

Chatham News + Record

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Students glad to be back, but weary as COVID lingers



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham County Schools Superintendent Anthony Jackson visits Northwood High School last Tuesday morning as part of his first week of school tour. CCS started school Aug. 23.

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

Every year of Oliver Ewy's high school career has taken place during a pandemic.

That's why Ewy, a junior at Northwood High School, is excited to finally go to school in-person every day of the week.

"I enjoyed it, it was a little different," he said of the first week of school. "It is nice to have a somewhat normal schedule, like before the pandemic. And I'm definitely glad also that a lot of activities have

returned."

Chatham County Schools started classes last Monday, marking the third year impacted by COVID-19 and the first with daily in-person school since before the pandemic. Students and staff still wore masks, regardless of vaccination status, in response to the spread of the Delta variant and guidance from public health officials.

A spectrum of opinions among students and staff exist regarding masking in schools, but nearly all are pleased to learn daily in the school

building. Following more than a year of COVID-19-related obstacles — increased workload for teachers, remote learning, isolation for students and mental health and academic challenges — there's a strong communal desire to stay in schools, and to do so safely. The disagreement centers around what is safe and what isn't, even as health officials unifiedly recommend masking and social distancing.

"We still have the mask mandate for school, and I really

See **SCHOOL**, page A3

'Living sermons': Black and Latino churches lead faith vaccination efforts

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For Father Julio Martinez, talking about the coronavirus vaccine with his parishioners at St. Julia's Catholic Church isn't a burden or political conundrum.

It's his sacred duty.

"From the very beginning, I have been very proactive and very straightforward with our people about getting vaccinated," Martinez said. "God has given us the ability to develop the vaccine, and so I have promulgated getting vaccinated among our people here at St. Julia's and I will continue to do that — to the point that perhaps some people may get a little sick of me throwing in my two cents."

The church's congregation, which is more than 80% Hispanic, was hit hard at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. Though Chatham's population is about 12% Hispanic, 32% of its total confirmed coronavirus cases are among Hispanic residents, according to the state's COVID-19 data. After a number of his parishioners fell ill with the virus, Martinez wanted to see his congregants protected through the vaccine.

Throughout the pandemic, some Christians — particularly white Republican evangelicals, national studies and polls have consistently shown — have earned a reputation for being "anti-vaxxers," staunchly against getting vaccinated and wearing masks. The debate over vaccines and masking has become deeply politicized, and though health experts uniformly recommend such protocol, many institutions have avoided making declarative statements about COVID-19 to avoid alienating people — including churches.

Yet, churches like St. Julia's have worked to decrease vaccine hesitancy and refusal. Across Chatham, other churches are tackling vaccinations in their congregations, with Black and Latino churches leading the effort by sharing information



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

'God has given us the ability to develop the vaccine and so I have promulgated getting vaccinated among our people here at St. Julia's,' Father Julio Martinez of St. Julia's Catholic Church said, 'and I will continue to do that.'

with congregants and partnering with the local health department and community organizations to host vaccination clinics.

"I understand the whole spiel about personal choice and personal freedom and all that stuff," Martinez said. "But there is the very important aspect of the common good. Not just for our local community, but for all of humanity. I want to make sure that our people are healthy, that our people take care of their families and their friends and their neighbors and the local community and society as a whole."

'I just try to educate'

Among most demographic groups, the percentage of people who refuse to get vaccinated remained steady over six months, according to a July report from the Public Religion Research Institute, a nonpartisan group that studies the intersection of religion and public life and Interfaith Youth Core, a nonprofit focused on interfaith cooperation.

See **CHURCHES**, page A8



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The congregation of St. Julia's Catholic Church in Siler City, is more than 80% Hispanic. The church has hosted three vaccination clinics at its campus in partnership with the Chatham County Public Health Department and Hispanic Liaison.

MOUNTAIRE & THIRD STREET

Three years down the road, commissioners approve rerouting

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City board of commissioners approved three resolutions in a special hearing Monday to close and reroute a series of roads abutting the Mountaire Farms facility — almost three years after the national poultry processor first requested permission to overhaul the downtown artery.

According to Mountaire's virtual rendering of the \$6 million project it plans to fund, East Third Street's current terminus at U.S. Hwy. 64 will close to regular traffic and shift about 510 feet west, replacing North Avenue. East Fifth Street and Johnson Avenue — minor roads running through the Mountaire complex — will also close to the public.

The project will introduce several upgrades compared to East Third Street's current two-lane incarnation. A center turn lane will promote safer and more convenient access for trucks turning into Mountaire's complex. Privacy fencing and landscaping will shield nearby homes and businesses from traffic. And sidewalks will encourage more pedestrian activity, driving potential customers toward Third Street businesses.

"We're really glad with tonight's result," Mountaire President Phillip Plylar told the News + Record after Monday's hearing. "We've appreciated the opportunities to speak to the public and it's nice to have many in the community stand up and say nice things about us."

Mountaire first submitted its petition to adjust East Third Street's trajectory in October 2018, but the request was met with consternation by many who feared the road closure would prohibit customer access to small businesses between U.S. Hwy. 64 and downtown. In an earlier part of Monday's hearing, held on August 2, 10 out of 11 members of the public spoke in opposition to the proposal. In contrast, 16 out of 17 commenters on Monday praised Mountaire for its commitment to safety and investment in the town.

"Mountaire has been an anchor that's come into town and we're sure that there will be lots of other industries that will come and follow them," said Cecil Wilson, a pastor at True Community Church. "... And now the community will have a safer way of traveling and entering U.S. Hwy. 64."

Butch Hudson, who owns Preferred Insur-

See **MOUNTAIRE**, page A7

2021 ELECTIONS

Census data has arrived. What comes next?

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

imminent election cycles? The News + Record checked in with mapping experts and legislators to find the answers.

Why does it matter?

Every 10 years, municipalities, cities and states must assess their respective voting districts and amend them to uphold the "one person, one vote" principle: that every resident is entitled to fair and equal representation by

See **CENSUS**, page A7



Esselstyn

BUILT IN YOUR BACKYARD

Roofing materials from Pittsboro's 3M

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This is the first in an occasional series of stories exploring Chatham's robust manufacturing backbone, particularly little-known operations with major impacts on national and global economies.

PITTSBORO — 3M is one of the world's most prolific manufacturers, with tens of thousands of diverse products.

But its plant in Chatham County sticks to the compa-

ny's roots — mining for raw materials.

The 95,000 square-foot facility just south of Pittsboro is one of 3M's three North Carolina operations. Each has distinctly different functions: a Charlotte plant makes "advanced dissolved gas control" membranes, and a Monroe plant manufactures breathing apparatuses for emergency medical uses.

"3M makes approximately 95,000 different products," said Blake Arnett, plant director at 3M's Pittsboro site. "It's

been said that you can't go anywhere in the civilized world for more than five minutes without touching one of our products."

But the Pittsboro location stays true to the company's nearly 120-year-old mission. The facility is one of the "world's leading suppliers" of roofing granules to be used in the asphalt shingle industry, according to Arnett.

"I don't know if you know what 3M stands for," he said,

See **3M**, page A9

IN THE KNOW

Northwood scores 10 touchdowns in 72-0 win over J-M. **PAGE B1**

Siler City FC's travel teams to make debut in Greensboro. **PAGE B3**

COA's 'Tools for Caregivers' classes to help those who help. **PAGE B7**

Chatham students ask, CN+R answers: Journalism questions. **PAGE B11**



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

ON THE AGENDA

The Siler City Board of Commissioners will have its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, at Wren Memorial Library.

OTHER

Apply to join the Chatham EDC Board of Directors: The Chatham EDC serves as the lead economic development agency for Chatham County and is seeking applicants for its board of directors. As a non-profit corporation, the Chatham EDC is looking for candidates who live or work in Chatham County. People with private sector business backgrounds and who are interested in furthering economic growth in the County are strongly encouraged to apply. The application closes September 10th. <https://airtable.com/shrPTzvUwoM4Glmgu>

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

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:

There will be a program at the **Chatham County 911 First Responders Memorial** located adjacent to the Chatham County Justice Center at 129 Sanford Road in Pittsboro. This will be a time to remember those that lost their lives on September 11, 2001. This includes first responder at the Twin Towers, firefighters, police officers, and Port Authority officers. Join Chatham County citizens Saturday, September 11 at 10 a.m. at the Chatham County 911 First Responders Memorial, remembering those who sacrificed their lives that day.

Tri-County Ruritan will hold their **23rd Annual Flatwoods Festival** on September 10 and 11. The festival will kick off on Friday evening on Raleigh Street in Bennett at 5 p.m. with food vendors set up in front of the Bennett Fire Dept., followed by an old-fashioned country auction at 7 p.m. - Well known, as one of the largest tractor parades in North Carolina., look for the Flatwoods Parade at 10 a.m. on Saturday morning. Local and state politicians and dignitaries are expected, as well as local school and church floats. Participants wishing to take part in the parade should plan to arrive and register around 9 a.m. on Saturday morning. There is no fee to register. -- The Festival will begin immediately following the parade on Raleigh Street.

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, September 11, (rain date Sept. 12) at The Park at Briar Chapel located at 1015 Andrews Store Road, Pittsboro. 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., and 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.

Central Carolina Community College - Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, Central Carolina Community College's 12-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals. The next 12-week classes begin Sept. 14. To register for courses, contact your advisor or the Admissions office at (919) 718-7300 (Lee Main Campus), (919) 545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus), and (910) 814-8827 or (910) 814-8867 (Harnett Main Campus). You can also connect with an Advisor virtually by visiting www.cccc.edu/admissions/contacts/ or visit us in person at any Main Campus. See www.cccc.edu/12and8/ for a list of classes.

Chatham County Public Libraries to Extend Outdoor Story Time Beyond Summer for an additional two months through late October. Outdoor Story Time allows families with young children to enjoy the great outdoors while experiencing the joy of reading. Outdoor

Story Time programs will continue through October 28, 2021, 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 NC Hwy 87 N, Pittsboro, NC 27312; Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. - Washington Avenue Park picnic shelter, 1305 Washington Avenue, Siler City, NC 2734; Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. - Goldston Public Library lawn, 9235 Pittsboro Goldston Rd, Goldston, NC 27252; and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. (beginning September 11) - Natural Chef Café seating area on the Central Carolina Community College Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, 197 NC Hwy 87 N, Pittsboro, NC 27312. 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.

Hoppin' John Old-Time and Bluegrass Fiddlers' Convention Gears Up for 14th Annual Event -- Schedule is filled with talented local musicians eager to play in front of a live audience. Known by locals as simply, "Hoppin' John," the 14th annual event will take place September 17 and 18, with an exciting line-up of talented musicians eager to hit the stage. Hoppin' John, the only fiddlers' convention in the Piedmont, offers string band and instrument contests, concerts, workshops and family activities for music lovers of all ages. With the added benefit of on-site camping at this event, jam sessions will be happening around the clock on the campgrounds. Hoppin' John will take place at 1439 Henderson Tanyard Road in Pittsboro. To learn more, view the full schedule and purchase tickets, visit www.HoppinJohn.org.

Chatham Community Library Presents Virtual Film Screening: "Don't Tell Anyone" beginning Thursday, September 16 and continuing through Thursday, September 23. This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning September 16 by visiting <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/dont-tell-anyone-watch-page-chatham-community-library>. A password is required at the time of viewing. If interested, contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or for additional information.

Chatham Orthodontics Ribbon Cutting and Open House - join us at from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14 as we celebrate the opening of Chatham Orthodontics at 422 North Holly Avenue, Siler City. The Ribbon Cutting will begin at 11:30 a.m.

Celebrating Women of Chatham: Conversations with Women Making a

Difference

Chatham Community Library will host a series of quarterly discussions highlighting Women Change-makers in Chatham County. The series will address areas of interest to county residents, viewed from the perspective of women engaged in both traditional and non-traditional careers including agriculture, entrepreneurship, the arts, law enforcement, and social activism. Celebrating Women of Chatham Series will begin Saturday, September 18 from 11 to 12:30 a.m. This will be a Virtual Program with the first in the series featuring Chatham County women farmers including: Tiffany Cooper, Bee Hoppy Farm, Pittsboro; Emily Boynton, Fiddlehead Farm, Pittsboro, Tenita Solanto, Green Panda Farms, Siler City; Karen Jordan, Brush Creek Swiss Farms, Siler City; Patricia Parker, In Good Heart Farm, Pittsboro; and McKenzie Withington, Lilly Den Farm, Goldston. These panelists will discuss the challenges and rewards of being a woman farmer in Chatham among other aspects. This virtual event is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants should register online to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, www.chathamlibraries.org, or contact the Library at (919) 545-8084 or rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org for more information.

The Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) program will soon begin training at the CCC 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 CCC BLET program at www.cccc.edu/blet/. For more information, contact Neil Ambrose at 919-777-7774 or email to lambnr287@ccc.edu.

Train for a career in Biotechnology at **Central Carolina Community**

College! An 8-week hybrid BioWork course begins Sept. 7 at the CCC Chatham Health Sciences Center. Generous funding provided by the N.C. Biotechnology Center. Learn more about BioWork at ncbi-network.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- 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. Please be advised, operations are subject to change in accordance to Executive Orders and guidelines.

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 CCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstroop93.org for more information.

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

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

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What do we know about Chatham County Schools' COVID-19 protocol?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN

News + Record Staff

Chatham County Schools returned to class for the fall semester of the 2021-22 school year last week. While this semester marks the first since before the pandemic that students will attend classes every day in-person, COVID-19 still dominates much of school discussions and planning.

Here's what we know about the district's COVID-19 protocol:

What is CCS's masking protocol?

Universal indoor masking "with fidelity" (the proper type of mask, worn over mouth and nose) is required at all the district's campuses, regardless of vaccination status. As of now, masks are optional outdoors. Additionally, the district is requiring 3 feet of social distance.

How many COVID-19 cases are there?

From Aug. 23 to Aug. 27, there were 56 positive COVID-19 cases among CCS campuses (.53% of the district population). None were identified as a cluster, which is defined as five or more cases that are related, not just five or more cases in the same building.

As of the afternoon of Aug. 31, there were 21 active COVID-19 cases in the district,

and one cluster at Chatham Central High School, or five cases.

How does lunch work?

Last year, students ate lunch in their classrooms to maintain social distance, and were encouraged to eat in a 15-minute period. Students removed masks to eat, and were only allowed to socialize once their masks were back on. This year it is up to the individual discretion of a school's principal whether students eat in the cafeteria, classrooms or outside.

Students have a 30-minute lunch period, but are strongly encouraged to eat in 15 minutes or less. If they are eating inside, closer than 6-feet apart, there is no talking until masks are back on.

Additionally, breakfast and lunch are available at no cost to CCS students for the 2021-22 school year, thanks to a federal extension.

What about bus rides?

All schools require passengers and staff to wear a mask on buses and other group school transportation. Distancing is not required under new state guidance.

What guidance is the district using to make decisions?

District officials have previously cited the state's K-12 StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit as its primary guidance. Officials also consider recommendations from the CDC, Chatham County Public

Health Department and Duke University's ABC Science Collaborative in making decisions. So far, policies have followed such recommendations.

Is there any protocol for when the district would move classes online, in the event of case surges?

Short answer: no. Last semester, district officials suggested that CCS might off-ramp from in-person classes in the event that there were too many staff members sick with COVID-19 or quarantined to teach and carry out school functions.

Under the state's most updated guidance, local boards of education have the authority to make day-to-day decisions "concerning whether shifting individual schools or individual classrooms that are providing in-person instruction to remote instruction is necessary due to COVID-19 exposures that result in insufficient school personnel or required student quarantines." Local school boards must report any shifts by a school or classroom from in-person to remote instruction to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction within 72 hours of the shift.

As of now, students cannot enroll for the district's virtual academy until the spring semester, as the academy requires a semester-long commitment.

Is there any on-site COVID-19 testing or vaccination clinics?

Not currently, but the board voted at its Aug. 3 meeting — along with requiring masking — to continue working with the CCPHD to publicize and offer vaccination clinics for any unvaccinated people.

The district is finalizing details, but plans to offer vaccination clinics at all of its high schools next week. Plans to offer testing on-site are also underway.

How many teachers are vaccinated?

As of March 8, three weeks after teachers were eligible to be vaccinated, 550 of the district's approximately 2,000 staff members had been vaccinated. There is no further update available, as the district is not currently collecting staff vaccination data.

What cleaning procedures are in place?

Under new state guidance, schools no longer need to 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.

How do quarantines work?

Under state guidelines, if

a student tests positive for COVID-19 but was masked, CCS will not enforce a two-week quarantine period for students potentially exposed to that student — so long as those students were also masked. If a student is determined to be a close contact, the quarantine period is ten days. Vaccinated teachers don't have to quarantine.

The district defines a close contact as someone "within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person and incorrect mask use."

Where can I find data on district cases?

The district will update its weekly case reports, including any clusters, on its website daily, and post finalized and archived reports 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>.

For more information, view the district's coronavirus webpage: <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/Page/22533>

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

SCHOOL

Continued from page A1

appreciate that," Ewy said, "I was thinking over the summer, 'Oh, I really hope they keep that in place.' Because I know I wouldn't have felt super safe if they weren't requiring it, so I'm glad they have it."

Masking, cleaning protocols and quarantining

The first week of class, there were 56 positive COVID-19 cases among CCS campuses — .53% of the district population — though none were identified as a cluster. A cluster is defined as five or more cases that are related, not just five or more cases in the same building.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were 21 active COVID-19 cases in the district, and one cluster at Chatham Central High School, or five cases.

Superintendent Anthony Jackson told the coun-

ty's board of education at its Aug. 5 meeting that masking was a vital element to keeping students in schools this year.

"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."

Though masking dominates much of conversations and coverage about schools as of late, there are many more COVID-19 protocols and policies involved in school planning.

While masking and social distancing protocols (3-foot distance requirements) will continue at CCS this year, other protocols have changed. For example, under new state guidance, schools no longer need to do symptom screenings for students and staff at the beginning of a school day. Disinfecting and cleaning processes — created 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.

(To learn more about specific COVID-19 protocols at CCS this year, refer to the adjacent breakout box.)

The quarantine guidelines are also different this year, under state guidelines. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 but was masked, CCS will not enforce a two-week quarantine period for students potentially exposed to that student — so long as those students were also masked. Students identified as close contacts must quarantine for 10 days; vaccinated teachers are not required to quarantine.

The district defines a close contact as someone "within 3 to 6 feet of an infected person and incorrect mask use."

At Northwood, Ewy said teachers keep disinfectant and hand sanitizer in their classrooms, and baskets with masks hang in the hallways for students that need them.

"I think that's a really good idea that they started doing this year," he said.

'I would prefer to stay in school'

Northwood High School English teacher Eliza Brinkley, who was a vocal proponent for continued masking and social distancing last year, said the first day of school was a success.

"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."

The return to a fast-paced day this year will take some getting used to, Brinkley said, "since things just generally moved more slowly for the past year and a half, even when we got back to in person last spring."

Among his peers, Ewy said some students also said the school day felt longer this year after a year and a half of some form of remote learning. Still, mostly everyone — including his teachers — have said how glad they

are to be back in person.

"I like being able to interact with the people that I didn't really get to see so much last year, because a lot of people did continue with online for the rest of the year," he said. "It's nice getting to see friends that I didn't really get to see a lot last year, and then also marching band — that's one of my favorite school classes and activities, and I'm just really excited about getting to do that this year."

Chatham Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist.54), told the News + Record CCS's masking policies will "ensure the safety" of students and educators while also staying in-person.

"Dozens of districts across the state have had to reverse course after starting the school year on the wrong foot, but Chatham County Schools took a cautious approach that will maximize the chances of a somewhat normal school year," Reives said.

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 30 districts have reversed course in response to clusters in school or further evidence of the delta variant; 14 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.

"As educators and students get back into the routine of a new year, keep them in your thoughts," Reives said. "Remember the difficult work they face in normal years, and the added stress we all face working in uncertain times."

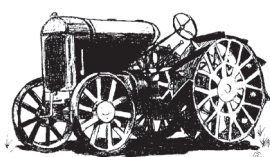
For Ewy and other students, they hope one thing: to be able to stay in school. While he'd "much rather go back online" if the situation is unsafe, he's hopeful current protocols will remain in place and help mitigate increased community spread.

"I mostly hope that we can stay in school and that we don't have another outbreak or something this winter with the Delta variant," he said. "That's something that does worry me — that we're gonna go back online again. Which, I could deal with that, but I would prefer to stay in school."

