencils or pens? _____ Initial: _____	Dogs or cats? _____ Initial: _____	Place you want to visit: _____ Initial: _____	Something you're good at: _____ Initial: _____
Favorite snack: _____ Initial: _____	Famous person you admire? _____ Initial: _____	Number of pets you have: _____ Initial: _____	Favorite game: _____ Initial: _____

Spot the Similarities

Sofia and Soren have a lot in common. Circle the things that are the SAME about Sofia and Soren.

I'm Sofia. These are just some of the things I enjoy.

I'm Soren. These are some of my favorite things.

Extra! Extra! All About Me

Look through the newspaper for pictures and words that describe you and things you like and cut them out. For example, if you see a picture of a taco, and that is a food you like, cut out the picture. Glue the pictures and words on a piece of paper and title it, "All About Me!"

Standards Link: Use a variety of media for art projects.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Missing Vowels The vowels are missing from this famous quote about kindness. Can you replace them all?

A = ☺ E = ☆ I = 🌸 O = ❤ U = ☾

“H _ m _ n k _ ndn _ ss h _ s n _ v _ r w _ k _ n _ d
 th _ st _ m _ n _ r s _ ft _ n _ d th _ f _ b _ r _ f
 fr _ p _ pl _ . A n _ t _ n _ d _ s n _ th _ v _
 t _ b _ cr _ l _ t _ b _ t _ gh .”

—Franklin D. Roosevelt
32nd President of the United States

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Follow simple written directions.

Double Double Word Search

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

FAVORITE SUBJECT
FAMOUS ADMIRE
SHARE VISIT
MOVIE BINGO
GAME PENS
BORN PETS
TEAM BOOK
DOGS

S F I G A M E N S D
S G F E R I M D A K
S N O A B I N G O P
U M E D V E I O B E
B O N P I O B O G T
J V F R S E R A H S
E I F R I N I I E N
C E D S T E A M T N
T F A M O U S O W E

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

Kid Scoop Together: Funny Fill-In Story

Ask a family member for each kind of word to fill in the blanks. Then read the story aloud for lots of laughs!

On the first _____ of school,
NOUN

I made a new friend. We have a lot
of _____ in common!
PLURAL NOUN

We both love to eat _____
ADJECTIVE

_____ for lunch almost every
PLURAL NOUN

day. And we both carry our lunch in
identical _____.
PLURAL NOUN

My friend is the only person I've
met who enjoys watching “The
_____ Show”
ADJECTIVE NOUN

more than I do! We also like a lot of
the same music, and our favorite
sport is competitive _____
NOUN

_____ racing.

Yesterday, I forgot to bring my
_____ to school. Guess who
PLURAL NOUN

had an extra one? That's right, my
new friend! So I was able to finish
the _____ book report
ADJECTIVE

I'd been working on.

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

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Final 'SNACK!' event feeds 700 people

CN+R Staff Report

BEAR CREEK — Chatham Outreach Alliance's summer "SNACK!" program — Summer Nutrition Assistance for Chatham Kids — hosted food distribution events at 10 different sites throughout the summer. The program wrapped up earlier this month with a final distribution at the Community Center on Mays Chapel Road in Bear Creek, where volunteers from the Union Taylors Community Action Association, the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and Chatham Trades provided food for about 700 people.

Fresh and shelf-stable foods were distributed with help from the Food Bank of Central and Eastern N.C., Dean Hawkins and Christina Boelkins of CORA, Michael Cotten, the branch director for the Food Bank, and workers from Taylors Chapel Church, Union Grove AME Zion and Mays Chapel Church, along with Jesse Ellerbe, the president of the Union Taylors Community Action Association.

Organizer Annie Taylor McCrimmon said that about eight years ago, the Community Center in Bear Creek was approved

by CORA Food Bank to be a distribution site. "This distribution season, we approached CORA about expansion, about moving our site from Taylors Chapel Church to our community center to accommodate more families," she said. "Their approval allowed us to approach the pastor of Taylors Chapel Church, Rev. Eugene Staton, with the proposal to make the offer to Union Grove Church and Mays Chapel Church to join us in this year's distribution."

The collaboration meant volunteer numbers increased exponentially, McCrimmon said. "In year's past, many times there would only be about four adults and a passel of kids carrying food items into the church," she said. "This year, Captain Steve Maynor and officers from the Chatham County Sheriff's Office made the heavy lifting so much lighter. Not only in terms of physically lifting boxes but also easing the burden on the small number of volunteers who have been vested in this worthwhile project for years. To be able to look around and see all these new arms willing to help carry what needed to be lifted was affirming!"