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

The Flatwoods Festival

Sponsored by the Tri-County Ruritan Club
ALL EVENTS WILL BE HELD OUTSIDE



Friday September 10th

(In Front of Bennett Fire Department)

5:00 PM – Food Trucks & Food Vendors

7:00 PM- LIVE AUCTION: Pottery, Antiques, Collectables

Saturday September 11th

8:00 FOOD & CRAFT VENDORS

10:00 PARADE- MAIN STREET BENNETT
Vintage Cars, Trucks, & Tractors (25+ Yrs).
Special Show Vehicles, Floats,
Horses & Horse Drawn Vehicles

12:00 HINDSIGHT BLUEGRASS

1:30 PARADE AWARDS
RAFFLE DRAWING

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Patrick Walsh



- Licensed NC Home Inspector
- Bluegrass Musician
- Local farm and food enthusiast
- Long-time Pittsboro resident
- Hot sauce Connoisseur (*gifted creator, too, if you ask us!*)
- President Elect Rotary Club of Pittsboro



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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | EDWARD WALGATE

In defense of Chatham's public schools

As nearly 9,000 Chatham children once again adjust to rising early, catching buses and re-entering classrooms, it is worth reminding ourselves of the value of Chatham County's public schools.

Public schools are a central pillar of our communities and have served Chatham families for generations. They consistently and successfully prepare our young people for their next steps in life. After these challenging 18 months, when the value of schools was so evident, it is important to not take them for granted.

After being forced to learn at home for the past year and a half, we should be even more appreciative of the services

our public schools provide for our children and community members. Every year cafeteria staffs prepare millions of meals for our students at no cost to many; this year those meals are free, following another expansion by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to extend universal free lunch. Bus drivers rise before dawn in Chatham to travel deep into the county to safely transport children to school and deliver them back home at the end of the day. School counselors, nurses, speech therapists, psychologists, behavior specialists and social workers work hard to ensure the physical and mental wellbeing of students. School technology departments dis-

tribute (and repair!) thousands of laptops to keep students connected and enhance learning at home and at school. School sports and extracurricular activities enrich our students and our communities. Importantly, public schools expose our children to the rich diversity of our county and prepare them to navigate our multicultural society. And teachers consistently provide a rigorous, well-rounded education to our students and prepare them for life beyond school.

Charter schools and private schools in our communities do not provide all of these services to their students. In addition, they are not accessible to all of our children due to some

extra costs and fees, along with the lack of transportation, free meals and some forms of specialized support. We must recognize the value of a high quality education system that is available to ALL children.

We are in the midst of budget season in Raleigh and legislators are once again debating the worth of public schools and a quality education. The same legislators who recently decried the negative impact on students' mental and emotional health due to being at home and not receiving school services are now deliberating on how much to underfund our school nurses, counselors, teacher assistants, building repairs and educator salaries.

Please reach out to your state representatives and county commissioners and urge them to give public schools and teachers the resources our students deserve.

My colleagues and I are excited to have students back in our classrooms and looking forward to having a consistent, productive school year. Despite the disagreements of the last year regarding COVID-19 protocol, I am hopeful the Chatham County community can rally around its public schools and ensure they remain strong for our children and future generations.

Edward Walgate is a science teacher at Northwood High School.

Noticing whether the weather is ugly

We're now into a significant period of the year, having sort of eased into it on the calendar, but make no mistake: it's here.

I'm not speaking of "back-to-school." And it's not the start of college football, which lately seems to be more and more about semi-pro and less and less about "student-athletes." And it's not so much Labor Day, the last hurrah of summer, or even the get-ready period for the State Fair — if we're going to have one — and all its Polish sausages. (And in this unusual year, you'll note all of those activities have a COVID tag attached to them.)

What we're talking about is hurricane season ... and I don't mean that hockey team which used to live in Connecticut and now calls Raleigh home.

It's been a while — 16 years ago this past week — when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast in general and New Orleans in particular. And within the past few days, The Weather Channel has been telling us that Ida, which also visited Louisiana, was just as bad — or worse — as Katrina. The pictures of the destruction from each were graphic and the accounts intense, and I can only imagine what that was like.

I haven't been there and I don't want to start now. But thanks to our own little adventure on September 9, 1996, I can't get into the start or duration of hurricane season with the same nonchalant attitude I once had.

Lying awake in the dark of night listening to Hurricane Fran on that date 25 years ago do her impression of a mad runaway freight train has forever left its mark on my tender and fragile psyche.

The evening started innocently enough, with the weather folks saying a storm was coming. But they didn't exactly know how bad it could or would be.

It didn't take long to find out.

The power was out by 10 p.m. or so; the wind was howling and the rain was coming down not in buckets but in barrels. I found my little transistor radio and located WPTF on the AM dial. By then it was about 1 in the morning and I'm holding prayer meeting in our living room.

We'd hear a tree snap and hold our breath, waiting to see if it would soon be joining us in that room. There was no way to judge depth perception and distance in the dark. I still remember the all-night radio personality saying that the National Weather Service was predicting the storm would really hit us at about 2 a.m. and I'm thinking if what we're having now isn't the storm, then I don't think I want to be here when it does show up.

I finally crashed that morning about 4 after the wind died down to just a mild uproar. And in a few hours, I had sort of an idea about what Francis Scott Key meant when he talked about seeing things in the dawn's early light.

It wasn't pretty. Eventually I counted 20 trees down in the front yard. Pasture fences were on the ground, but it didn't matter since the cows couldn't get around the downed oaks. The 8-passenger van I liked so much and which the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house jokingly referred to as "the party wagon" was squatting down under the weight of a tree across its roof. A tree was on the house and so on and so forth.

We eventually went nine days without power, which meant I had to watch television in the dark and also meant showers were at a premium. I'm pretty sure my Right Guard broke down a couple of times during that week and a half.

Eventually most things got put back together, for us and countless others. The Party Wagon gave up the ghost and the 20 trees couldn't be put back, but most things returned to normal ... except my tender and fragile psyche. Soon afterward I discovered the National Hurricane Center on the internet and after a period of time sort of learned how to read and understand their advisories and keep up with what's going on out in the Atlantic.

I know I can't control tropical storms and I can't keep low pressure systems from acting ugly. But I am going to try to keep up with them, which may not be that bad of an idea since the hurricane experts tell us this may be a bit of a rowdy season. I just know I'm not going to let down my guard.

Still, I don't understand why folks would name a sports team after a thing as devastating as a hurricane. I guess folks in Connecticut have never lived through one.

I hope they, we and the folks in Louisiana and Mississippi, never have to again

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



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around



The stars over Afghanistan

My country's war with Afghanistan has spanned my adult life. We invaded when I was in college and fought over the last 20 years.

But honestly, America's longest war did not receive much of my day-to-day attention. I was neither cynical nor apathetic. My attention was upon completing my education and beginning a career in ministry. I was focused on my marriage and raising children. I kept my head down, noticing my own footsteps and those walking beside me. My daily life was disconnected from the reality on the ground halfway across the world.

But the enduring connection I have made to the war is through friendships with veterans. In pastoring two churches in two states, I have met remarkable and gifted soldiers who fought, often more than once, in Afghanistan.

After the disastrous news that the Taliban had seized power in the capital city of Kabul, I reached out to these friends. Many were actively using their influence to secure visas and get Afghan allies out of the country. Others hoped Afghans would stay and fight. Emotions spanned the spectrum from disappointment and regret to

sadness and anger. The conflict was personal. As one friend put it, "Opinions change when you watch your friends die and lose legs."

Now that puts things into perspective.

I remember a former student in the world religions class I taught at a community college. He had served in Afghanistan. When we studied Islam, he provided insights not only about the terrorists but the honest, humble faith of civilians. He said the people of Afghanistan were a lot like us. They hoped to raise their families in peace and happiness.

Though he had gone to church before the war, this particular student was no longer religious. He told me that he had seen too much bloodshed to believe in a loving God. But he had reverence for the stars.

This veteran told me that the brightness and vastness of the night sky above Afghanistan was unlike anything he'd ever seen. After viewing the starry array on a clear night, he had resolved to return to school so that one day he could study astrophysics.

That semester ended and I lost contact with him. But as I have followed the recent Afghanistan crisis, he came to mind along with another man who gazed up at the stars. Long ago, Abraham stood on land not too far from modern day Afghanistan and, as he looked up, heard a promise that, even though he

was childless in his old age, his descendants would be more numerous than the stars above (Genesis 15).

All these years later, both Christians and Muslims as well as Jews claim Abraham as their religious ancestor, fulfilling this starry vision from long ago. Tragically, violence against one another has been perpetuated by people on all sides. This has caused some, like my former student, to lose faith.

But we can also look to the better lights of our faith traditions for illumination and inspiration.

One of my favorite passages of the Quran envisions divine light like "a brightly shining star" in a person of faith. This echoes a perspective from my own faith tradition: There is light within each of us that we have been given to share (Matthew 5:16). Wherever we are, we can "shine like stars in the sky" (Philippians 2:15).

It's difficult to have a hopeful perspective on the situation in Afghanistan. But I can't believe all is lost. Not when people of different cultures, languages and religions find themselves in agreement about the truth that shines in their hearts.

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."

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | OLIVIA ROJAS

The importance of community on college campuses

I remember those first few months of college my freshman year. Everything was brand new — new location, new schedule and new friends. I felt awkward. It seemed like everyone had it together while I did not.



OLIVIA ROJAS
News + Record intern

UNC-Chapel Hill is competitive, and nearly every student there buys into its overachiever culture. I went from being a top student at my high school to a university full of top students. How was I going to find my place? Would I make real

connections here? I knew that the growing pains to acclimate to student life were a rite of passage and necessary, but that didn't make it any less difficult to be on my own. One day, during one of my journalism classes, a professor offered advice to first-years about coming into a new space. He recalled his time living in New York and how it felt huge, but he mostly identified with the borough in which he lived. "Find your neighborhood," he said. A big part of Latino culture is community — without a doubt. It surrounded me while I was growing up. I had a strong pillar of support from my family, members of the church and even those family

friends of a friend. I had obtained a village so early on in my life that I didn't know what it was like to build one from the ground up. Every college student has a period of transition onto campus. It's important to remember that college campuses house multicultural centers and organizations. They offer a wide range of resources and want to help you find a sense of belonging on campus because the truth is — you *do* belong. When I had to start from scratch in a completely different environment, I sought out those to whom I could relate and those with whom I had common interests. Luckily for me, the Carolina Latinx Center

on campus just opened in its new location my first year, a chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists started on campus and Mi Pueblo, UNC's Latinx organization, held multiple events where I could find community and meet new friends. I even joined The Daily Tar Heel and The Bridge, two publications on campus. I finally was able to find people who I could call my friends — and I mean real friends. The kind that you call when you need a ride to get groceries or whenever you need someone to sit with you in the library. Friends who all support each other while we wade through the realities of college life — the good, the bad and the

embarrassing. That security also helped me realize that it's OK to experience periods of loneliness. Time to yourself allows you to reflect and think about the people you really want in your network. Now that I am back at UNC, it has been so nice to see every one again in person and I get to physically see the community that I have here on campus. There's no more awkwardness and no more insecurity. I'm so glad to say that I found my neighborhood.

News + Record intern Olivia Rojas is a part of the newspaper's La Voz de Chatham reporting team. She's a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill and lives in Sanford.

GUEST COLUMN | JACQUELINNE MARROQUIN TOBAR

From high school to college: a reflection — and an open thank-you note

High school is over and my college journey is about to begin. It fills me with sadness and with a lot of emotion at the same time. Knowing that I will no longer be going back to high school, that I will no longer be able to live with my parents, and that I am about to find a new world is overwhelming. We always hear people say that "time flies by" and although its meaning is not literal, it is something that is really true. I remember the first day of school as if it were yesterday. I arrived at Jordan-Matthews High School, and it was the second semester of the ninth grade. It was one of the most stressful and uncertain days I have ever experienced.

Although I was born in Houston, Texas, I lived most of my life in Chiquimula, Guatemala. I knew very little English; everything around me was new and unknown. Being in a new country and not knowing the language is stressful but with time, a lot of effort, dedication, and faith, I completely conquered the language.

In these four years of high school, I did everything possible to give my best and to contribute to my school and community. I had the opportunity to do a lot of community service and create my water bottle recycling project at school. Every Friday, I would go to the halls and classes collecting all the plastic bottles. At the end of the day, I would drop them off in a large container for the recycling company to take them away. I was a tutor and mentor. I was a translator at my church Faith Family Ministries, among other things. All these experiences turned school into an adventure.

My first three years of school were something like this: "homework, tests, and projects" — over and over again. COVID-19 changed absolutely everything except the "homework, tests, and projects." That stayed the same. In the blink of an eye, the last year of school arrived and that routine did change. It became "homework, exams, projects, applying to colleges, applying for scholarships." The months I applied to colleges were stressful, overwhelming, and tiring months, but it's all worth it. I was able to finish high school with good grades, was accepted to college, and received financial aid to pay for my college education.

I always thank God for giving me wisdom and for always guiding me. God's plans are perfect and thanks to Him many doors have opened. I was accepted to Wake Forest University, UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State, Guilford College, Appalachian State, Western Carolina University and East Carolina University. I also received several outside scholarships for which I am very grateful. After many joys, it was time to make a decision. It was difficult, but God enlightened me. I knew at that moment that Wake Forest University was the perfect university for me. I am extremely happy to be attending classes there.

A stage in my life culminated in Jordan-Matthews. A new one has started at Wake Forest. I couldn't have gotten to this point without the help of God, my parents, teachers, counselors, and family.

From day one, all of these people have helped me meet all of my goals. I want to thank the Jordan-Matthews High School faculty and staff, for I have met so many teachers in my life, but there is no comparison. They give everything for their students and teach with love and dedication. So thank you very much. You have left a mark on me, and I will always carry you in my mind and heart. I will be eternally grateful.

Finally, I want to thank the most important people in my life: my father Luis Marroquin, my mother Rebeca Tobar and my grandmother Rosario Tobar. I want to thank you for your unconditional support, for all your love, and for always being there for me. All my achievements are thanks to you and for you.

Siler City resident Jacquelinne Marroquin Tobar is a freshman at Wake Forest University. She lived most of her life in Chiquimula, Guatemala, but returned to the United States five years ago. She loves spending time with her family and doing community service.

Is Round Two of the COVID Recession on the Way?

Just when we thought things were getting better, could they go the other way and get worse? For most of the year we were optimistic about the economy. Growth was surging, jobs were being added and optimism was lifting. A big reason was the retreat of COVID-19.



MIKE WALDEN
You Decide

But in recent weeks COVID-19 has made a comeback. The Delta variant of COVID-19 is raging across the country with record infection rates. To give some perspective to the concerns, here's a summary of where we've been with COVID-19 and the economy. Once COVID-19 spread rapidly in early 2020, business shutdowns and stay-at-home orders became common around the country. With normal economic interactions interrupted, the economy tanked in the spring and a deep recession took hold. The national unemployment rate soared to almost 15 percent.

But success in "flattening the curves" of both cases and deaths allowed restrictions to be eased. As a result, the economy grew in the third quarter of 2020 by almost as much as it dropped in the second quarter. Indeed, using the definition that recessions end once the economy resumes expanding, the COVID-19 recession no longer existed in the third quarter.

Growth continued, but at a much slower pace, in the winter as the virus re-surged. But with vaccinations beginning in early 2021, the virus was significantly curtailed. In fact, by the summer of 2021, aggregate economic production was back to pre-pandemic levels, and aggregate employment had recovered all but four percent of its losses.

Then the COVID-19 Delta variant began spreading in July, and it

continues today. Cases have been rising all over North Carolina, and in some areas hospital beds have become scarce. This situation sounds eerily similar to where we were in early 2020. Will we need to react in the same way and have business lockdowns and stay-at-home orders? And if so, will another serious pandemic recession be the result?

In addressing these questions, we do have the benefit of seeing what's transpired in other countries that contracted the delta variant before we did. Both the United Kingdom and India had the Delta variant weeks before it came to us. Just as we have experienced, both countries had a rapid run-up in new cases. But — encouragingly — both countries also have had a rapid reduction in new cases after a peak was reached. In India, the new case peak came in early May, and now new cases are back to pre-peak levels. In the U.K., the top in new cases came in July, and although new cases have been declining, they have still not returned to pre-Delta variant levels.

Medical experts are still trying to determine what has caused the rise and fall of the Delta variant. But the fact the variant did subside in India and the U.K. is encouraging for us.

The immediate future of the economy will depend on two factors — how the Delta variant progresses, and how we react to it. If the Delta variant new cases peak and then subside — for whatever reasons — within the next four to six weeks, then the economy should continue to expand and improve. Growth may be slightly slower than it has been, but no "negative growth" — meaning a recession — will occur.

Conversely, if new cases climb with no obvious end in sight, then a more uncertain outlook is ahead. More communities would institute restrictions, like mask mandates. In-person gatherings would be postponed, and outdoor events could be

canceled or controlled. Furthermore, even without the imposition of public regulations, individuals on their own would curtail activities, like shopping, eating-out and vacationing. Studies of individual behavior during the pandemic have confirmed these reactions.

The result would be a more significant slowdown in the economy. Still, I don't believe these reactions would be enough to put us back into a recession. Households, businesses and institutions such as education and healthcare learned to cope with the pandemic last year. Households worked remotely, businesses stayed afloat using cyber-buying and delivery, and education and healthcare accessed students and patients via the internet.

The coping mechanisms weren't perfect and not without costs, but they did soften the economic blow of the pandemic. If the Delta variant puts us into a similar situation, I think the lessons we learned last year will improve our coping techniques and reduce the costs.

Many hoped and maybe expected COVID-19 to be banished this year. Others pointed to the pandemic of a century ago — the Spanish flu of 1918-1919, which killed more Americans than COVID-19 — as reason to be more cautious. That pandemic had several waves, something we've now unfortunately experienced with COVID-19.

We're going through another challenging time with the pandemic. Like everyone, I want COVID-19 to be gone. The virus and the economy are still intertwined. While economic conditions have adapted to the virus, we won't be able to freely engage in economic interactions until we are free of the virus. Like you, I hope we can someday absolutely decide when that is.

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

LETTERS

January 6 could turn out to be a good thing

TO THE EDITOR:

Edward Watts' Lessons in the Decline of Democracy from the Ruined Roman Republic chronicles how Rome was decimated by partisan gridlock, political violence and pandering politicians. He states that, "A population once devoted to national service and personal honor, was torn to shreds [and they] chose to let their democracy die ..."

Watts writes: "So what does the story of the Roman Republic mean for the United States? The comparison is not perfect. The U.S. has

had its share of political violence over the centuries and has more or less recovered. Politicians used to regularly duel one another ... and [there was] the near murder of Charles Sumner in the Senate chamber."

He details author Joanne B. Freeman's research of Congress prior to the Civil War in which she found at least 70 incidents of fighting among legislators, including a mass brawl in the House in 1858. Those conflicts meant duels, fistfights, and brandishing of guns and knives on the Capitol floor.

For me this history highlights the idiocy of [House Speaker Nancy] Pelosi's Jan. 6 committee. Pelosi

treats the event as an absolute in American history; like nothing similar has ever happened before. It's political pandering at its worst.

When all of this is blended with President Biden's disturbing and totally embarrassing decisions and outcomes of the past several weeks, what Pelosi needs to do is have Congress look at itself in the mirror as provocateurs, not victims.

The Jan. 6 incident could prove to be a good thing. Let us hope it magnifies the hypocrisy, ineptness, partisanship and plain dishonesty of those in the Executive and Legislative branches of our government.

Philip H. Johnson
Siler City

What's on your mind?

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VIEWPOINTS

Families are swinging suburban

It's my go-to slide. I've shown it to all the classes I teach at



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

Duke University. The slide is striking. It's revealing. And now it's out of date. The slide in question is based on a longtime poll question from the Pew Research Center. It asks respondents which of two kinds of communities they'd prefer to live in. One option is described this way: "A community where the houses are smaller and closer to each other, but schools, stores and restaurants are within walking distance." The alternative is a community "where the houses are larger and farther apart, but schools, stores and restaurants are several miles away." The former is essentially the urban option and the latter the suburban one,

although neither is labeled that way.

Why have I used this question about housing preference to teach students about political differences? Because the results served to depict both a closely divided electorate and a huge divide by ideology.

While the preferences of Americans tended to split roughly evenly between the two lifestyles — 49% suburban and 48% urban in 2014, and 48% suburban to 47% urban as recently as 2017 — about two-thirds of self-identified liberals picked the urban option and two-thirds of self-identified conservatives picked the suburban one.

To observe this partisan skew was never to deny that some conservatives enjoyed living in downtowns and some liberals like having more elbow room. Political views and partisan coalitions are messier than any one poll result can capture with precision. Nevertheless, the relative proportions told us something important.

They certainly fascinated my students.

I'm going to have to go back to the drawing board, however, because what had been a stable trend over many years of polling has changed dramatically. In a Pew survey taken earlier this summer, 60% of Americans chose the suburban option, with only 39% opting for the urban one.

There's still a partisan skew, to be sure, but some liberals have changed their minds. And many Americans who used to be on the fence, not just politically but also in their residential preferences, have now swung suburban.

I know what you're thinking: this has to do with COVID-19. That's true — in part.

Since the pandemic began in early 2020, housing markets and other indicators have confirmed a shift away from urban cores. People have recalculated the risk-reward ratio and concluded that living in a lower-density environment is more

attractive than it used to be. Moreover, as employees were forced to work from home for many weeks or months, some found that they really liked the arrangement. It eliminated time-consuming commutes and allowed for a healthier work-life balance.

They won't all get their way, of course. There are sectors and companies for which working from home makes it hard to build teams or evaluate performance. Still, we'll never go back to where we were. Many more people will telecommute than before COVID. Freed from the necessity of living close to an office, their range of housing options is now greater expanded. Especially if they have children at home or enjoy outdoor recreation, many are shopping for their next home out in the suburbs.

So why did I say COVID is only a partial explanation for the swing towards suburbia? Because it actually began in 2019, not 2020. A Pew survey from September 2019 found

that 53% of Americans preferred the spread-out community and 47% the denser one.

My argument to my students was never that living in urban areas made you more progressive or living in suburban areas made you more conservative. Rather, differences in housing preferences reflect deeper divisions in lifestyles and priorities that also correlate with voting behavior.

Some surely think this suburban swing will be a disaster. They assume it will bring environmental degradation and social inequality. I think their analysis is outdated. More importantly, it is irrelevant. If this is what an increasing share of Americans want, good luck telling them they can't have it.

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 (MountainFolk-Book.com).

September 11: What do we say now?

What should we say to each other about September 11, 2001, now that 20 years have gone by since the awful day and our troops are leaving Afghanistan? In searching for an answer, I found the column I wrote back then. And I want to share it again as I have done every five years.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Here is what I wrote in September 2001:

War. War. War.

What is it about this word that excites us, that unifies us, that puts aside at least for a moment our selfish preoccupation with ourselves?

The word brings with it a spirit of action that rises out of September 11's time of despair, questionings, and anger. It rushes through my system like a miracle drug, wiping out my depression and lifting my spirits to new heights.

A flag banner decorates our front porch. My chest puffs out with pride as the army calls my son to a week's active duty to help process other reservists who are being called for longer periods of service during this war on terrorism.

War. War. War.

Oh, what a word. We will fight a war against terrorism. We will find it, destroy it, root it out, and avenge its murder of our friends and countrymen.

It is exhilarating and comforting.

But underneath I know it is not going to happen that way.

There is not going to be a quick, happy ending, no VE Day or a VJ Day, as there was at the end of the Second World War. Even if there is a successful military strike against bin Laden or his terrorist training camps, it will not win our "war."

Indeed, we must expect that an attack will unify and strengthen the terrorists and their supporters, just as the attack on the twin towers and the Pentagon brought us together and strengthened our resolve.

Do not mistake me. A military strike may very well be an important part of our response to this challenge. If terrorism is a kind of cancer affecting the entire world, then radical surgery is probably a part of a comprehensive treatment plan. But radical surgery on a cancer patient is often an incomplete cure. And sometimes the surgery brings about its own set of unintended consequences. Similarly, military action cannot bring about a complete solution to the terrorism cancer, and every military strike will bring about its own set of unintended consequences.

Our efforts against terrorism and its causes are going to be long and drawn out. We can't maintain a "wartime" footing for so long. Maybe "war" is not the best word to describe to describe our commitment against terrorism.

Of course, this is not the first time our government has rallied us around a commitment to solve a serious problem by calling for a "war."

We have the war on poverty. The war on drugs. The war on crime. And we have declared war on racial hatred, on AIDS and other diseases, on underperforming schools, on unsafe automobiles, on the polluters of the environment, and on many other varieties of "evil."

We haven't yet won any of those wars. There have been some great victories. Things are better than they would've been. But "complete victory" was probably never possible. Our national effort in all these areas continues — but without a "total war" commitment. We learned each time that we could not sustain a total national commitment to all these "wars" at the same time.

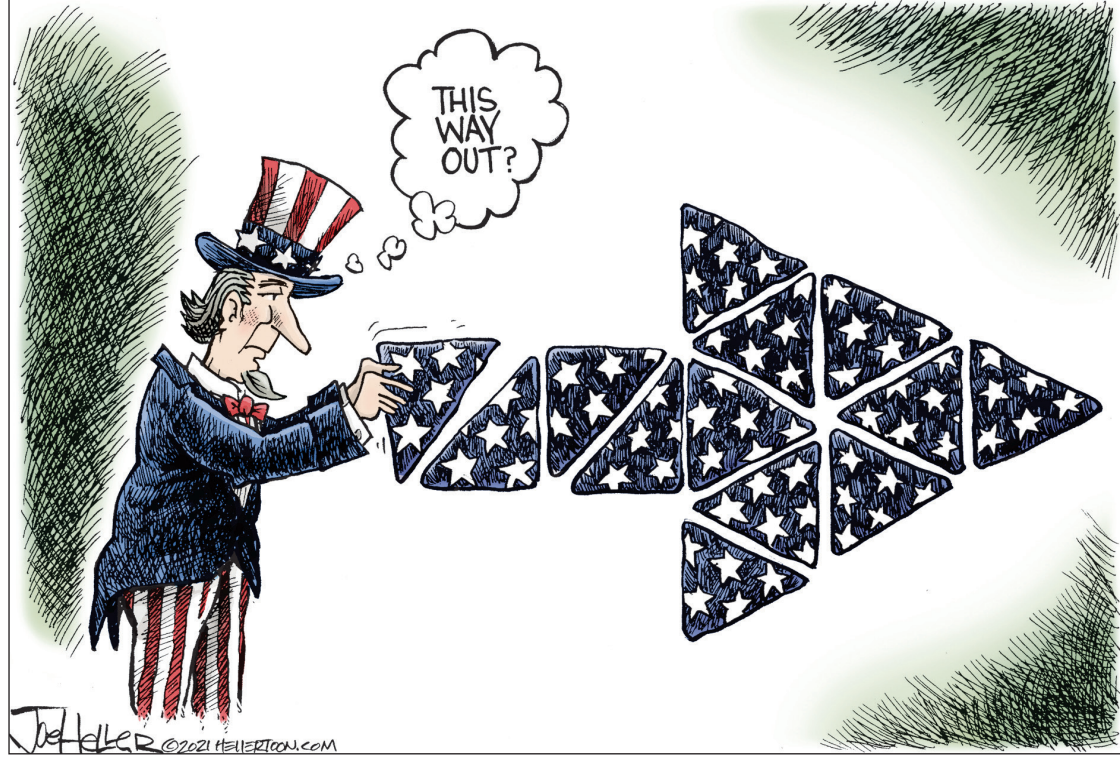
As we begin our national effort against worldwide terrorism, it might be well for us to remember our prior wars against these other endemic problems. Remember that they last a long time, remember that there are few decisive victories, and remember that Americans' attention spans don't last through long drawn-out indecisive wars.

Remembering those lessons and putting aside the war terminology, our leaders can better emphasize our country's need for a sustainable, long-term commitment to the development and patient implementation of wise policies to track down terrorists, clear out their breeding grounds, and deal with the root causes of their activity.

Using more restrained words to describe our resolve against terrorism, it may be easier for us to remember that there are other common tasks that are also critical to a healthy and safe America: fighting crime, promoting health, building a strong economy, strengthening education, improving the environment, and working together for a stronger, better country.

If the terrorists have diverted us from those on-going tasks, they have already won.

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.



School bell tensions

No matter your age, I'm betting you remember those annual late-summer trips to Rose's "dime" store (or a similar one) to purchase back-to-school supplies. Must-haves included a new three-ring binder, a big pack of Blue Horse or Write Right loose-leaf notebook paper, course dividers, No. 2 lead Ticonderoga pencils, ballpoint pens and any other supplies you could beg your parent to buy.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

Once completed, we were ready for the start of the new school year. There was always a bit of excitement to learn who our teachers would be and what friends would be in our classes. (O.K., so maybe you are not THAT old.)

To learn what back-to-school is like today, I went to a big box store on a recent weekend and when I got to the large special section of the store designated for school supplies, it resembled the aftermath from a hurricane. Many shelves were empty as parents (mostly moms) read from lists of needed supplies (provided by teachers), while students tried to find the items. The attitude was more of resignation than excitement.

Last year was pretty much a lost educational year for many of North Carolina's 1.5 million students. The report cards prove it. Fifty-three percent of students in grades 3 through 8 were graded "not proficient" in grade-level reading skills. End-of-year tests given to 86% of our high school students last fall (delayed due to COVID at the end of the previous school year) showed more than 50% of students failed math 1, math 3, biology and/or English exams. It might be even worse because some 14% opted not to take the tests. No wonder our legislature is considering eliminating end-of-grade tests.

There are additional causes for anxiety this school year, beginning with the resurgence in the Delta variant of coronavirus, especially among young students. Once again, we are battling over whether masks will be required — in 87 of the 115 school districts they are. Those not requiring them are mostly in rural

counties. But the larger concern is whether we will be able to complete the school year with in-class instruction. We know virtual learning didn't work.

Add to this uneasiness is the question of how history will be taught. Will teachers be able to discuss slavery, the 1898 Wilmington race riot, Eugenics, Jim Crow laws and other historical events, or will those who wish to deny those things happened be allowed to dictate curriculum?

Is there any doubt why we have a teacher shortage? A large cohort have reached retirement age, but many teachers worry about their own and their family's health. They're tired of frequent policy changes and interference, the lack of respect, discipline problems and less than stellar compensation. Our state ranks No. 43 in teacher pay. Compounding the teacher shortage, enrollment in college teacher prep programs have declined sharply in recent years. Just over a week ago, a new agreement between community colleges and our universities was announced whereby students would take the first two years of teacher preparation at local community colleges, then complete their degrees at universities. Shortages are acute among math and science teachers and especially in rural areas. To fill the immediate gaps, we are now allowing lateral entry teachers with only one course in teacher prep coursework.

Here's my spin: this is a pivotal year for education in North Carolina. We can ill afford another like last year, which is why so many parents, teachers, administrators and the rest of us are holding our collective breaths as school bells ring in the new year. This is not a year for continued contention and tensions. For the sake of our children's future, we need to support education like we haven't done for decades.

And, unless you are ready to suit up and go into the classroom yourself, be thankful for teachers willing to accept the challenge.

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

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.

CENSUS

Continued from page A1

districts of roughly equal population. Districts need not change if the population has been largely inert over the previous decade. But if one thing is clear from the most recent census data it's that North Carolina and Chatham County have changed considerably. "Especially in these areas around the Triangle, there's been a lot of movement and population shift," Blake Esselstyn, an Asheville demographer, told the News + Record. Esselstyn is a mapping expert. Through his company, Mapfigure Consulting, Esselstyn advises government officials as they undertake the sticky redistricting process. This year, he is working with Siler City and Cary, among several municipalities statewide. "You may have heard the term demographer, and it just refers to the study of population," Esselstyn said. "So it's appropriate for redistricting because I'm the one who is actually looking at the maps and making sure that the populations are balanced in the districts or wards, and also, in some cases, having to look at demographic information such as race and ethnicity." There are 62 municipalities in North Carolina organized by districts or wards that were scheduled for 2021 elections. Of those, 35 elect town representatives by voting districts. The other 27 "use districts or wards but don't elect people by them," N.C. State Board of Elections Communication Specialist Noah Grant previously told the News + Record. "They use them for filing purposes." Siler City and Cary (which has the larg-

est voter base in Chatham) fall among the 35 in immediate need of revised districts. To accommodate delayed census data — which should have arrived months ago had the COVID-19 pandemic not complicated its collection — the General Assembly postponed this year's municipal elections for districted towns until March 2022. Elected city and town officials whose seats would normally have expired in November will have their terms extended accordingly. (The unaffected towns of Pittsboro and Goldston, on the other hand, will have municipal elections as scheduled on Nov. 2; for residents there, one-stop absentee voting begins Oct. 14.) That puts pressure on municipal governments — like Siler City and Cary — to perform the redistricting process efficiently. They must redraw their maps by mid-November, according to the GA's order. Filing will begin in early December.

Is it hard to redistrict?

According to the experts: yes and no. "It's not as simple as you might think," Esselstyn said. Among other complications, towns must account for changes in census blocks, boundary adjustments over the past 10 years, population shifts and demographic dispersions. While some basic redistricting criteria are stipulated by federal and state laws, much of the responsibility to outline "guiding principles" falls to elected officials. "There are a lot of things to consider that will shape the districts," Esselstyn said, "and governments have to choose how they prioritize some of them." To illustrate how different priorities can

produce different maps, Esselstyn likes to use a car-buying analogy. A family with several children and a busy lifestyle might list several desirable features in a car: high seating and storage capacity, good fuel economy, four-wheel drive, easy to park and more. A vehicle that ticks every box would be nice, but might be unrealistic. "You realize that it may be hard to find a car that is four-wheel drive, seating capacity for six, has good fuel economy and it's easy to park," Esselstyn said. "So similarly, with redistricting, you might have guiding principles that are a little bit in conflict with each other and you have to prioritize." But that's not to say bad maps happen by accident. Gerrymandered maps — districts drawn to favor one political party over another, or sometimes just to favor incumbents — always show signs of deliberate intent. "The maps that were drawn in North Carolina in the last decade were very optimized," said Nathaniel Fischer, a Durham resident and recent UNC-Chapel Hill political science graduate. His proposed map for North Carolina's new congressional districts beat out 130 other entries in a national contest sponsored by the Princeton Gerrymandering Project, a Princeton University-based effort to promote fair redistricting. "You could tell that the people who were drawing the map were looking at data sort of down to the precinct level," Fischer said of N.C.'s gerrymandered districts. "It's obvious someone was like, 'Oh, this neighborhood votes this way more so than this neighborhood, we're gonna put it in this district.'" Fortunately, such indiscretion rarely makes its way into municipal maps. "There's potential for similar manipu-

lation," Esselstyn said. "But in my experience, and from talking to others, it happens much less often at the local level. Any kind of extreme partisan or racial gerrymandering is much less common at the local level." **Will state-level maps be fairer this year?** If history is any indicator, probably not, Fischer said. "Redistricting in North Carolina has been really contentious forever," he said. "I think there have been lawsuits for almost every recent cycle of North Carolina redistricting. I'm hopeful that the legislature will come up with a better product, but it's very possible that they'll come up with something that's not really super fair." Chatham legislators within the General Assembly express similar apprehension. "There's been a stated commitment to making fair maps," Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54), Chatham's representative in the N.C. House, told the News + Record. "But in my opinion, the way it works now is not set up to make the fairest maps possible." Senator Valerie Foushee (D-Dist. 23), Chatham's state Senate representative, agrees it may be unrealistic to expect fair maps from a highly partisan General Assembly. But with more eyes watching this year's redistricting process than ever before, she hopes social pressure will necessitate a better product. "That is my hope anyway," she said. "I am always optimistic; I am forever the optimist." *Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.*

MOUNTAIRE

Continued from page A1

ance on East Third Street, was opposed to the road project for much of the past three years, he said at the hearing. What changed his mind and others' was Mountaire's recent emphasis that East Third Street would not close to through traffic until its "alternative" had been completed. "There was a lot of fussin' and cussin' and back and forth," he said, "and I know I was instrumental in it because I would have been totally against a closure ... But the alternative has been great." The lone opposer at Monday's hearing agreed the road re-rout-

ing might be good for the town, but argued that his business would be irreparably hurt. "Just for the record, I have no issue with the road redirection," said Bobby Steel, owner of What-A-Wash Laundromat. "I think the redirection will be good — that's what they need, that's what they want — I think it'll be good. I just think the issues that apply to me, I thought we were addressing, but now it appears that we're not." What-A-Wash sits beside Mountaire's plant on East Third and currently has three road accesses. About 4,200 cars pass his storefront every day, Steel said. After East Third is re-routed, however, "two road frontages will be taken away" and cars will have to go out of their way to

reach his location. For the potential loss in sales, Steel requested financial restitution from Mountaire, but the company has not committed to any such payment. Lingering doubts about Mountaire's re-route project were reflected on the board, too. Though resolutions to approve Mountaire's request were adopted, the commissioners did not vote unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray voted against each count, citing concerns over the traffic impact on Raleigh St., a second major downtown access from U.S. Hwy. 64. "I don't want in the future for board members to look back at us and say, 'Why did we not consider the fate of what's going to happen to Raleigh Street as our city grows and

progresses?'" she said. She requested the board take no action until further investigation could be completed, but she was overruled by her peers. **Next steps** While the board's approval marks a major step toward Mountaire's goal, much remains to be done before construction ensues. "There's still a fairly complex next series of steps," Plylar said. Before final design and construction can begin, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation must also approve Mountaire's request, although NCDOT representatives previously told the News + Record the agency is likely to follow the board of commissioners' lead "so long as re-

quired traffic improvements are made and they are up to current safety and design standards." "We would be working closely with the town and company/developer to ensure all the necessary steps were taken," NCDOT Public Relations Officer Aaron Moody said. That process will probably be lengthy. It may be a couple of years at least until construction has finished, Siler City Planning Director Jack Meadows told the News + Record. "DOT acts next," he said. "It's in their court now and these things can take a while." *Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at dldolder@chathamnr.com and on Twitter @dldolder.*



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CHURCHES

Continued from page A1

That report found white evangelicals were most likely among religious groups to refuse the vaccine, with 24% of white evangelicals saying in June they wouldn't be vaccinated, down from 26% in March. The closest following Christian groups were Mormons (19% reported refusal) and Hispanic Protestants (17%).

The report showed positive trends, too. Hispanic Catholics, for example, increased most in vaccine acceptance among religious groups, from 56% in March to 80% in June. Black Protestants were also less likely to say they'd refuse to get vaccinated; 19% said they'd refuse in March while 13% said they would in June.

Among those hesitant to get vaccinated, many take issue with the government "forcing" them to inject something into their bodies, despite an established history of vaccine requirements in the country to prevent or lower mass death and sickness from viruses like the measles, mumps, chicken pox and polio.

In his conversations with his congregants, Martinez saw a bigger problem than personal choice emerge when it came to vaccine refusal: misinformation. "Bizarre" theories and false or misleading medical studies from the United States and from Latin America instilled deep vaccine suspicion in many people, he said.

Common misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories include that the vaccine causes infertility, that the government implants a microchip in the vaccine to track people, that it rewrites your body's DNA and that it might cause long-term complications. Nearly all health experts strongly disavow such theories, consistently stating the pros of the vaccine significantly outweigh any rare but potential complications; a recent CDC study shows that unvaccinated people are 29 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID than those who are vaccinated.

"It was very challenging, because there was a lot of misinformation and that really created great fear in them," Martinez said. "So I had to address that and encourage them to pay attention to the medical and scientific establishment."

Rev. Charles Mathews of Union Grove A.M.E. Zion Church in Bear Creek said about 90 percent of his congregation — which is primarily African American — is vaccinated. When vaccines first became available, though, some congregants had fears about how the vaccine was created and side effects it might cause.

Mathews organized multiple online and in-person discussions on the vaccine, involving local health experts.

"So we've done everything that we feel necessary to educate," he said. "When it comes to vaccination, we give them what's going on, but I don't make it necessary or required. I don't have a sermon given on that ... I just try to educate those, so when they're put in that position, at least they understand."

According to the PRRI and IFYC July report, such faith-based vaccine approaches work with some people who hesitate to get vaccinated.

Nearly four in 10 vaccine-hesitant Americans who attend religious services at least a few times a year (38%) said one or more faith-based approaches would make them more likely to get vaccinated, the report said. A majority of Hispanic Protestants who are vaccinated and attend religious services (54%) said one or more faith-based approaches encouraged them to get vaccinated, according to the report, and 44% said one or more faith-based approaches would make them more likely to get vaccinated.