Volunteers Tamara Lamb (from left) and her sons Eli and David help out at the distribution. The Lambs are members of Mays Chapel Church, where Greg Lamb is pastor. Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Michael Cotten, branch director of the Food Bank of Eastern N.C., helps volunteers unload boxes of food. Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Annie McCrimmon and her son, Daniel, during a brief break at the CORA SNACK! event. Staff photo by Kim Hawks

'To be able to look around and see all these new arms willing to help carry what needed to be lifted was affirming!'

ANNIE TAYLOR MCCRIMMON,
Organizer



Chatham County Sheriff's Deputy Marcus Hart organizes Jesse Ellerby help distribute boxes of fresh produce. Staff photo by Kim Hawks

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**CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
Having qualified on the 2nd day of August 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **JUN CHEN** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of November 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 5th day of August,

2021.
W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Jun Chen
918 Olde Thompson Creek
Apex, NC 27523
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
All persons having claims against **JUDITH M. SEED, aka Judith Ann Seed aka Judith A. Seed [hereinafter 'Judith M. Seed']** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 16th day of May, 2021, are notified to present them to

David R. Seed, Administrator of the Estate of Judith M. Seed in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before November 18, 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

signed 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

**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 An-

drew Brent Elmore
1050 Bonlee Carbon-ton 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

**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 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

**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

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administrator CTA, of the Estate of **SANDY L. MOON, a/k/a SANDRA FAYE MOON-BLOX-SOM** 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 November 30, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
This the 26th day of August, 2021.
Ronald P. Collins, Administrator CTA of the Estate of Sandy L. Moon a/k/a Sandra Faye Moon-Bloxsom
117 West Raleigh Street
Siler City, N. C. 273444
(919) 663-2533
Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tc
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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**
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1015 Alston Bridge Road • Siler City, NC

Join the News + Record's Team

**HELP WANTED
Delivery Drivers**

The Chatham News + Record is seeking part-time drivers to assist in the delivery of newspapers on Wednesday or Thursday mornings. Ability to lift 25lbs, work in various weather conditions and a valid NC drivers license is required.

Please email resume and references to Jason Justice at jjustice@chathamnr.com

Chatham News + Record

EOE

Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:

Town of Siler City proposes the following text amendments to the UDO: §148(c) Multi-family Downtown Development (parking requirements).

The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item.

The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, provid-

ing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 231

All persons having claims against **EDWARD HERMAN SILER aka EDWARD HERMAN SILER, SR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th 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 26th day of August, 2021.

Edward Herman Siler II, Executor
c/o J. Ray Deal, Attorney
Deal Law Firm
3017 South Church Street
Burlington, NC 27215
Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tp

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Haren Construction Company, Inc. is seeking qualified Small/Minority/Women Business Enterprises (S/MWBE) for construction of the Siler City, NC - Water Treatment Plant Impvs - Phase 2 Project. Subcontractor and supplier opportunities include but not limited to: Electrical, Concrete Formwork, Rebar Placement/Supply, Doors, Metal Roof, Metal Stud Building, Erosion Control, HVAC, Painting, Hauling, Paving, Fencing, Gypsum Board, Wood Frame Canopy, Cement Fiber Board Exterior, and Insulation. Quotes received by E.O.B 09/06/2021. Please contact Samantha Nelson at 423-604-3038 for information.

Au26,1tp

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION 21 CVD 509

Rosa Ester Arita Oliva, Plaintiff, v. Victor Vazquez Navarro, Defendant

TO: Victor Vazquez Navarro, Defendant.

TAKE NOTICE that a Complaint has been filed against you in the civil action described above, for the purpose of obtaining legal custody of your minor child, Indayani Vazquez Arita. You are required to file a written Answer with any Defenses with the CHATHAM County Clerk of Superior Court at 40 E. Chatham Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312. You must also serve copies on the plaintiff's attorney (address below). Your response is due within forty (40) days of the first date of this publication. This publication begins the 26th day of August, 2021. Signed, Valeria Cesanelli, Attorney for Plaintiff

431 Magdala Place
Apex, NC 27502
Ph. (919) 923-1577
Au26,S2,S9,3tp

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS DIVISION

In re: **21 SP 81**
To: The Unknown Father of A.D.M

TAKE NOTICE that a petition seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action by Petitioners, Robin Martin and Darius Martin. The nature of the relief being sought is the entry of an order of adoption. You are required to make a defense to such pleading not later than November 9, 2021 said date being more than thirty (30) days from the first publication of this notice, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service against you shall apply to the court for the relief sought. Upon information and belief, A.D.M. was conceived in Chatham County, North Carolina, and the biological mother of A.D.M is Victoria Allyse Martin. Date

of conception is believed to be on or about April, 2018. Please further note that any parental rights that you may have will be terminated upon the entry of the order of Adoption. Lillie S. Ashworth, Associate Atty. Marshall & Taylor, PLLC 221 Glenwood Avenue Raleigh, NC 27603
Au26,S2,S9,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 467