It's become a much-debated issue in faith communities. The National Association of Evangelicals, for example, teamed with other partners to create the "Christians & the Vaccine" website (www.christiansandthevaccine.com) to "equip pastors and Christian leaders to help others apply biblical principles" to the question of vaccines. The site, through videos, an FAQ and a "Pastor's Toolkit," actively encourage Christians to take the vaccine.

For Martinez's part, he consulted the Chatham County Public Health Department's vaccination webpage for information, shared the department's Spanish resources with the congregation and referred to information about the safety of vaccines in his own conversations with congregants.

He used himself as an example — "Hey look, the vaccine doesn't kill, but COVID does" — and worked with the health department and the Hispanic Liaison in Siler City to set up three vaccine clinics at St. Julia's, hosting registrations after Sunday mass.

"What happened was that little by little people began to realize that this was misinformation and bad information that was out there, and they began to free themselves from that fear," Martinez said. "What also helped people get vaccinated is that when they saw that family members, friends, neighbors, were getting vaccinated, and they were surviving — that empowered them to get vaccinated too."

'To love our neighbor'

The Chatham County Public Health Department has held nine COVID-19 vaccine clinics at churches across Cha-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Rev. Charles Mathews is the pastor of Union Grove AMEZ Church, an African-American church in Bear Creek. Throughout the pandemic, he's worked to talk with congregants about the coronavirus and getting vaccinated.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The sanctuary of Union Grove AMEZ Church, an African-American church in Bear Creek.

tham, said department communications specialist Zachary Horner. The clinics took place at Iglesia Bautista Misionera Roca Fuerte Pittsboro and St. Julia's, two Hispanic churches in Chatham, self-described "non-denominational, multicultural" Liberty Chapel in Moncure and Roberts Chapel Missionary Baptist, an African American church in Goldston.

"Pre-pandemic, we had some faith-based initiatives, and certainly in the pandemic, we tapped into those resources, but we certainly built upon others," CCPHD Director Mike Zelek told the News + Record. "First, we had a lot of faith communities reach out to us early on for guidance, looking at how to best protect their congregations against COVID. Those were really important relationships to us, too, certainly as we looked at ways to control the spread of the virus, and then building on those with the vaccination efforts."

In February, 210 vaccines were administered at a clinic at Roberts Chapel. Member Delphine Womack worked with her husband, James Womack, to organize the clinic after hearing that Chatham's Black residents might be underrepresented in the county's vaccine distribution.

Vaccine inequity, particularly in Latino and Black communities, is a problem both North Carolina and Chatham health leaders have tried to fix, often by partnering with grassroots events like the one at Roberts Chapel.

"I think it is great when the church can serve an integral role in the community, that we may come alongside people to provide the services and the assistance that they need," said Rev. Joshua T. Jones, senior pastor of Roberts Chapel, in the CCPHD press release about the February clinic. "In this case, we're talking about the COVID-19 vaccine. I think we should send a message — not only to our seniors, but to everyone — that this is something we all need to do."

Some predominantly white churches also opened their buildings to host clinics. In May, the Hispanic Liaison and Better Care, a Greensboro-based medical provider, hosted a bilingual vaccination clinic at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church.

Like Martinez and Mathews, other pastors are also encouraging their own congregants to get vaccinated.

"We want to be an advocate for people to be vaccinated. So articulating the effectiveness of the vaccine, particularly against any misinformation there is," said Chapel in the Pines' Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman. "This comes out of our belief that our responsibility is to the most vulnerable in our community. We talk about it, we try to shift the conversation from a question of individual rights to community responsibilities."

At The Local Church in Pittsboro, a progressive, predominantly white church, Rev. Brent Levy said it's important to talk about vaccinations.

"Our call is to love our neighbor, and the best way right now that we can love our neighbor is to wear masks is to help keep one another safe," Levy said. "And we have been vocal proponents of vaccinations on Sunday mornings as well. We believe, too, that when people are vaccinated that we're one step closer to being able to fully be who God wants us to be as a community."



Courtesy of CCPHD

James and Delphine Womack, members of Roberts Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Goldston, hold up an 'I got the COVID-19 vaccine!' button during a COVID-19 vaccination event on the church's campus in February. The Womacks were instrumental in organizing the event.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Outside of St. Julia's last Sunday.

Of course, not all Christians see it that way — particularly white evangelicals. Some Americans envision Christians as people prone to conspiracy theories and anti-masking more so than as people who love God and their neighbor.

"I think there is a sadness that the portrayal is not unjustified," Levy said.

In Chatham, as is the case elsewhere across the country, predominantly white evangelical churches are less likely to directly discuss or encourage vaccines — again pointing to the deep politicization of the issue. The News + Record reached out to several evangelical churches in Chatham County about church communication on masking and vaccines, but all declined to comment or did not reply.

Still, when it comes to actually talking with Christians who are hesitant to get the vaccine, it's tricky, pastors said.

"How we've managed it has been much more individual, relational, personal — we have policies that we make, mostly in keeping with the CDC, and kind of local governments, and I've had several conversations with people who are anti-mask, anti-vax," said Alex Kirk, lead pastor of Chatham Community Church, another predominantly white church, which describes itself on its website as "gospel-centered" and "biblically guided."

"What I want to do in these situations," Kirk said, "is instead to listen to people and hear what's the 'why' behind the 'what.'"

Brittany Kohan, the campus pastor at StoryChurch Chatham, which is launching later this fall, said she isn't having direct conversations with congregants about vaccinations. Instead, she's focused on strictly following health guidelines — to create a space safe for people on all parts of the vaccine spectrum.

"As cases rise," she said, "I'm trying to think about how to create as many outdoor spaces for people to safely gather as possible."

At the Local Church, even though Levy has been vocal about being pro-vaccine, he wants to be sensitive to the unvaccinated but eligible congregants at his church.

But he also wants them to get vaccinated someday.

"I think sometimes in our quest to tear down walls," he said, "we inadvertently build them."

For Taylor-Troutman, making the issue personal is the best way he knows to move people to vaccine acceptance. When people know someone who has suffered or died from COVID-19, getting vaccinated is no longer just an abstract issue, "but a deeply and painfully personal one."

"What I would hope is that Christians and other faith communities can help give language to the importance of empathy," he said, "so that we can imagine that personal connection without actually having to endure either suffering or loss of a loved one or friend."

Zelek said he's grateful for the role faith communities have played in COVID-19 education.

"I think that message coming from faith leaders is really powerful," he said. "We're just hoping to help a little bit and to share the information that we have to empower them to inform their congregants."

'Near to those who have suffered'

In addition to navigating conversa-

tions about COVID-19 and vaccinations, churches have spent the last 18 months figuring out how to even safely open.

In Chatham, the full gamut of reopening strategies are in place: masking and distancing indoors, online streaming, outdoor worship and parking-lot church using a radio frequency.

Of course, some churches flouted CDC and health guidelines such as masking and distancing, leading to COVID-19 spread. (The information on church cluster location is not public, as is the case with schools and nursing homes, but the News + Record anecdotally heard about several church clusters in Chatham last winter. In North Carolina, there have been 206 reported clusters at religious gatherings as of Tuesday, out of 1,969 total reported clusters, according to the state's cluster report. That's 2,845 cluster-associated cases, out of 27,097 total — about 10.5%.)

Balancing safety with meeting in person has been important for many church leaders, Mathews said.

"We will find a way to make sure that we stay in fellowship as much as we can, because that is a fundamental element of Christianity is the fellowship of being that person of your faith," Mathews said. "Without the fellowship, Christianity is very hard to live out its purpose, because it's all about community."

Part of being in community, Mathews said, is working through your understanding of who God is with others, particularly as the pandemic challenges people to understand their theology.

In the midst of a suffering world in which new crises seem to emerge every day, reminding each other that God knows suffering and is near to the brokenhearted is crucial, Mathews said.

"If anything, we should teach that these are the times where Christianity should stand up and say, 'We're near to those who have suffered,'" he said. "So what can we do? We can follow science, and if we don't, we can still be with those and help them through it."

At St. Julia's, such community is vital.

When congregants quarantined and couldn't work at the beginning of the pandemic, Martinez rallied to create a fund to support his congregants. His goal? That no one at St. Julia's go hungry or lose their homes.

So far, the church community has raised \$17,500 to support its members.

"This whole thing has been very hard on our people, in ways that we know and in ways that are known only to the people that have become infected — families that have limited resources, limited access to health care, limited financial resources," Martinez said. "The way the community has come together and helped the families that found themselves in those difficult situations is quite powerful and touching to witness."

In a country and faith too often divided by political differences, Martinez said the real sacrament is not the sermons he gives, but the way his people take care of each other.

"And," he said, "I have been lucky enough to see those living sermons."

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

3M

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“but it stands for Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing. I joke around with the executives when they come to the plant. I tell them if they ever sell off the company’s industrial minerals products division they’ll have to change their name to 2M, and that’s not going to go over

very well in the marketplace.”
Of 3M’s mining facilities around the country, Pittsboro is the youngest at just 19 years, but its product supplies buyers across the eastern United States. Between 3M’s three North Carolina locations, the company spends “approximately \$2.3 million in state and local taxes,” Arnett said, and “we export approximately \$175 million out of the state.”

And demand is only increasing. As the nation’s biggest construction boom in 15 years barrels on, 3M is working around the clock to keep buyers happy.
“Nobody forecasted this,” Arnett said. “Especially with the pandemic, nobody forecasted what’s occurring in the construction business and what’s happening with houses. You’ve probably noticed what’s happened with the value of homes

going up through the roof, no pun intended. And so that’s really driving the construction business and also the roofing business as well.”
To meet demand, 3M’s 75 Pittsboro employees are working across three shifts. The process begins with 3M’s quarry partner, Luck Stone, a “family-owned and operated producer of crushed stone, sand and gravel,” according to the company’s website.

‘... a lot of people don’t realize that we have jobs out here, that they have one of the best employers probably in the county right in their backyard.’

BLAKE ARNETT, 3M’s Pittsboro plant director

said. “And you know that color has got to stay on for 20, 30 years on your roof. And so that’s really where the 3M technology comes into place — it’s in that coloring process.”
Once dyed, the stone is placed in a kiln to set. The finished product is then placed in one of 100 shipping silos in preparation for delivery.

pay more than \$20 per hour. 3M’s starting wages are among the highest in Chatham County, but Arnett can’t find enough recruits.

“We pay very well; we have very good benefits,” he said. “And we are considered one of the best companies on the Fortune 500 list to work for, but we’re struggling.”

“We’re just running wide open right now,” Arnett said.
For all its productivity, though, the site maintains a quiet profile. Of the 2,200 acres 3M owns, only 450 are involved in the mining process. “The other 1,700 is untouched,” Arnett said — a deliberate choice to avoid disturbing neighbors.

To engage more with the community, Arnett has overseen about \$10,000 in annual, charitable donations to a variety of causes. The company has partnered with such organizations as the Salvation Army, held food drives, donated school supplies and volunteered construction services in low-income areas.

“That was done by design to insulate neighbors and to be good neighbors within the community,” he said. “You can drive by and you might see some signs, but you don’t really see what’s going on back here.”

“But we have not been out in the community in the last year and a half, two years,” Arnett said. “And that’s been really difficult.”

“We add coloring to it and that’s where you get the black and the red and the blues and white and stuff like that,” he

He looks forward to rebooting the company’s philanthropic efforts as the pandemic recedes and circumstances allow, and hopes more Chatham residents will reach out to learn about opportunities at the plant. The quarry can sustain mining operations for another 100 to 150 years — “long after any of us are around,” Arnett said, laughing. “... That’s pretty good job security.”

The company’s discreet presence has some drawbacks, though. The site needs more workers, but few potential employees know the facility exists.

“3M started with mining,” he said, “and it’ll end with mining.”

“People don’t even know we’re back here,” Arnett said. “The goal was not to be a bad neighbor, to be a good neighbor. But on the other hand, a lot of people don’t realize that we have jobs out here, that they have one of the best employers probably in the county right in their backyard.”

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

The site currently has six job openings that each

Don't Feed the Grease Goblin!

DO

- ✓ Put oil and grease in collection containers
- Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment and food preparation areas with scrapers/towels/brooms
- ✓ Keep grease out of wash water
- ✓ Place food scraps in collection containers

DO NOT

- Pour oil and grease down drains
- Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans and plates with water until oil and grease are removed
- Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces Put food scraps down drains

No Alimento a el Duende de Grasa!

SI

- ✓ Ponga la grasa en contenedores apropiados
- Remueva el aceite y la grasa de utensilios de cocina, equipos, y areas de preparación de comidas con espátulas/toallas/escobas
- ✓ Mentenga la grasa fuera de el agua de lavar
- ✓ Ponga los desperdicios de comida en contenedores adecuados

NO

- No tire aceite o grasa en los drenajes
- No lave con agua freidora/planchas, ollas,cacerolas y platos hasta que el aceite y la grasa hayan sido removidos
- Noe use aua caliente para limpiar la grasa de las superficies
- No tire desperdicios de comida en los drenajes

“We own the land,” Arnett said, “but they mine that for us — do the blasting and that sort of stuff. And then with conveyor systems they’ll bring the rock over to our facility.”

Luck Stone delivers blocks of Andesite rock about four inches in diameter to be crushed and screened for quality. After whittling the stone down to optimal size — about one-sixteenth of an inch around — 3M moves the granules to another building on site for the coloring process, where Arnett says the company really sets itself apart from its competition.

“We add coloring to it and that’s where you get the black and the red and the blues and white and stuff like that,” he

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-Blake Hogg,
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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM THOMAS 'BILL' EMERSON



William Thomas "Bill" Emerson, 89, of Charlotte, died Sunday, August 15, 2021, at Levine & Dickson Hospice House, Huntersville.

Bill was born on January 11, 1932, in Chatham County, N.C., son of Rosa and Bunn Emerson. He grew up in Bear Creek and attended the Bonlee School. Prior to entering the Army, Bill worked in the family poultry business for a number of years. In 1956, Bill became an N.C. State Trooper for 10 years before

moving to the NCDMV License and Theft Division, from which he retired in 1986. Bill then moved to Florida, where he served for 10 years as Chief of Security at Calvary Church in Clearwater.

Bill is survived by his wife of 64 years, Julia Clark "Judy" Emerson; daughter, Kathy Hall and her husband, Rick of Lake Wylie, S.C.; son, Byron Emerson and his wife Karen of Lewisville, N.C.; grandchildren, Jessica Hood and her husband, Michael, Ashley Helms and her husband, Matt and Rebecca Helms and her husband, Chris, Alyssa Emerson and Meredith Summey and her husband, Scott; great-grandchildren, Jonah, Levi, Abigail, Elizabeth, David and Logan.

A service to celebrate the life of Bill Emerson will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at Redeeming Grace Presbyterian Church, 4800 Charlotte Highway, Lake Wylie, S.C. 29710.

Memorials may be sent to Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region, P.O. Box 470408, Charlotte, N.C. 28247

Arrangements are in the care of Kenneth W. Poe Funeral & Cremation Service, 1321 Berkeley Ave., Charlotte. Online condolences can be shared at www.kennethpoeservices.com.

CLIFTON GYLES WARD



Clifton Gyles Ward, age 91, formerly of Asheboro, died Sunday, August 22, 2021.

He was born April 17, 1930, the son of John Randolph and Sallie York Ward in Chatham County, near Staley. He was a graduate of Siler City High School and entered the U.S. Navy and served on a supply ship in the Korean Conflict. He continued his education with radio technology at Gaston Technical College. He worked as a radio engineer and as a

technician for commercial sewing machines for more than 38 years. He was retired from Glenville Manufacturing and Shana Knitwear. He was devoted to Mary Lee, his wife of 54 years. He loved Duke sports and enjoyed the local sports scene including high school and American Legion baseball. He was a devoted and active member of his church and community.

Surviving members of the family include a sister, Elizabeth Ward Stephenson Dale of Henderson; nephews, James Benjamin Stephenson II of Apex and Randolph Michael Stephenson of Greenville; nieces, Doris Jeanette of Philadelphia and Edith Ward Boys of Sanford; special sister-in-law, Kathryn Nichols, and other loved great nieces and nephews.

Members of the family that are predeceased include his wife Mary Lee Stinson Ward, siblings, Randolph Wayne Ward, Grace Ward Vickery, and nephew John Wayne Ward.

The graveside service was held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 1 p.m. with Pastor Mark Wilburn officiating. Burial was in Randolph Memorial Park, Asheboro.

In lieu of flowers, memorials for Clifton Gyles Ward may be made to any charity.

The family would like to thank the staff at Elmcroft and Universal Healthcare for their loving support.

Pugh Funeral Home in Asheboro is serving the Ward family.

Please share remembrances and condolences at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

DOROTHY 'DOT' GARNER WHITE

Dorothy "Dot" Garner White, 79, of Asheboro, died Tuesday, August 24, 2021, at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Friday, August 27, 2021, at Deep River Baptist Church, Ramseur, with Rev. Tim Strider officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Dot was formerly employed by Pinehurst Textile and Black & Decker. She was a member of Deep River Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Christine Marley Garner, brothers, Henry Garner, Charlie Garner, and Robert Garner.

Survivors include her husband, Tommy White, of the home; daughter, Vickie Bailey of Asheboro; sons, Charles Douglas "Doug" White and Randall Lynn "Randy" White, both of Asheboro; sisters, Clarice McCuiston of Ramseur, Faye Hunt of Asheboro, Judy Cox of Randleman; six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Randolph, 416 Vision Dr., Asheboro, N.C. 27203.

Condolences may be made online at www.loflinfuneralservice.com.

SANDERS BARNES

Sanders Barnes, 72, of Sanford passed away on Friday, August 27, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MARY JANE BROWN TOBUL

Mary Jane Brown Tobul, 86, of Pittsboro, formerly of Duncansville, Pennsylvania, passed away Monday, August 23, 2021.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory, Griffin Chapel. A celebration of life will follow the memorial service.

Mary Jane was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania, on June 29, 1935, to the late Frederick and Francis McKinnen Brown. She is also preceded in death by five brothers and five sisters.

Surviving are her husband, Tom Tobul Sr. of Pittsboro; sons, Tom Tobul Jr. of Holly Springs, Anthony Tobul of Duncansville, Pennsylvania; daughter, Tina Snyder of Zebulon; four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; and one brother, Harry.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Mary Jane's memory to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 840692, Dallas, Texas 75284-0692 or Alzheimer Charities, 3739 National Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27612.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

PAUL PERSON

Paul Person, 78, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, August 28, 2021.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

ROBERT 'BERT' LEON HORTON



Robert "Bert" Leon Horton, age 42, of Pittsboro, died Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

Bert was born in Germany on September 18, 1978, to Alfred Horton and Hannelore Mahler Horton.

Surviving relatives include his parents, Alfred and Hannelore Horton; his wife, Melanie Horton; three sons, Kamden Horton and his mother Melissa Bryant of Pittsboro, Dilan Horton of Pittsboro, Devin Horton of Pittsboro; one daughter,

Nadiyah Horton of Pittsboro; and one brother, Michael Horton of Apex.

The family will receive friends Friday, September 3, 2021, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with family and friends presiding.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

DR. LESTER ROGERS



Dr. Lester Rogers passed away in the early morning of August 27, 2021, peacefully in his sleep at home at the age of 94.

He was born on October 18, 1926, in Brooklyn, New York, to Herman and Frances Rogers. He graduated from St. John's University and from Brandeis University as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and had his practice in Siler City 57 years before he retired.

He loved playing golf, participating in fantasy football, and was an avid reader. Dr. Rogers was a passionate UNC Tar Heel fan, especially basketball.

He loved to travel, see the world and spending time with family. He also served a term on the board of directors of the Siler City Country Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Frances Rogers, his brother Dr. A.C. Rogers, his sisters Mimi Loring and Rita Becker and his wife, Geri Rogers.

He is survived by daughters Susan Seltzer and son-in-law Dr. Samuel Seltzer, Dr. Hillary Rogers and son-in-law Mike Waters and son Jeffrey Rogers. He also has one grandchild, Lauren Seltzer.

The family would like to give special thanks to Dee Dee Goldston, Mel Herbert, Emma Smith and Maria Carvallo for being a great team of caregivers who took great care of our father.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to The Humane Society of the U.S. at their website humanesociety.org or the ASPCA at their website aspca.org.

TERESA ANNETTE MASON

Teresa Annette Mason, 61, of Siler City passed away on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Ms. Mason was born in Chatham County on July 2, 1960, the daughter of Ed and Brenda Walters.

She is survived by her children, Joshua Gilbert, Jhamakia, Dekotah and Jonnia Moore, Africa, Taquez, and Taquan Mason; parents, Ed and Brenda Walters; sisters, Donna Hayes, Christie Douglas and Anita Jackson; one brother, Eddie Walters; and 10 grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneralhome.com.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Mason family.

THEODORE GEROME EUBANKS

Theodore Gerome Eubanks, 40, passed away on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

He was born February 20, 1981, in Orange County, to Thomasina Eubanks and Raymond Glover. He was a graduate of Jordan-Matthew High School. After graduation, Theodore enlisted into the United States Army. His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (2), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserved Medal with M device. Following the military, Theodore became a supervisor at Mountaire Farms in Siler City.

Theodore was preceded in death by his grandparents, Roland McKinley Eubanks, Raymond Glover Sr. and grandmother, Ava Lee Eubanks.

Survivors include his mother, Thomasina Eubanks of Siler City; his father, Raymond (Patricia) Glover of Siler City; grandmother, Nellie Mae Glover of Siler City; brothers, Timothy Eubanks of Siler City,

Maurice Eubanks of Germany; and one sister, Tammy Ward.

Russell Funeral Home of Siler City is serving the family.

JAMES FLOYD BROWN

James Floyd Brown, 73, of Robbins, passed away on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at his home.

The graveside memorial service was held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 3 p.m. at New Testament Baptist Church with Rev. Darren Richardson and Pastor Wayne Eudy presiding.

He was born in Randolph County on September 25, 1947, to Marvin Clyde and Millie Kennedy Brown. He attended New Testament Baptist Church and retired from Standard Mineral, where he was a welder. In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his sister, Rebecca Woodell and brother, Clyde Brown.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Linda Spain Brown, of the home; daughter, Carrie Brown of Robbins; son, Howard "Howie" Brown of Robbins.

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

ALEJANDRO ESQUIVEL ESPINO

Alejandro Esquivel Espino, 45, of Staley, passed away on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Pittsboro.

INEZ (REAVES) TYSOR

Ms. Inez Reaves Tysor, age 103, of Goldston, passed away on Friday, August 27, 2021, at her daughter's residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

JEREMY DAQUAN MCKENDALL

Jeremy Daquan "Quan" McKendall, 27, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, August 29, 2021, at his residence.

The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. starting on August 30, 2021, until the day of the service. Masks are mandatory. Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MALISSA VENRICK HOLDER

Malissa Venrick Holder, 58, of Cameron, died August 18, 2021, at her home.

A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Rocky Fork Christian Church with the Rev. Vanya Mullinax officiating.

Mrs. Holder was born in Polk County, Florida, on August 1, 1963, to Phyllis Hancock Venrick and the late Wallace Edwin Venrick. Malissa was a Cardiovascular Specialist for First Health Moore Regional. She was preceded in death by her husband, Michael Scott Holder; a brother, Jeffrey Louis Venrick; her father, Wallace Edwin Venrick; and grandparents, Hal and Frances Hancock. A son, Clint Holder of Cameron, died three days following Malissa.

Surviving relatives include a son Dylan Holder of Clayton; a granddaughter; her mother, Phyllis Hancock Venrick of Sanford; and a sister, Rebecca Venrick Thompson of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are with Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

CLINT MITCHELL HOLDER

Clint Mitchell Holder, 31, of Cameron, died Aug. 21, 2021, at his home.

A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Rocky Fork Christian Church Cemetery with the Rev. Vanya Mullinax officiating.

Clint was born in Wake County, on September 25, 1989, to the late Malissa Page Venrick Holder and Michael Scott Holder. He worked in construction. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandfathers, Paul Mitchell Holder and Wallace Edwin Venrick; and great-grandmother Frances Hancock.

Surviving relatives include his brother Dylan Holder of Clayton; daughter, Amaya Holder of Sanford; grandmothers, Phyllis Hancock Venrick of Sanford and Shirley Ann Lord of Winterville;

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are with Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

SHERI ANN WICKER STONE

Sheri Ann Wicker Stone, 56, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A memorial service was held at 3 p.m. Friday, August 27, 2021, at the First Congregational Christian Church with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

She was born in Lee County on August 30, 1964, to the late Jimmy Wicker and Joann Morrow Valentine. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by grandparents, Ray and Beulah Morrow.

Sheri is survived by her husband Duke; children, Brian McLean of Reno, Nevada, Christopher McLean of Broadway and Ashley Amber-Nicole McKay of Goldston; sisters, Tanya Wicker of Sanford, Sherry Walters of Summerville, S.C.; and five grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

FRANCIS KEITH GODFREY

Francis Keith Godfrey, 41, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, August 19, 2021, at his home.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at Olivia Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. Bob Johnson and Rev. George Walton officiating.

Keith was born in Lee County on January 24, 1980, to Roy Lee and Dorothy Marshburn Godfrey. He worked as a carpet installer.

Survivors include his parents, Roy Lee and Dorothy Marshburn Godfrey of Sanford; and brother, Randy Godfrey of Sanford.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A11

OBITUAIRES

Continued from page A10

ANNE WHITE

Anne White, 85, of Candor, died Sunday, August 29, 2021, at First Health Hospice and Palliative Care.

Graveside services will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at the Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church Cemetery in Jackson Springs with Rev. Garland Smith officiating. The family will receive friends from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church sanctuary, prior to the funeral service.

She was born on October 22, 1935, daughter of the late Burtis M. Wood and Ellen Glasco Thomas. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Bobby Ray White and her sons, Randall White and Dale White. She retired from Russell Hosiery Mill and Walmart in Biscoe.

Surviving are her children, Keith White, Kathy Tucker of Norwood, Michael White of Seagrove, Myra Phillips of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Ginger White of Kernersville; 12 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be made to First Health Hospice and Palliative Care, 150 Applecross Road, Pinehurst, N.C. 28374.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

DAMON HARRIS

Damon Harris passed away on August 19, 2021.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Friday, August 27, 2021, at Christ Way with burial at St. Peter, The Rock.

BARBARA JEANNE MATTERN

Barbara Jeanne Mattern passed away on August 6, 2021, in her home in Chapel Hill.

Her funeral will be held at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory in Pittsboro on Saturday, September 18, 2021. The visitation will take place from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. The memorial service will be conducted by Pastor Will Rose from 2 to 2:45, and the graveside service following from 3 to 3:30 at Lystra Baptist Church, Chapel Hill. Friends and family are welcome to come by to pay their respects at any time. COVID safety protocols will be observed for the safety of all who attend in-person. Feel free to contact Kim Murdock at ArtzHubNC@gmail.com if you would like to receive a zoom link to attend virtually instead.

Her children include Carol “Jan” Blakeslee of Cary, David Stewart of Olean, N.Y., Annette Morrison of Greensboro, and Kim Murdock of Chapel Hill; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; a brother, Jerry Mattern of Spencerport, N.Y., and sister, Kay Mattern, of Olean, N.Y.

In lieu of flowers, please donate in her name, to the North Carolina Botanical Garden. www.ncbg.unc.edu

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

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

LARRY BERNARD BAKER SR.

Mr. Larry Bernard Baker Sr., 65 of Southern Pines, passed away on Monday, August 23, 2021, at his residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

BARBARA J. KOCHENBERGER

Barbara J. Kochenberger, 79, of Sanford, died Friday, August 27, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehab.

A memorial service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, September 3, 2021, at the Smith Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Garland Smith officiating.

She was born on May 14, 1942, daughter of the late Boyd and Thelma Baclesse Helmig. She was preceded in death by her parents, and siblings Karen Kay and Dwight Helmig.

Surviving is her husband, Richard Kochenberger of the home; daughter, Tammy Toby of Bowling Green, Kentucky; sons, James Allen Kochenberger of Fuquay Varina, and Kurt Kochenberger of Braidwood, Illinois; sisters, Mary Jo, Ronda, Ruth Ann, Brenda; and brother, Dwayne; seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

SHELTON GUY MADDOX

Shelton Guy Maddox, 76, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, August 22, 2021, at UNC Hospital.

A Celebration of Guy’s Life was held on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 6 p.m. at Sanford Moose Lodge.

He was born in Lee County on August 27, 1944, to the late Jefferson Shelton Maddox and Ernestine Simpson Maddox. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Brenda, and sister, Catherine Fay Hanna.

Guy is survived by his daughter, Misty Maddox of Los Angeles, California; and two sisters, Mary “Sis” Mardis and Teresa Maddox, both of Sanford.

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

WILLIE EVERETT GODFREY

Willie Everett Godfrey, 73, of Sanford, died August 28, 2021, at his home.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at Kendale Acres Freewill Baptist Church with the Pastor Doug Western officiating. Burial followed at Lemon Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Willie was born in Lee County on October 30, 1947, to Willie Paul and Viola Baker Godfrey. He was a self-employed pipe fitter. He was preceded in death by his father; son, Mark Edward Godfrey; sisters, Marie Sheffield, Kay Mitchell; and a half-brother, Tim Godfrey.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Peggy Patterson Godfrey of Sanford; son, Jeff Godfrey of Sanford; brothers, Ronnie Godfrey, Joe Godfrey, and Jack Godfrey, all of Sanford; half-brother, Terry Perdue of Sanford; half-sisters, Linda Patterson of Gulf, Darlene Turner, Regina Daniels of Sanford, Paula Rinehart of Florida, and Deborah Walker of Indiana; four grandchildren, Jessica Harrington, Justin, Olivia Godfrey, Alaina Godfrey, and four great-grandchildren.

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

EDITH SAUNDERS BOGGS

Edith Saunders Boggs, 76, of Broadway, died Saturday, August 28, 2021, at Beacon Place Hospice in Greensboro.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at Antioch Baptist Church with Rev. Dan Deaton officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery. The family received friends in the sanctuary from 12 to

2 p.m. prior to the funeral service.

She was born in Lee County, daughter of the late Thomas Robert and Barbara Belle Thomas Saunders. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, George Bennett Boggs. Edith was a member of Antioch Baptist Church.

Surviving are her sons, Bennett Boggs and Bruce Boggs of Stoneville; sisters, Helen Saunders Parrott of Greenville, Margaret “Peggy” Saunders Knight and Clemetta Rosa Saunders, both of Sanford.

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

DANIEL LYNN LAWRENCE

Daniel Lynn Lawrence, 32, of Sanford, passed away on August 23, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A funeral was held at New Hope Baptist on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at 3 p.m. with Rev. Andy Foley and Pastor Darin Vogt officiating and Jay Doss also speaking. Burial followed at Flat Springs Baptist Church.

He was born in Lee County on August 8, 1989, to Swannie Fore Lawrence and the late Michael Dale Lawrence. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Tommy Forest Fore and Bobby Lynn Lawrence; step-grandfather, Jerry Tyndall. Daniel worked as a skidder operator for Elkins Logging Company.

Survivors include his mother, Swannie Fore Lawrence of Deep River; a son, Levi Christopher Lawrence; grandmothers, Thelma Fore and Peggy Tyndall, both of Sanford; and a sister, Whitney Marks of Deep River.

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

AFGHANISTAN: A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Retired diplomats living in Chatham shed light on war, withdrawal

‘The U.S. could have prolonged the conflict, but a fair question is: To what end?’

BY BOB & MAGGIE PEARSON
Special to the News + Record

Editor’s note: U.S. military aircraft carried the last American troops out of Afghanistan on Monday. It signified the end of the longest war in U.S. history, coming just before (Afghanistan time) the Aug. 31 withdrawal deadline set by President Biden. Hundreds of Americans still in the country, and tens of thousands of Afghans, now face an uncertain future. Ending U.S. presence in that country was a campaign promise of President Biden’s, but despite polls revealing most Americans backed the decision, most disapproved of how the exit was handled. Since 2001, 2,461 U.S. troops were killed there, and tens of thousands of Afghans have died in fighting during the nearly two-decade war.

For reaction and insight about Afghanistan and the withdrawal, the News + Record reached out to Bob and Maggie Pearson, Chatham residents who retired to Fearrington Village in 2015 after respective careers as diplomats. Included in their long record of service: Bob Pearson was U.S. Ambassador to Turkey from 2000 to 2003 and Director General of the Foreign Service from 2003 to 2006, and Maggie Pearson was a Senior Foreign Service Public Diplomacy Officer during the 2000 to 2006 period.

“We believe President Biden made the right decision to leave,” the Pearsons write. “The U.S. military is the best fighting force in the world. Our diplomats gave their best from beginning to end. But without an achievable strategy to win and transform the country and without popular support at home, we could not remain indefinitely.”

PITTSBORO — On August 13 at dinner with family in San Francisco, we were asked how long the Afghan government might hold out.

We said less than a month. Forty-eight hours later, Kabul fell. We will always remember the sacrifices made, the lives lost by our American heroes, and the enormous efforts made.

From 2001 to 2006, Afghanistan was part of my (Bob’s) job — first as ambassador to Turkey from 2000 to

2003, and then as Director General of the Foreign Service from 2003 to 2006. On 9/11, we were both in Washington, D.C., for talks. We were watching on TV the horrifying events in New York, where our son was working, and heard the powerful explosion as American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon. That day we saw thousands of workers walking miles to get home. We went down to the Potomac River and saw the smoke cloud still rising just across the river. No one knew what might happen next or when.

A week later Bob was back in Turkey, thanks to a patched-together flight schedule. He still remembers that Delta Airlines had a Muslim woman at the counter helping passengers. She got him on a flight last-minute to Atlanta to catch an Olympic Airlines flight to Zurich and then to Turkey.

In Ankara, Bob immediately asked the Turks for support for an operation in Afghanistan. Turkey’s Prime Minister called him in his car going home to say, “Yes.” Many Turks came to the Embassy with flowers and notes to express their own feelings for all who had died. Turkish firemen placed a fire helmet at our gate. 9/11 was a global attack. It’s not widely known that included in the nearly 3,000 people who died that day were victims from 77 foreign countries.

From 2003, as Director General, Bob was responsible for sending American diplomats to Afghanistan. It is a point of pride that every diplomat who went was a volunteer, then and now. From 2003 Maggie was in our bureau to examine and qualify candidates for the Foreign Service. There was no shortage of young women and men stepping up to the challenge.

Space does not permit sharing all the wonderful stories of these young Americans who saw 9/11 as their Pearl Harbor and responded, but Bob recalls the young American woman watching the events of 9/11 unfold from Madrid who came home to sign up, the Korean-American woman lawyer who joined, and the young man from Iowa studying Arabic at Berkeley who volunteered to escort Americans in Iraq.

Secretary of State Colin Powell was Bob’s boss from 2001 to 2005 and saw the perils ahead. His eight questions from 1991 — the “Powell Doctrine,” requiring yes before any American military operation (<https://mwi.usma.edu/is-the-powell-doctrine-dead-and-gone/>) — were gradually set aside after the initial victory. The most important, often quoted, was the necessity for an effective exit strategy.

Others among the Powell Doctrine questions are important, too:

1. Was there a clear national security interest threatened?

Yes, for a time as we rooted out Al Qaeda and searched for Osama bin Laden. It was probably not a vital national interest to the U.S. then to decide to democratize a country in central Asia which had never experienced such institutions or principles.

2. Did we have a clear attainable objective?

Yes, for the first stage. The objective of democratizing Afghanistan was, however, an open-ended goal.

3. Were the risks and costs fully and frankly analyzed?

At the beginning, we had the will and the means to militarily defeat the Taliban, who supported Al Qaeda. Just over three weeks after 9/11, our superb military invaded to overthrow the Taliban government supporting bin Laden and succeeded by December 2001. Analysis of the risks and costs of a long term operation followed only after we had won the initial military campaign.

4. Were the consequences of our actions fully considered?

Given the time constraints, the first phase consequences were partially considered. Those considerations after December 2001 followed, not preceded, the political decision to democratize the country.

5. Was there a plausible exit strategy to avoid endless entanglement?

Due to the overwhelming determination by Americans in 2001 to attack the Taliban and Al-Qaeda where they were, this question never came into play. Only after December 2001 and the U.S. military victory was the question raised. Many felt that leaving immediately would just open the door again to the Taliban or Al Qaeda. There was widespread sentiment to help Afghans achieve better lives. We never articulated a plausible exit strategy.

In 2014 the idea emerged that managing to maintain an indefinite stalemate to prevent the Taliban from winning was acceptable. This has become known as the “middle ground” theory. This policy failed to demonstrate how democracy could succeed, the damage done by a corrupt government, the costs of indefinite occupation, the focus Afghanistan and Iraq were giving to U.S. military career experience and goals, or how pleased Russia and China might be to see the U.S. tied down for years in Afghanistan.

Over time, the American people lost confidence in this “100 year” war, as Sen. John McCain described it. Former president Donald Trump began negotiations with the Taliban in 2018, even trying to invite the Taliban to Camp

‘There was widespread sentiment to help Afghans achieve better lives. We never articulated a plausible exit strategy.’

BOB & MAGGIE PEARSON, retired diplomats

David, and sealed the deal in February 2020. He agreed to release 5,000 Taliban fighters from prison. He reduced American forces from over 13,000 to just over 3,000 and set May 1, 2021 as the final withdrawal date. Taliban attacks on Afghan government forces increased sharply after that February 2020.

Those in opposition to withdrawal, now so outraged, might refresh their memories.

President Biden inherited this deal. He made his own decisions on that basis. In retrospect, millions of Afghans learned about democracy but the Kabul government remained corrupt and failed to provide its army with the goods, the salaries, and the leadership its soldiers deserved. There is no doubt the U.S. could have prolonged the conflict, but a fair question is: To what end?

We believe President Biden made the right decision to leave. The U.S. military is the best fighting force in the world. Our diplomats gave their best from beginning to end. But without an achievable strategy to win and transform the country and without popular support at home, we could not remain indefinitely. That the departure would be messy was predictable; whether and how it could have been mitigated will be debated for years. That chaos could have been avoided after a sudden collapse of the Afghanistan government and army was what we certainly may have hoped for but not what we could have expected.

Now the focus is switching to what can be done.

In Afghanistan, the agenda is clear: (1) bring out as many as possible of those who helped us and are left behind; (2) condition any financing for Afghanistan on Taliban behavior; and (3) push for global humanitarian assistance with assurances.

At home, let’s remember that American policy direction should reflect our people’s concerns and expectations; it is — as it should be — the only way to build and sustain policy legitimacy.

Taking on board such citizen views at every stage is critical for proper decision making before we put American lives at risk and keep spending our national treasure.

America has a lot to offer the world. Let’s make sure we do it smart.

Some solutions are on the horizon, but Pittsboro's water woes may have long-term ramifications

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Expensive solutions will improve Pittsboro's drinking water soon, but contamination troubles are expected to persist, according to Chatham leaders, scientists and activists who convened last Thursday to discuss the town's multifaceted water woes at a public forum at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center.

About 75 people attended the meeting (in person and via Zoom), hosted by the Haw River Assembly — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit citizens' group — to hear seven panelists share their expertise on the state of Pittsboro's water, which the town draws from the Haw River. PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane, dangerous chemicals derived from upstream factory runoff, have appeared in Pittsboro's drinking water for decades. The panelists' primary message: immediate solutions are impending, but little progress has been made toward stymieing contamination at its source.

"We wanted to get something in as quick as we can," Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy told the audience about new filter technology currently being installed at the town's water plant. "For the first million and a half (gallons of water per day), we'll have something in by the end of this calendar year. We are well under way."

The project — installation of a granular activated coal system — will remove at least 90% of all PFAS from the filtered supply. One and a half million gallons a day is more than

enough to serve the town's current population on all but the hottest days of the year.



Kennedy



Reives

The GAC system's imminent completion will come as welcome news to Pittsboro residents who have lived with PFAS-laden water for many years, panelists said. PFAS, a family of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, yield several negative health effects, including elevated risks of thyroid disease and testicular and kidney cancer; increased blood cholesterol levels; and birth defects. Many studies, including a national investigation by Consumer Reports, have identified PFAS concentrations in Pittsboro's water as among the highest in the country.

While filtration will improve water quality moving forward, future health implications of long-term PFAS ingestion are still unknown. What's clear, though, is Pittsboro residents have had longer exposure to high PFAS levels than most people in the country.

"PFAS have very long half lives in our bodies," said Duke Environmental Science Professor Heather Stapleton, a speaker at the event who has studied Pittsboro's water since 2018 and measured concentrations in Pittsboro residents' blood samples.

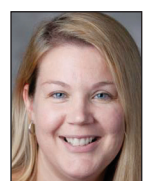
"And what we're finding is that the levels of exposure here are higher than what we typically see in the general

population," she said.