All persons having claims against **ANN RIVES ZAPPA**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th 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 26th day of August, 2021. Cynthia Cole, Executrix 281 WB Cheek Dr Chapel Hill, NC 27517
Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tp

PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Traffic circle construction to finish 6 weeks early

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's traffic circle renovation project is nearing completion ahead of schedule, seven months after work began, according to Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy.

The historic roundabout will not close to through traffic as it did from winter through early summer, Kennedy said in the board of commissioners' regular meeting Monday, but individual lane closures may slow vehicles as road crews install final layers of pavement.

"Most of the paving that's not done at night — if it's done during the day — will be conducted via lane shifts," he said. "So the traffic circle will remain open, but the lanes will be shifted."

Tractor trailers may have difficulty navigating the narrowed path, but "they're supposed to be diverting the circle anyhow," Kennedy said.

The iconic traffic circle's functional and aesthetic overhaul began in January to make it safer for pedestrians and drivers. The \$2.48 million project has included milling and resurfacing of the circle and about 250 feet of roadway stemming from it in each direction. The joint venture between NCDOT and the town is being performed by Carolina Sunrock LLC of Raleigh.

Completion was scheduled for late October of this year, but workers are on track to finish six weeks early. After laying pavement through Tuesday, crews will allow the road to cure before performing final touch-ups in mid-September.

"Presuming everything goes well," Kennedy said, "they're looking to come

back in on Friday, September 17, and Saturday, September 18, if need be, to do all the decorative crosswalks on that new asphalt surface as well as apply any other painting or thermo."

The traffic circle carries U.S. 15-501 and U.S. 64 Business through the heart of Pittsboro. Its enhancement is the first phase of a broader project to improve about two miles of U.S. 15-501 in Pittsboro, widening and constructing roadway and streetscape improvements between south of U.S. 64 Business and Powell Place Lane near the bypass. Proceeds from the sale of Build NC bonds were earmarked to pay for \$1.5 million of the construction of the first phase.

Other news

The board of commissioners voted on two annexation requests, approved a preliminary plat and discussed Chatham Park's small area plan in its regular meeting Monday, but deferred some agenda points in the interest of time.

The board also entertained a presentation from the N.C. Dept. of Transportation on design alternatives for the North Chatham Park Way, which threatens to bisect the private North Woods community. See full coverage of the presentation and its ensuing discussion in this edition.

• The commissioners approved an annexation request from The Rexford Group Ltd, for about 197 acres west of Old Graham Road and north of the U.S. Hwy. 64 Bypass. The request was previously subject to a legislative public hearing first opened at the board's July 26 meeting and continued to its August 9 meeting.

• The board approved an annexation request from ECO Northwood MUPD

LLC for 2.89 acres along the northwest corner of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 and the U.S. Hwy 64 Bypass. The board conducted a legislative public hearing on the request at its August 9 regular meeting.

• The board also approved a preliminary plat at ECO Northwood MUPD LLC's request for 34.78 acres. The property will be divided into eight lots to be used for commercial, retail, residential and open space.

• Chatham Park Investors' small area plan for the 2,225-acre North Village has been the topic of frequent discussion at board of commissioner meetings. The small area plan would cover 11 of 27 sections which will make up the entire 7,068-acre Chatham Park development, according to the Chatham Park master plan.

In each discussion, members of the public and the board have taken issue with various facets of the small area plan including the environmental impact it permits and several design features. In Monday's meeting, the commissioners agreed to submit their complaints in writing to town staff who will try to arrange for a special meeting on the subject.

Deferred agenda items

The board's previous regular meeting on August 9 did not adjourn until almost 2 a.m. (meetings begin at 7 p.m.), an eventuality the commissioners hoped to avoid on Monday.

"At about 10 o'clock," Mayor Jim Nass said at the meeting's start, "I think we should just pause and see where we're at and decide what we want to continue on with and what we might need to defer given the lateness of some of our


meetings in this last while."

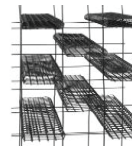


At 10 o'clock, the board decided to open and immediately continue two public hearings until its next meeting: one

on the Chatham Park development agreement, and a second to include several potential zoning text amendments to the town's Unified Develop-

ment Ordinance.

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



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