Among the tens of thousands of chemicals within the PFAS family, some appeared in Pittsboro residents at concentrations four times higher than average.



Knappe



Stapleton

water has contained alarming PFAS levels.

"PFAS levels they found back in 2006 samples, if you sum them all up, they sum up to about 1,000 nanograms per liter," he told attendees. "So that's quite a high concentration."

The Environmental Protection Agency has a health advisory recommending no more than 70 nanograms per liter in drinking water, though some experts contend healthy levels should not exceed one nanogram per liter. In a Q&A session after the forum, Knappe confirmed for the News + Record that it's likely some Pittsboro residents have regularly ingested dangerous levels of PFAS for at least 15 years.

"So it appears that PFAS are in the water pretty consistently," he said. "Likely the concentrations do change, as Dr. Stapleton said, because of changes in the river flow. But they've been around at least since that time. Unfortunately, nobody measured them before 2006, so we don't know when it

started."

1,4-Dioxane, on the other hand, was identified much earlier.

"With 1,4-Dioxane, it's actually a little bit of a different story," Knappe said. "There's a 1982 study, and I think it was commissioned by the Haw River Assembly at the time, and a researcher at UNC-Chapel Hill at the time — when these analytical instruments first were really implemented in environmental analysis — showed that 1,4-Dioxane was in the Haw River in 1982. So that one we know has been around for more like four decades."

About a year and a half ago, near the pandemic's start, 1,4-Dioxane entirely disappeared from Pittsboro's water for unknown reasons. Two months ago, however, the chemical resurfaced following an illegal discharge at Greensboro's TZ Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant. As of early August, 1,4-Dioxane levels are again non-detectable and the town has stopped daily sampling, but Kennedy and the town's board of commissioners are eager to preempt future surprises. Town finances limit their options, though. GAC does not filter 1,4-Dioxane; to install additional filtration methods will cost an extra \$4-6 million.

"And we frankly do not have that money," Kennedy said.

A better solution would be to halt pollution at its source, panelists said. But individual sources have not been isolated.

"The ubiquity, or the presumed ubiquity, of these contaminants," Kennedy said, "from the multiple, potential sources makes it more difficult

to say, 'OK, we've attributed this to a source.' And so the more it becomes ubiquitous, the more difficult it is to try to litigate that, because then they say, 'Well, it's just present everywhere.'"

Town leadership and residents hope the state involvement will mitigate Pittsboro's financial burden, but efforts to attract the General Assembly's attention have gained little traction.

"We're just not able to get any of this legislation moved," said Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54) who represents Chatham in the N.C. House and joined last Thursday's panel. But he encouraged Pittsboro residents and other interested parties to persist in lobbying state legislators.

"For me, this is a public emergency," Reives said. "If we don't fix the water, it won't be something that just affects us today — it'll be affecting us 30, 40 years down the road, and affecting our children and our grandchildren. So we'll definitely continue to push forward on that."

For more information on Haw River contamination, visit the Haw River Assembly's website at www.hawriver.org. The seven panelists at last Thursday's forum included Stapleton, Knappe, Kennedy, Reives, N.C. State Associate Professor Jane Hoppin and Clean Haw River founders Katie Bryant and Dr. Jessica Merricks. Haw River Assembly has not announced plans for any subsequent meetings.

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

Chatham News + Record

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NEW AMENITY, PADDLES
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Amenities are at the heart of the Chatham Park master-planned community. We are committed to offering residents and guests a community which encourages a well-rounded life. To achieve that goal, we continue to develop resources and facilities that will enhance the Chatham Park lifestyle and build on our five pillars of Innovation, Connectivity, Quality Design, Healthy Balance, and Stewardship.

Our next recreational venture, Paddles, a swim and pickleball amenity, will be the perfect complement to our community vision and provide area residents with even more leisure options. Scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend 2022, Paddles, will be located in the Vineyards next to Knight Farm Community Park and will feature a six-lane competition-style pool with a slide, a kiddie pool, and a concession stand for future swim meets.



Members will benefit from the cabanas, individual loungers, and outdoor showers. Outside of the swim area, plans are underway for eight pickleball courts, a nod to the growing popularity of this niche sport.



Not familiar with pickleball? Easier to learn than tennis with less stress on the joints than aerobics, pickleball is a great way to stay healthy and meet your neighbors! We are also excited to utilize Paddles as our new Information Center for the Vineyards. The club building will boast a sales center, offices and a kitchen area for sales center employees, a pool equipment room, restrooms, and a concession stand. Stay tuned as we will continue to introduce even more amenities to be delivered! Membership at Paddles will be available to Chatham Park residents and non-residents alike. Fees and membership structure are still in development.



Paddles is just one more example of the incredible growth happening in our technology centric 7,068-acre live, work, play, learn master-planned community. For more information on our current amenities, our homes, or how we are fulfilling our promises for more balanced lifestyle opportunities, visit our website.

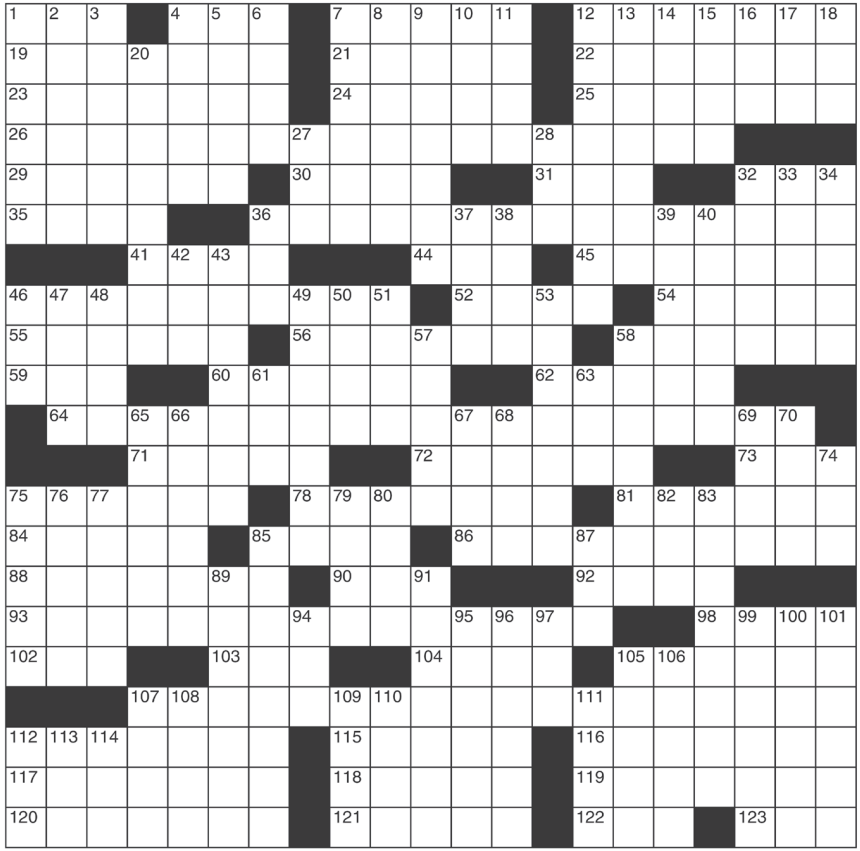
PADDLES IS JUST ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE INCREDIBLE GROWTH HAPPENING IN OUR TECHNOLOGY CENTRIC 7,068-ACRE LIVE, WORK, PLAY, LEARN MASTER-PLANNED COMMUNITY.

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PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

STOPPING STITCHING

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
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| | | | | | 114 Bark sharply |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

V	I	A	G	R	A	B	S	S	E	C	T	M	A	M	B	O	S		
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NEW BRIEF

CCCC's 12-week term begins Sept. 14

SANFORD — Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, Central Carolina Community College's 12-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals.

The next 12-week classes begin Sept. 14.

To register for courses, contact your advisor or the Admissions office at 919-718-7300 (Lee Main Campus), 919-545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus), and 910-814-8827 or 910-814-8867 (Harnett Main Campus). You can also connect with an Advisor virtually by visiting www.cccc.edu/admissions/contacts/ or visit us in person at any Main Campus.

See www.cccc.edu/12and8/ for a list of classes.

— CN+R staff reports

MR. AND MRS. JAY & KELLY SILER



Jay and Kelly (Bailey) Siler were united in marriage at 6 p.m. on August 8, 2021, in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The private beach ceremony was officiated by Pastor Harold M. Mitchell.

After a honeymoon in Charleston, S.C., the bride and groom reside in Siler City.

Online art auction to benefit United Way of Chatham County

Award-winning artist Karen Meredith donates 60 pieces for auction

From the United Way of Chatham County

PITTSBORO — The United Way of Chatham County is hosting an online art auction Sept. 1-17 with all proceeds benefiting United Way.

Karen Meredith, a celebrated artist, Chatham resident, and United Way volunteer and donor, has generously donated 60 pieces of artwork to United Way for the auction. Items will go to the person offering the highest bid or who first offers the suggested retail price. To view artwork, place bids and purchase, follow this link: www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org/auction.

Meredith volunteered with United Way of Chatham County during the allocations process in the spring to review and analyze the programs vying for United Way funding. Her experience as a program evaluator prompted her decision to offer this fundraising opportunity to United Way.

"I was extremely impressed with the



Submitted photo

Artist Karen Meredith.

professionalism of their process," Meredith said of the United Way's funding allocations process. "It was as organized as any experience I had working for various Federal agencies."

"Their limited funds are being directed to

the most important projects and capable programs," she said. "By using United Way as an oversight organization, they are acutely aware of the needs of the county. They can ensure that there is limited overlap of efforts and maximum collaboration with other agencies in the area."

Over the years Meredith's art has been showcased in more than 50 invited solo and juried shows around the country. Meredith is primarily self-taught and works mostly with oil and watercolor. Paintings from her father, Maurice LaReau, will also be featured in the auction. LaReau was an accomplished artist, graduating from Rhode Island School of Design, and teaching at Brown University, Pomfret Art School, and the Ft Lauderdale Institute.

"I am thrilled to be able to support United Way of Chatham County in this manner," Meredith said. "Creating art is a joy and privilege for me. It's satisfying knowing that it also can benefit an organization that is so adept at serving such a large number of people with great needs."

The United Way of Chatham County serves one in three Chatham residents. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the United Way's annual impact fund, which currently funds 23 programs managed by 16 nonprofit agencies that specialize in the education, financial stability and health of Chatham County residents. For more information on the agencies and programs funded by United Way, volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org.



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.

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46th Annual Family Event Old-Fashioned Farmers' Days



A Celebration of an American Way of Life Sept. 4 ~ Sept. 5, 2021
Gates open at 9:00 am, Saturday & Sunday

Admission: \$5 per Person - Children under 6 FREE **Free PARKING!**

Working Farm Animals on Display ~ Junior Dairy Show ~ Tractors & Automobiles Restored Antique Farm Equipment ~ Old Time Farm Crafts Demonstrated Tobacco in Barn ~ Music ~ Great Food ~ Ice Cream & More!

Saturday

- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: Working Exhibit Demonstrations
- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: Junior Dairy Show Events throughout the day
- 11:00 am - 4:00 pm: Outdoor Stage Entertainment
- 4:00 pm: Raffle Truck to lead the Parade of Power

SATURDAY NIGHT Antique Tractor Pull is back

Sunday

- 9:00 am: Church Service
- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: Working Exhibit Demonstrations
- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm: Junior Dairy Show Events throughout the day
- 4:00 pm: Raffle Truck to lead the Sunday Parade of Power
- 5:00 pm: 2021 Raffle Drawing in the Barn

Beaver Creek BBQ San Felipe Mexican Restaurant & other vendors serving food.

For dessert, don't forget the almost world famous Silk Hope Ruritan Steam Cream Ice Cream! Schedule Subject to Change Due to Unforeseen Circumstances.

MORE INFORMATION: (919) 815-4044

Vendors: (919) 455-6895

Campers: (919) 742-4406

Email: mapleridgefarm50@gmail.com

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"We count ourselves very fortunate to call Mountaire Farms a community partner of the Wren Family Boys & Girls Club in Siler City. Mountaire's support enables us to provide thousands of meals to kids at the Club during our after school programs and throughout summer day camp. This has been incredibly important during the pandemic. Furthermore, Mountaire Farms is a major partner in the current planning and building of a new commercial kitchen in the Club which will provide tens of thousands of meals to kids and their families here in Siler City for decades to come. Think of all of the individuals, both kids and adults, who will be nourished because of Mountaire's support. When it comes to community investment, Mountaire Farms sets a high standard."

- Daniel Simmons Chief Executive Officer,
Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolinas

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CHARGERS 72, JETS 0

Northwood scores 10 touchdowns, posts 459 rushing yards in shellacking of Jordan-Matthews

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — There are some tasks that simply feel impossible to complete. Using a No. 2 pencil to win a home run derby, staying dry in a monsoon using nothing but an umbrella and stopping the Northwood rushing attack when it's on fire, among others. While no monsoons or home run derbies were scheduled for last Friday night in Siler City, a football game was — and Northwood's rushing attack made sure to show up. The Chargers (1-1) dominated the Jordan-Matthews Jets (0-2) on the road from the opening kickoff on Friday, winning the first matchup between

the two schools since 2018 by a commanding score of 72-0. A week prior, Northwood was shut out by the Lee County Yellow Jackets in its season-opener, 62-0, in a game where the Chargers looked like a shell of themselves after winning part of the Big Eight conference title last spring. That loss flipped a switch. "Lee County is Lee County, they're one of the best teams in the state," Cullen Homolka, Northwood's head coach, said after Friday's win. "I think, in a way, that game last week showed us who we really are and what we need to do to get where we want to be. And I think it woke us up, too, so (J-M Head Coach Ryan Johnson) kind of got an angry

Northwood team when we showed up today." Nothing showcased Northwood's anger more than its run game, which powered through J-M's defensive line with relative ease. Spin moves, broken tackles, hard runs — all of them were present on the ground for the Chargers throughout the night, namely in the first half. On the first play of Northwood's first possession, senior running back Ryan Hilliard took the handoff and proceeded to pound through his offensive line, finding the hole and breaking three tackles — including one with a beautiful spin move that slung the Jets' See FOOTBALL, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior center Robbie Delgado (54) lifts senior running back Jalen Paige (with ball) in celebration after Paige ran for a 13-yard touchdown in the first quarter of the Chargers' 72-0 victory over Jordan-Matthews last Friday.

How UCF (and the Selection Committee) ruined college football

The UCF Knights ruined college football for me.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

Yes, you read that right. The Knights that hail from Orlando's University of Central Florida. The Knights that helped produce NFL talents like Blake Bortles and Brandon Marshall. The Knights that'll forever be known as the unofficial 2017 National Champions.

Those UCF Knights, the lovable underdogs from the American Athletic Conference, forever tainted my view of college football.

And it's not even their fault. One of the most common criticisms of college football in recent memory, especially since the introduction of the four-team College Football Playoff in 2014, is one we've all heard before: "The same teams win it every year."

And it's true. In the seven seasons since college football shifted from the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) era — where the two "best" teams at the end of the season, based on rankings, automatically played for a national title — to the CFP, there hasn't been much parity.

The two powerhouses of college football, Alabama and Clemson, have made it to the CFP six out of its seven seasons, winning five of the seven possible national titles.

Just behind them are Ohio State (one title) and Oklahoma, each with four CFP appearances in seven years.

In total, out of a possible 28 open playoff spots since the CFP's introduction, only 11 different teams have been selected for a shot at a championship, with 20 of those spots going to the aforementioned "Core Four" of the Crimson Tide, Tigers, Buckeyes and Sooners.

Only three non-Core-Four teams — Oregon (2014, lost), Georgia (2017, lost), LSU (2019, won) — have even played in the

See UCF, page B2

'MY REDEMPTION TOUR'

Northwood's experience, Seaforth's youth shines in season's first Chatham XC meet



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood head cross country coach Cameron Isenhour (with flag) fires off the starting shot to begin the women's race at the Chatham County Championships meet last Thursday in Pittsboro. 27 runners from Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Seaforth participated in the event.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Last week's Chatham County Championships were as much about the rise of emerging talent as they were about the dominance of usual suspects.

Northwood played host to the Chatham Central Bears, Jordan-Matthews Jets and Seaforth Hawks last Thursday for each team's season-opening cross country meet — aside from Chatham Central, which ran in a home meet against Southwestern Randolph on Aug. 23.

Despite the meet's championship-bearing name, there was no hardware given out to the winners. But if there was, the Chargers and Hawks would have claimed all of the medals.

On the men's side of things, Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom took first place with a 5K time of 17:38.99, more than a minute faster than Northwood junior Christian Glick (18:46.09), who finished second.

For the women's portion, Northwood

senior Caroline Murrell — one of those usual suspects — ran a dominant 19:54.05 that gave her the win with relative ease. She finished nearly two and a half minutes better than her second-place teammate, senior Emma Serrano (22:16.22).

"She practiced with the boys (this summer), but today, she was out on her own for most of the race," Cameron Isenhour, Northwood's head cross country coach, said of Murrell after the meet. "She won by 2 minutes, 22 seconds, and a lot of the races are going to go like that. If you come to a cross country race in North Carolina, expect Murrell to be first and if she's not first, she's going to be right there."

As a team, Northwood swept both the men's (21 points) and women's (15 points) competitions, with Seaforth (40 points in men's, 48 points in women's) taking second place. In the women's race, the Chargers had a perfect score, meaning the entire top five consisted of Northwood runners.

Chatham Central (92 points) and Jordan-Matthews (99 points) finished

third and fourth, respectively, in the men's competition, while J-M placed third (80 points) in the women's race. Chatham Central, only having three participants on the women's side, was not eligible to compete as a team.

One of the biggest storylines from the meet, however, was the unexpected arrival of Anstrom — the only Hawks runner to place in the top five of the men's race — who, on the day after his 14th birthday, beat out Northwood's top two juniors, Glick and Matthew Sullivan (third place, 19:13.42), and top two seniors, Colin Henry (fourth place, 19:23.94) and Andrew Kimbrel (fifth place, 19:28.89), to claim the top spot.

Before last Thursday's meet, Anstrom hadn't run an official race since 7th grade.

That same year, he attended the final Chatham County meet to compete for a county title, but decided not to participate because "the nerves got me," Anstrom said, beginning his year-long

See MEET, page B5

New York Mets should let their play do the talking

For four months this season, the National League East belonged to the New York Mets.

After acquiring Javier Baez at the trade deadline, pairing him with Francisco Lindor in the infield,

it was difficult to picture any outcome other than a Mets division title. The Atlanta Braves lost outfield star Ronald Acuna Jr. early in the season and the Phillies have struggled to find consistency all year. It's quite possibly the worst division in

baseball. Early on, Jacob DeGrom looked like the most unhittable pitcher in baseball and despite numerous injuries, the Mets were finding ways to win.

But now? Now, the Mets are in third place after a 7-19 start to August and are being booted in their own ballpark. Thirteen of those 19 losses have been by two runs or less. And the players are responding with their own message to the fans.

Last week, Baez and other teammates were asked about a thumbs-down gesture that the team started doing after base hits.

"We're not machines," he told reporters after a game on

Aug. 29. "We're going to struggle seven times out of 10. It just feels bad. When I strike out and get booed, it doesn't really get to me, but I want to let them know that when we're successful, we're going to do the same thing to let them know how it feels."

The Mets organization ultimately responded with a team statement — yes, a statement — saying that booing is a right of the fans and that the gestures made by the players were unacceptable. The fact that the Mets felt a need to release a statement about this issue is a whole different kind of ridiculous, but we'll save that for another day.

Whether Baez wants to

admit it or not, the booing has gotten to the team. The players aren't robots and shouldn't be treated as such every time they fail. But is that what the fans are saying?

I'm typically not a fan of booing your own team. The players are clearly aware when they're struggling. But sometimes booing can be a message to the front office or the organization that fans expect more.

The players' gesture seems churlish. Sure, the players have every right to do it, but it's dividing the team from its fanbase. It also could hurt New York in the free agent market if players now don't see the city as a comfortable place to play.

Athletes are being paid millions of dollars and fans are spending their own time and money to watch them compete. While the gesture made headlines last weekend, social media posts revealed that the team started doing the thumbs-down weeks ago. They just didn't have enough positive plays that anyone really noticed.

So maybe if you don't like getting booed, win a few games, or at least don't lose nine times to the Dodgers and Giants in a span of two weeks.

CN+R Intern Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Maxbak-er_15.

DOVE HUNTING SEASON OPENS SEPT. 4

Wildlife Commission offers regulatory and safety reminders

News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — The 2021-22 hunting season for mourning and white-winged doves opens on Saturday, Sept. 4, for hunters who enjoy hunting migratory birds. It's also an opportunity for officials from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to remind novice and new hunters the importance of being properly licensed, observing state and federal laws and following safe hunting practices.

All migratory game bird hunters are required to have a certification in the Federal Harvest Information Program (HIP). Hunters can purchase or renew their license and obtain their HIP Certification online at ncwildlife.org for immediate use in the field. Licenses can also be purchased through a wildlife service agent or by phone at 888-248-6834, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday.

Dove hunting season will be separated into three segments: Sept. 4 through Oct. 2, Nov. 6 through Nov. 27 and

Dec. 9 through Jan. 31. All hunters must follow applicable migratory game bird licensing requirements and hunting regulations.

The daily bag limit is 15 mourning or white-winged doves, either as single species or combined, and shooting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Hunting of migratory game birds by any method is not allowed on Sundays.

It is a violation of state and federal law to take migratory game birds with the use or aid of

salt, grain, fruit or any other bait. Additionally, hunters need to be aware that an area is considered baited for 10 days following the removal of all salt, grain or other feed.

Migratory gamebirds may be hunted in agricultural areas where grain has been distributed as the result of normal agricultural operations. Information regarding agriculture and planting techniques may be obtained from a local N.C. State Extension Service Center. Visit the agency's website to view an inter-

active map of game land dove fields.

As always, safety is a priority when hunting. The Wildlife Commission offers a variety of hunter safety courses and its Home from the Hunt campaign offers hunter's online resources focused on being safe during time spent outdoors.

The Commission advises dove hunters to follow these safety tips:

- Adhere to established safe zones of fire.
- Ensure you have the correct ammunition for your firearm.

- Keep the muzzle of your firearm pointed in a safe direction
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- Do not shoot at low-flying birds.
- Do not place decoys on utility lines.

For more information on mourning doves, visit ncwildlife.org/mourning-dove. Download the 2021-22 North Carolina Regulations Digest online at ncwildlife.org for additional hunting, fishing and trapping season dates and regulations.

UCF

Continued from page B1

CFP National Championship Game.

Sure, getting to see Alabama vs. Clemson in the title game in January is always exciting, with both of them consistently being the best teams with the best players in the country.

But after a while, it gets old. It gets stale. It gets (insert whatever synonym for "sorta boring" that you'd like to use) ...

However, while I could sit here and write thousands upon thousands of words on the problems that a lack of parity present in any sport — and namely college sports — that's not even the primary issue.

While it's true that, yes, the Core Four have occupied 71% of all CFP spots since the format's inception, the fact of the matter is that it's not just a Core Four problem.

It's a Power 5 problem. In seven years, there's never been a team selected to the CFP that wasn't in a Power 5 conference — the term for the sport's five biggest, most lucrative conferences: the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — and that's asinine.

All of that was a long-winded way for me to get back to the UCF Knights.

It's a story any college football fan is familiar with, and

probably annoyed by, at this point.

In 2017 — two years removed from 2015's 0-12 season — UCF, lead by head coach Scott Frost, started what would become a 25-game winning streak by going 12-0 in the regular season.

When it came time to select the four teams to compete in the CFP, the UCF squad was left out, despite being the lone unbeaten team in the country. The CFP Selection Committee ranked them 12th, stuffing them behind five one-loss teams, five two-loss teams and even a three-loss Auburn team, all of which are members of Power 5 conferences (which UCF notably isn't).

That postseason, the Knights found themselves playing in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta against that same Auburn team and, to many people's surprise, they won, 34-27.

That victory proved the Knights' legitimacy and their ability to compete with top-10 teams from Power 5 conferences. And it also prompted the (somewhat meme-worthy, petty) claim that they were the 2017 National Champions — instead of the 13-1 Crimson Tide, who won the CFP National Championship Game against Clemson that season — thanks to their undefeated record.

Regardless of whether you legitimize the team's national title claim, I think I speak for every college football fan when

I say we were robbed of at least seeing how UCF performed in the CFP.

Some people say that it would have been a waste of a spot, that UCF would have gotten waxed by Clemson or Alabama anyway, so who cares? (Despite the fact that the no. 4 team, Washington, lost to the Crimson Tide, 24-7, so it couldn't have been much worse.)

And maybe those people are right. But at least UCF would've had a chance.

The worst part of this story, however, comes with what happened next.

After the 13-0, Peach Bowl-winning "national championship" season, now led by new Head Coach Josh Heupel — after Frost took the job at his alma mater, Nebraska, during the offseason — UCF went and did it again.

After 12 games, they were still unbeaten, extending their overall winning streak to 25 games as if they were staring down the CFP Selection Committee and daring its members to select them.

And, again, they didn't. Those Knights ended up losing the Fiesta Bowl to LSU, 40-32, but after back-to-back undefeated seasons with no shot at a national title, things felt hopeless.

That's exactly where we stand today.

After UCF's stellar run that was met with disinterest by the

Committee, it's hard to take college football — namely, the CFP selection process — seriously anymore.

I graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and, therefore, I'm a Tar Heel through-and-through. I also became a Florida Gators fan during the Tim Tebow era and have stuck with them ever since.

Both of my teams are in Power 5 conferences, and because of this, they'll always have a shot.

Any given year, though it (sadly) hasn't happened in the CFP era, I could watch my team play for a national title in January.

But let's say I'm one of the 18,000-plus students at Appalachian State (Sun Belt Conference) or one of the 30,000-plus students at Florida Atlantic (Conference USA) or one of the 59,000-plus students at UCF, all of which have basically no shot — regardless of their record — to make it into the CFP.

What's there to play for? What's the point in watching? What's the point in buying tickets to games?

Sure, you can watch your school beat its biggest rival, win its conference championship and, in rare cases, play in a major non-CFP bowl game, all of which are incredibly exciting.

But what's the point when, at the end of the day, you have no chance to win the coveted CFP trophy and be declared the

official National Champions? Listen, I know I'm being a Negative Nancy.

I know college football, regardless of the 2017-18 UCF Knights, is still one of the most exhilarating sports on the planet.

The game-day atmosphere, the tailgating, the nail-biting games, the memorable moments, the top-10 clashes, the upsets and, of course, ESPN's College GameDay itself, which fills my house with joy on Saturday mornings.

It all culminates in one of the most fantastic, unforgettable experiences you could ever have. And we're lucky it happens every week during the fall.

Yet, after UCF had a shot at a national title stolen from them after winning 25 straight games a few years ago, there's something about college football that just won't sit right with me. At least until the current playoff format changes.

To quote ESPN college football analyst Kirk Herbstreit from a podcast interview he did earlier this week: "The postseason sucks, we have to fix it, it has to get better. (It's) the best regular season and the worst postseason right now in sports."

Truer words were never spoken.

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

FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

defender off of him — en route to a 35-yard run.

That play, one executed with such force and confidence, set the tone for the rest of the game.

The Chargers were going to take the Jets' lunch money. And there wasn't anything they could do about it.

Northwood ended up rushing for 459 yards on 32 carries and limited the Jets to just 14 rushing yards in total. The Chargers, on the other hand, had 16 rushes of 10-plus yards, including four of 30-plus yards, and scored five touchdowns on the ground.

Seven players had at least one carry for the Chargers, all of which had more than 8.0 yards per carry, including senior Savon Gattis' whopping 22.0 yards per carry (4 carries, 88 yards, 1 touchdown), which included his 72-yard scamper in the first quarter that was stopped just short of the goal line.

Northwood's offense looked so polished, Homolka even decided to pass the ball a few times — a rarity for the Chargers, who didn't throw a single pass against Lee County — which proved to be successful: each of sophomore quarterback Carson Fortunes' three throws resulted in touchdowns (two to senior Kirk Haddix, one to senior Jack Spotz).

"Well, I promised the kids pizza if they got 300-plus yards rushing, that's why I threw it so much," Homolka said with a laugh. "I have a



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews sophomore quarterback Kelton Fuquay (5) hands the ball off to senior running back Rayshawn Alston during the Jets' 72-0 loss to Northwood last Friday. Alston was the Jets' leading rusher on the night with 12 yards on 10 carries.

couple of receivers that I need to show some love to. I don't throw the ball ever, people are tired of me. I should have gotten (junior quarterback) Will Smith a little bit more involved in the throwing game, but every time he was in, we'd score so fast that I never got to throw it."

The Chargers' offense scored on its first possession in just four plays, capped off by a 13-yard touchdown rush from senior running back Jalen Paige. Then, its

second possession lasted six plays, traveling 76 yards in a little over two minutes before Smith landed in the end zone on a 1-yard quarterback sneak.

Northwood's third possession took just three plays before they tacked on another six points — thanks, in part, to Gattis' 72-yard masterpiece.

Its ability to score quickly became a consistent theme as the Chargers found the end zone on all nine of their possessions, with the

longest drive(s) lasting seven plays.

They didn't punt a single time.

By halftime, the Chargers were ahead, 45-0, after limiting the Jets' offense to just one first down.

If the rushing attack is Homolka's bread, then the stonewall defense is his butter.

Jordan-Matthews couldn't get anything going on the ground thanks to Northwood's stout defensive line, rushing for just 14 total yards on 20 carries.

The Jets had one first down on the night, which came on a designed run by quarterback Calvin Schwartz that went for seven yards in the first quarter, met with one of the loudest cheers from the home crowd.

Out of the Jets' 20 rushing attempts, 11 of them either lost yardage or went for no gain.

Northwood continuously put pressure on the Jets' quarterbacks, locked down the line of scrimmage and rarely let the ball get past their defensive line.

"Our linebackers played pretty well," Homolka said, "but I think our whole defense played well."

In the second half, with a running clock having been implemented due to the Chargers' lead of at least 42 points, Northwood managed to score an additional 27 points to close out the game, including two defensive touchdowns on fumble recoveries on the Jets' final two possessions.

There are few ways the night could have been more perfect for Northwood.

Sure, there were a couple of costly holding penalties in the first quarter that negated two impressive punt return touchdowns by Paige, but with those drives still resulting in touchdowns, there was very little to be upset about if you were wearing white, gold and black on Friday night.

Scoring their most points in a game since 2013 — a 79-28 win over Cedar Ridge — also causes for celebration.

For the Jets, the hunt for their first win of the season — after an 0-2 start where they've been outscored 117-0 — continues this week with a road game against the Providence Grove Patriots (2-0).

The Chargers, on the other hand, continue their campaign with a matchup against the former Big Eight rival Chapel Hill Tigers (1-0) this Friday.

Homolka said that if they can prepare for Chapel Hill the same way they prepared for

Jordan-Matthews, Northwood has a great shot at taking down the Tigers at home.

"(We need to work on) probably the entire offense and defense, I'll pick it away," Homolka said. "My motto (is) I always feel like you have to treat each game the same, so I'm not going to look at this game any different from Lee County. Every game we've got to get better, we've got to demand it of ourselves."

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

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Siler City FC's travel teams to make debut in Greensboro

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Few sports organizations in Chatham have been busier than Siler City Futbol Club this summer.

But that was just the calm before the storm. After months of tryouts, practices and pickup games, the club's two travel soccer teams — in the Boys U11 and U13 age groups — are set to play their first-ever games at the Labor Day Shootout in Greensboro.

Both teams are slated to play two games on Saturday (Sept. 4) and at least one on Sunday (Sept. 5), with the chance they could play more if they continue to win.

"The teams have been practicing together regularly in preparation for these first games," Keith Shea, Siler City FC's travel team director, wrote in an email to the News + Record. "In addition to the games, in my experience, weekend tournaments like this can be a great way for the players and their families to develop stronger bonds with one another. So I'm hoping our teams will find success at this tournament both on and off the field and represent the club and community in a way everyone can be proud of."

In May, the club announced that it would offer travel soccer teams this fall with tryouts taking place later that month, a major change from its original stance that it would only compete in recreational competition during its



Photo courtesy of Siler City Futbol Club's Facebook page
A behind-the-net view of the Siler City FC girls travel team tryouts in May.

inaugural year.

Staying on schedule, SCFC hosted boys tryouts on May 18 and 20, with girls tryouts being held the following week; each was met with an impressive reception. In total, around 80 players showed up to try out, including an even split of about 40 boys and 40 girls.

"Given this was our first time out and that there wasn't much time between setting the dates and holding the tryouts for us to get the word out," Shea said, "it was great to see that much excitement and engagement from the community."

From those 40 boys, SCFC was able to create both the U11 and U13 teams, which Shea hopes to see compete in at least three or four local tournaments this fall



Submitted photo

until mid-November, with Greensboro acting as the first stepping stone.

Shea mentioned that both teams will also participate in the Triangle Futsal League this winter, a U.S. Youth Futsal-sanctioned league that "deliver(s) an exceptional, unique and innovative Futsal experience designed to bring out the very best in its players'

skill sets," according to its website.

Futsal is a form of indoor soccer with smaller courts, less players — five in futsal, 11 in soccer — on each side at once, among other differences.

However, while participation numbers were high on both sides, the age range on the girls' side varied so much — the players who tried out having birth years ranging from 2003-2012 — that it only would have been possible for SCFC to form a U17 girls team this year, with many 14- and 15-year-old players having to play above their typical age group.

"We pursued this, but ultimately couldn't get enough players to commit and we had to move on," Shea said. "We are looking into ways to offer



Photo courtesy of Siler City FC's Facebook page
Siler City FC coach Chip Milliard (in blue, center) speaks with players trying out for the club's boys travel soccer teams in May.

some girls programs in the near future to keep these players engaged with the game, and maybe start building the foundation for girls travel teams in the future."

One of the ways that Shea and SCFC kept players engaged this summer — both girls and boys — was through regular weekly pickup games at Chatham Middle School's soccer field, allowing players across Siler City and the rest of Chatham to play against others for free.

In addition to pickup games and preparing for the upcoming travel season, SCFC is still gearing up for its recreational season this fall, with practices starting last week for both girls and boys teams after registration opened in July.

"Summer for me was a much-needed family vacation, followed by splitting time between my real job and Siler City FC," Shea said. "(But)

in the next few weeks, I think we are going to be plenty busy just dealing with what's in front of us for rec and travel teams."

Players can still register for the fall recreation season, which begins Sept. 11, by visiting the Siler City FC website at www.silercityfutbolclub.org or emailing silercityfc@gmail.com. Boys and girls ages 4 through 12 are eligible. The season cost is \$70, along with an added \$20 uniform fee. The deadline to register is the day of the first game, Sept. 11.

Additionally, there are a few spots remaining for both the U11 and U13 boys travel teams. Any interested players born between 2009 and 2012 should contact Shea via email at keithshea@mac.com for more information.

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

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

throws at Providence Grove, 7:30 p.m.

home match against the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 184-175.

ams (25:47.76) in fifth. In total, as a team, the Chargers won both the men's (21 points) and women's (15 points) events. See meet report in this week's edition.

(host), Southern Wake Academy and Clover Garden, where Knights senior Brandon McKoy (18:43.44) placed first in the men's race, with senior teammate Caleb Kolb (21:09.91) placing second. Knights junior Silas Christenbury (ninth, 23:34.47) also placed in the men's top 10. The top women runners for the Knights were sophomore Meredith Reese (fifth, 28:41.03) and sophomore Ariana Rivera-Roma (13th, 36:42.00).

Wake Med Soccer Park. Scoring the lone goal for the Chargers was senior Walker Johnson.

LAST WEEK

Monday, August 23

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Chatham Central Bears, 6-2, at home to remain unbeaten on the season. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were senior Ashlyn Hart (6-4, 6-2), senior Lorelei Byrd (6-0, 7-6 (8-6)), junior Rebecca Brookshire (6-1, 6-0) and senior Emily Stecher (6-0, 6-0), while both junior Olivia Brooks (6-2, 7-6 (7-3)) and junior Ellie Phillips (6-1, 1-6, 0-0 (10-8)) won their singles matches for the Bears.

Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews women swept the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 9-0, to earn their first win of the season. Each of the Jets — including junior Maggie Thornton (6-0, 6-0), junior Jocelyn Sanchez (6-2, 7-5), junior Sarai Ibarra Rivera (7-5, 8-6), sophomore Jillian Bogart (6-1, 6-1), sophomore Claire Rojas (6-4, 6-4) and senior Destinee Ledwell (6-1, 6-2) — won their singles matches.

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women dropped a home game to the Salisbury Hornets, 3-1. Leading the Bears on the night was freshman Karaleigh Dodson (14 kills, 53.8 kill %).

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women defeated the North Moore Mustangs, 3-1, to improve to 2-1 on the season.

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men drew against the Asheboro Blue Comets, 1-1, at home.

Soccer: The Northwood men dominated the Seaforth Hawks, 9-0, in their second matchup of the season. The Chargers are now 2-0 against their Pittsboro rivals on the young season. Scoring for the Chargers were senior Walker Johnson (2 goals) and junior Gabriel Chirino, junior Benjamin Schoolcraft, senior Ayden Turner, senior Lucas Beaulieu, senior Adam Beaulieu, junior Javier Bautista and senior Marek Beaulieu.

Volleyball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the unbeaten Providence Grove Patriots, 3-0.

Soccer: The Woods Charter men were throttled by the N.C. Leadership Academy Falcons, 9-0, to remain winless on the season.

Tuesday, August 24

Golf: The Chatham Central women lost a

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women lost in their rematch with the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 3-0. Leading the Bears on the night were sophomore Cassie McKeithan and senior Ivey Tillman, each with 5 kills.

Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women lost to the North Moore Mustangs, 3-1.

Volleyball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 3-0.

Volleyball: The Northwood women lost a close home match with the Apex Cougars, 3-2. Apex came back from a 2-0 set deficit, winning three straight to take the match.

Wednesday, August 25

Soccer: The Chatham Charter men lost a lopsided game to the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 9-0, to remain winless on the season at 0-3.

Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 3-1.

Volleyball: The Northwood women earned a road win over the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 3-0, for their second win over Lee County this season.

Soccer: The Northwood men lost to the Apex Cougars at home, 4-2. Scoring for the Chargers were seniors Ayden Turner and Lucas Beaulieu. Northwood senior Walker Johnson also added an assist.

Thursday, August 26

Cross Country: Northwood hosted the Chatham County Championships alongside Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth. On the men's side, Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom (17:38.99) topped four Northwood men — junior Christian Glick (18:46.09), junior Matthew Sullivan (19:13.42), senior Colin Henry (19:23.94) and senior Andrew Kimbrel (19:28.89) — to take first place in the Men's 5K. On the women's side, Northwood earned a perfect score in the Women's 5K with the Chargers taking all spots in the top five, including a first-place finish for senior Caroline Murrell (19:54.05), followed by senior Emma Serrano (22:16.22) in second, senior Emma Iacono (24:33.47) in third, senior Ella Hennessey (25:22.93) in fourth and freshman Avery Ad-

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women swept the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 9-0, to remain unbeaten on the season as a team. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were sophomore Elphie Spillman (8-6), senior Emery Eldridge (8-4), senior Ashlyn Hart (8-0), senior Lorelei Byrd (8-2), junior Rebecca Brookshire (8-2) and junior Lillie Jones (8-0). Each of the Knights' three duos — Spillman & Eldridge (8-3), senior Emily Stecher & Jones (8-2) and senior Dana Szpunar & Julia Moore (8-0) — won their doubles matches, too.

Tennis: The Seaforth women swept the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 9-0, in a home match. Earning singles wins for the Hawks were sophomore Evelyn Atkins (8-0), sophomore Lauren Keeley (8-4), sophomore Ellie Cook (8-4), freshman Jenna Robinette (8-1), freshman Bailey Shadoan (8-0), freshman Caroline Bowman (8-2) and freshman Lillian McFall (8-0). All three Seaforth duos — Atkins & freshman Charlie Ann George (8-2), freshman Molly Milsom & sophomore MaKenzy Lehw (8-5) and sophomore Fiona Xiao & sophomore Sophia Serrano (8-4) — all won their doubles matches.

Cross Country: Chatham Charter competed in a meet alongside River Mill Academy, Triangle Math & Science

Woods Charter men were shut out in a large defeat to the Durham School of the Arts Bulldogs, 9-0, in their second game of the NCSCA Kick-Off Classic at Wake Med Soccer Park to remain winless on the season at 0-5.

Soccer: The Woods Charter men were shut out by the Neuse Charter Cougars, 3-0, in the NCSCA Kick-Off Classic at Wake Med Soccer Park to remain winless on the season.

Tennis: The Northwood women lost a close match with the Carrboro Jaguars, 5-4.

Soccer: The Northwood men lost a lopsided game to the West Johnston Wildcats, 5-1, in their opening game at the NCSCA Kick-Off Classic at

Friday, August 27

Soccer: The Woods Charter men were shut out by the Neuse Charter Cougars, 3-0, in the NCSCA Kick-Off Classic at Wake Med Soccer Park to remain winless on the season.

Tennis: The Northwood women lost a close match with the Carrboro Jaguars, 5-4.

Soccer: The Northwood men lost a lopsided game to the West Johnston Wildcats, 5-1, in their opening game at the NCSCA Kick-Off Classic at

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men earned a solid win over the Raleigh Charter Phoenix, 8-0, in their first game of the NCSCA Kick-off Classic at Wake Med Soccer Park.

Soccer: The Woods Charter men were shut out in a large defeat to the Durham School of the Arts Bulldogs, 9-0, in their second game of the NCSCA Kick-Off Classic at Wake Med Soccer Park to remain winless on the season at 0-5.

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Tennis: The Northwood women lost a close match with the Carrboro Jaguars, 5-4.

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

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, September 1

Tennis: Northwood women vs. Cedar Ridge, 4 p.m.

Tennis: Chatham Central women at Seaforth, 4:30 p.m.

Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women at North Moore, 4:30 p.m.

Soccer: Woods Charter men vs. Eno River, 6 p.m.

Soccer: Northwood men vs. Wakefield, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 2

Tennis: Chatham Charter women vs. Cornerstone Charter, 4 p.m.

Cross Country: Northwood at Person, 4:30 p.m.

Tennis: Chatham Central at Southern Alamance, 4:30 p.m.

Soccer: Chatham Charter men at Cornerstone Charter, 5 p.m.

Soccer: Seaforth men at Lee County, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Chatham Central vs. Graham, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Chatham Charter women vs. Ascend Leadership Academy, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Jordan-Matthews women at Seaforth, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Northwood women vs. Cedar Ridge, 6 p.m.

Volleyball: Woods Charter women at Research Triangle, 6 p.m.

Friday, September 3

Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Union Pines, 7 p.m.

Football: Northwood vs. Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.

Football: Chatham Central vs. North Stokes, 7:30 p.m.

Football: Jordan-Mat-

Chatham COA Events & Announcements

September 2nd through September 8th

- Thursday, September 2nd**
 - Take Off Pounds Sensibly at 3:00 PM 📶
- Friday, September 3rd**
 - Body Conditioning with Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
 - Getting Active and Fit with Jackie at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧘 📶
 - Friday Night Dance at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 💰
- Monday, September 6th**
 - COA Closed in Observance of Labor Day.
- Tuesday, September 7th**
 - Body Conditioning with Jackie at 8:00 AM (on site at at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
 - Getting Active and Fit with Jackie at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills & on Zoom) 🧘 📶
- Wednesday, September 8th**
 - Pittsboro Immunization Clinic (See below for details) 🧑🏻
 - Chronic Disease Self-Management at 2:00 PM 📶

- 🧑🏻 In-person - Pre-registration Required
- 📶 Programming Hosted On Zoom
- 💰 Fee Required for Participation

For more information or to register for these and other programs, visit our website: chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/

Caring for a Friend or Family Member at Home?



Join the Council on Aging's Family Caregiver Support Program. For more information about the program, contact Susan Hardy at 919-542-4512 or susan.hardy@chathamcoa.org

Drive Thru Immunization Clinics!

(For COVID-19, Flu, Shingles & Pneumonia)

September 8th (Pittsboro) & September 9th (Siler City)
Contact your nearest COA senior center to register!



The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at chathamcoa.org or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center
365 NC-87 N
Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-4512</p> | <p>Western Chatham Senior Center
112 Village Lake Road
Siler City, NC 27344
919-742-3975</p> |
|--|---|



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THE CLIPBOARD | BRETT WALDEN, CHATHAM CENTRAL VOLLEYBALL

Despite early-season hole, Walden says league play could be key to Bears' playoff push



Walden

Chatham Central is in the midst of its varsity women's volleyball season, but has gotten off to a slow start after dropping four straight matches to Salisbury, Lee County, Southern Lee and Asheboro. However, the team's 1-5 start — including four of its five defeats coming to 3A schools — may not be indicative of its talent level.

Coming off of a 7-5 pandemic-shortened season last year, the Bears are looking to find an identity among both its youth and its veterans, all striving to replace the high level of production they lost to graduation over the summer.

With Chatham Central's season in full swing, the News + Record sat down with Bears fourth-year head coach Brett Walden to discuss his passion for both volleyball and baseball, his team's chances of bouncing back from its 1-5 hole and his impressions of his team after the first five games of the season.

What have you learned over the last four years being both the head volleyball and baseball coach that you can apply to both sports? How are those two sports similar?

BRETT WALDEN: They are different. Baseball's kind of second nature to me because 30-plus years of my life I've been involved in that game, where volleyball, not as much. With volleyball now, with the NFHS Network, you can go watch teams before you play them. Whereas baseball's more a game of execution, if you do your job and don't beat

yourself, you can be successful. In volleyball, if you can figure out who their least-best passer is, for example, you can kind of pick on them and you can do some things. I think they're really similar in that you're dealing with kids. It's obviously different because it's guys vs. girls and it's different in some ways, but really you're dealing with kids either way. The coaching aspect of it, as far as dealing with kids, is pretty similar.

Also, one similarity that I kind of like is that you can't run out the clock in either sport. In baseball, you've got to get them out and in volleyball, you've got to score points. There is no clock in either sport, so there are really no gimmicks you can employ. You've got to try to beat the other team, which is fun. You can't get a lead and hold the ball like you can in basketball and football and things like that.

Despite it not being your first sport, what have you enjoyed about coaching volleyball over the last four seasons?

One thing I like is that it's pretty fast-paced. Momentum is so key in volleyball, whereas in baseball, you have moments of lots of action and then it kind of settles back in and then you may not have much action. At least to the novice fan, there doesn't appear to be much action, but in volleyball it's constant movement. To me, it can be really exciting the entire time you're out there.

Through five games this year, Chatham Central (1A) is 1-5, but almost all of those losses have come against schools that are bigger, such as Lee County and Southern Lee (both 3A schools). Would you say

that your losing record, then, might be a little misleading?

Yeah, I think we've played good teams, we've definitely done that. We graduated a lot of production this summer. Our best blocker, Savannah Stillwell, graduated. Our best outside hitter, Grace Jones, graduated. Lindsay Polston was our varsity setter for three years. And so this is my first year with a new setter, it being my fourth year. Our libero, Tanner Little, graduated, so there's just a lot of experience and talent that we graduated.

Our two outside hitters are sophomore Cassie McKeithan and freshman Karaleigh Dodson and those are our two best hitters. We had to actually bring them up and let them play. Senior Taylor Poe was willing to move from outside to middle and she's done a good job with that, too, but the only middle we brought back from last year is senior Ivey Tillman, and I think right now she leads us in blocks. She's played well and Taylor's played well learning a new position since she's always been an outside and she was willing to move as a senior to help us out and let us hit a little bit better.

We've got two setters that we're using, senior Lindsey Johnson — who was our backup setter over the past couple of years; she came up early as a sophomore and was kind of a backup setter for two years and now she's setting a lot more — and senior Carleigh Gentry, who was kind of a backup setter on varsity last year, and I don't think she set at all last year. Even the one game when Lindsay Polston was out, Lindsey Johnson actually set that game, so Carleigh hadn't set since

sophomore year on J.V. They've done a good job. We've got senior Sadie Gaines as our libero this year, too.

I really think we're going to win some games before it's over with, and you're right, we've played a good schedule so far. I'm hoping that it'll pay off once we get into conference play and we start playing the 1As and 2As.

Starting 1-5 can obviously be discouraging, but what are your expectations for the rest of the season, especially once you get into conference play?

In both baseball and volleyball, I always kind of look at what we return, what we've got coming up, how much youth there is, how much the players that are having to play now have played, how much experience we've got. I don't really tell anybody, I just say, "OK, if this is our record at the end of the year, I'll be pretty happy with that." I really thought we would be 2-3, maybe 3-2, right now because we played Lee County fairly well, but both times we just couldn't quite get over the hump. With Salisbury, I felt like they were not better than us; we just didn't play as well as I thought we could have, but we still have to go over there later in the year. Looking at the league and what of the rest of the league returns, I think we can finish in the top half of the league once we get in league play. I definitely think we're a playoff team just because of the way the new power rankings work. I think playing a good schedule helps us out.

Who are some of the players you're the most impressed with so far this season?

I would say definitely

Brett Walden

Role: Head coach, volleyball and baseball
Experience in Bear Creek: 4th season
Career Record (Volleyball): 39-26
From the coach: "I always thought I might want to coach. (I) got very little playing time, (but) I played for Hall of Fame coach Tom Austin at Methodist and learned a lot. I was fortunate to have great coaches growing up. ... Some of my greatest memories from high school were on the ball field and I feel very fortunate to be here at my old high school with an opportunity to give back to this community in this way."
Notes:
 • Attended Methodist University in Fayetteville, where he played baseball for the Monarchs.
 • Has spent decades both playing and coaching baseball, with his coaching career spanning nine years so far.

Chatham Central Bears
Conference: Mid-Carolina 1A/2A
Record: 1-5 (0-0 in Mid-Carolina)
Upcoming schedule:
 • Thursday, Sept. 2 vs. Graham (conference)
 • Tuesday, Sept. 7 at Bartlett Yancey (conference)
 • Thursday, Sept. 9 vs. Seaforth (conference)

Carleigh Gentry and Lindsey Johnson, who haven't set a lot over the past couple of years, but are running the 6-2 rotation very well and putting our young hitters in a situation where they can be successful. I would say those two, for sure.

What have you seen as some of the positives of this young season, regardless of the results?

Cassie McKeithan and Karaleigh Dodson, our younger hitters, haven't played much before this season. I think Karaleigh hasn't played any high school volleyball and then Cassie's only gotten the condensed season with the COVID protocols and a bunch of schools not fielding J.V. last year, so Cassie's only had six high school games at the J.V. level. For them to have had, between the two of them, only six high school games, none at the varsity level, they've come on pretty

quickly and have been pretty effective for us.

It sounds like with McKeithan and Dodson and some of the other younger players, Chatham Central might be a lot better down the road. Would you agree with that?

Yeah, I agree. Our freshman class is really, really strong this year. Our J.V. team hasn't lost yet. They've beaten Lee County twice and they've beaten Southern Lee and Salisbury, so our J.V. team is 4-0. I think we brought up the ones that we felt could help us win right now, but we wanted to make sure they got the most playing time possible because I think we'll probably — with us having six seniors this year and only having four returners next year — have to go young again next year, but we've got some good, young talent in a really strong freshman class.

MEET

Continued from page B1 hiatus.

This time, however, things were different. Nerves didn't appear to be a factor. He wouldn't let them.

"I was like, 'This is going to be my redemption tour, I'm going to build my confidence again and get better,'" Anstrom said mere minutes after winning the race at Northwood. "(It's all about) building up confidence and building up strength. It feels good to be back out here."

Even after his victory, Anstrom could be seen strolling along the sideline of Northwood's football field, near the course's finish line, cheering on his teammates with a bottle of water in hand, sweat pouring from his face and loud, supportive screams echoing from across the field.

"He ran that super fast and he just brings a lot of fearlessness (to our team)," Duncan Murrell, the Hawks' head men's cross country coach, said after the meet. "He's been interested in running for

a long time, but he hasn't been training for more than a few months. ... He's so excited to be out here."

"I liked that they were enthusiastic for each other," Murrell added. "The boys cheered on the girls, the girls cheered on the boys, they were happy for each other. That's what we want for the team."

It didn't take long for Seaforth — in its first season as both a cross country program and a school, having just opened this fall — to earn its first-ever individual win on such a tough course, with three others placing in the top 15.

In addition to Anstrom, sophomore Ethan Becker (19:47.58) placed sixth, sophomore Harry Mendlovitz (20:47.23) placed ninth and freshman Will Cuicchi placed 11th, rounding out the Hawks' top-15 finishes on the men's side.

"This is a hard course, this is a real cross country test here," Duncan Murrell said. "We came out here and we did what we wanted to do, which was race, finish the race and do the best we could out here. It was a hot day, it was like running in a sauna out there, but on the boys and the girls side, we showed a lot of heart and grit. That was good for us."

For Duncan Murrell, last Thursday's meet was nothing short of a family affair, as he watched his daughter, Caroline, and four of her Northwood teammates finish ahead of Seaforth's top two women's runners, sophomore Caroline Bartee (sixth place, 25:55.59) and freshman Claire Morgan (seventh place, 26:41.30).

Despite him coaching the Hawks' men's team



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom strolls along the sideline of Northwood's football field after taking first place in the men's race at the Chatham County Championships cross country meet last Thursday in Pittsboro. This was Anstrom's first official race since he was in 7th grade.

— with Tanelle Smith coaching the women — he made a point to cheer for his daughter as she made the turn at the 1,600-meter mark and strolled past the spectator's area.

"I'll tell you, I thought it would be no big deal for me to be out here coaching one team and then seeing my daughter run for the other team, but I felt a little weird about it," Duncan Murrell said. "Because I think some of my happiest moments have been cheering for her. ... She's a better athlete, a better person than me in every way and I'm constantly impressed by her. I feel like she has no ceiling."

Since winning the track & field state championship for the women's 3,200-me-

ter run in June, Caroline Murrell took some time off to celebrate and let her body rest, then got right back on the saddle to prepare for this fall's cross country season.

Last January, she placed 10th individually in the women's race at the NCHSAA 3A Cross Country State Championships. Thursday's meet was just one step in the direction to claiming her second state title this calendar year, which would be her first in cross country.

"I guess (my expectation for this season) is to win another state championship and get a big (personal record)," Caroline Murrell said after the race. "(I want) to assert myself as one of the top

girls in the state again."

However, as entertaining as it was to see Caroline Murrell blow by her competition in yet another local meet, perhaps an even larger story was the Northwood women's performance as a whole.

Behind Murrell and Serrano, Northwood senior Emma Iacono (third place, 24:33.47), senior Ella Hennessey (fourth place, 25:22.93) and freshman Avery Adams (fifth place, 25:47.76) rounded out the top five, solidifying the Chargers' perfect score and creating optimism for a women's team that missed out on qualifying for the state meet last season.

"I think we have a really good chance (to go to states)," Caroline Murrell said. "This was a big confidence booster for a lot of us."

"I feel like this was a big motivator for the women to see that, 'Hey, we can do this,'" Isenhour added.

The Chargers and Hawks — who accounted for 19 of 20 spots in both races' top 10s — weren't the only ones in attendance, with the Bears and Jets also making the trip to Pittsboro to take on their intra-county rivals.

The top runners for Chatham Central were junior Kailey Green (women's 10th place, 29:08.82) and freshman Luke Gaines (men's 12th place, 21:21.04), while Jordan-Matthews' best performances came at the hands of junior America Cunalo (women's 12th place, 29:25.93) and junior Aiden Harrison (men's 20th place, 23:12.42).

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

COVERING CHATHAM COUNTY'S VIBRANT LATINX COMMUNITY

Chatham News + Record

Content delivered in Spanish online every week and in print quarterly

‘DON’T TELL ANYONE’

Chatham Community Library to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with virtual documentary screening

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library plans to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month beginning this month by hosting a virtual showing of the award-winning 2015 documentary, “Don’t Tell Anyone (No Le Digas a Nadie).”

Free to all, the showing will start Sept. 16, one day after Hispanic Heritage Month officially kicks off, and continue through Sept. 23. Hispanic Heritage Month ends on Oct. 15.

According to the library’s branch manager, Rita Van Duinen, the film is an effort to go beyond the “more traditional celebrations of the history, culture, and contributions of Hispanic-Americans” and instead raise awareness about the struggles some face day-to-day.

Produced by filmmaker Mikaela Shwer, “Don’t Tell Anyone” follows Colombian-American activist Angy Rivera, who spent most of her life as an undocumented youth in New York City.

“We hope that viewers will come away with a better understanding of the realities of a defective immigration system, and the hurdles that the undocumented must endure in to become U.S. citizens,” Van Duinen told the News + Record. “Our goal in selecting this film is to build awareness especially in Chatham County, where we know many undocumented live and work and contribute to our communities.”

When she was 4 years old, Rivera and

her mother fled to the U.S. to escape poverty and civil war in their home in Columbia, ultimately ending up in New York. For about 20 years, she and her mother lived in fear of deportation, struggled to keep themselves financially afloat and worried over an uncertain future.

To ensure their safety, Rivera’s mother taught her to keep her undocumented status a secret. For two decades, she followed her mother’s advice, but in 2010, she decided to “come out” and share her story.

While a part of the New York State Youth Leadership Council, an organization led by undocumented youth, Rivera created “Ask Angy,” the country’s first advice column for undocumented youth. Through that platform, plus a

YouTube channel, she shared her own experiences and struggles while imparting advice to others.

“Sharing your story does make an impact,” Rivera said in the documentary’s trailer. “As an undocumented (immigrant), sometimes you don’t want to talk about it, but you’re not alone.”

In 2013, she qualified for a U visa, which the U.S. grants to victims of certain crimes who help law enforcement or government officials investigate or prosecute criminal activity.

Since its debut in 2015, the documentary has won several awards, including the Peabody in 2016. The film is primarily in English, with some Spanish subtitles.

Chatham Community Library is working with New York-based Women



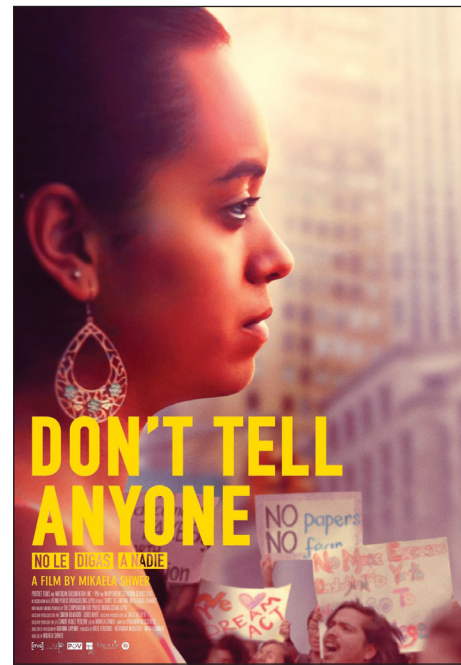
Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Rita Van Duinen is the branch manager of the Chatham Community Library.

Make Movies to organize the virtual screening of the film. “Don’t Tell Anyone” is the library’s fourth virtual screening since the COVID-19 pandemic forced them to reduce most of their in-person programming.

“Virtual film screenings have proven to be popular and an affordable way to offer programming while library services are still in flux due to COVID,” Van Duinen said.

To access the showing, visit bit.ly/3gMnPcN. No registration is required, but people will need a password to access the film. To retrieve the



Courtesy of IMDB

The Chatham Community Library will host a virtual showing in September of 2015 documentary ‘Don’t Tell Anyone (No Le Digas a Nadie),’ which follows immigration activist Angy Rivera.

password or seek additional information, send an email to social.library@chathamlibraries.org.

For those unable to attend a viewing between Sept. 16 and Sept. 23, Chatham Community Library has acquired a hard copy of the film that people may check out even after the viewing window expires.

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

The audacious, thought-provoking ‘Candyman’ can

The oft-discussed paradox of the otherwise revered 1992 horror film “Candyman” is that its titular villain, an apparition born of



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

slave-era white atrocity, exacted his bloody retribution mainly from poor black residents of low-income housing and in a story that revolved around the fate of a white protagonist. Otherwise, the Bernard Rose classic effectively conjured the fear and dread of the genre.

Part sequel and part reimagining, the 2021 revival of “Candyman” from director Nia DaCosta and the writing team of Jordan Peele and Win Rosenfield flips the script. The filmmakers rework Candyman himself from erotic slasher to the grotesque manifestation of racial inhumanity, not a singular baddie but instead both a collective coping mechanism and a lineage of monsters created and contorted by the injustices of their times. “Candyman isn’t a he,” a character says at one point, “he’s the whole damn hive.”

The setting remains the same, Chicago’s Cabrini Green neighborhood, where the towering slums have been razed and the impoverished black residents redlined into obscurity. In their place is a gentrified array of art galleries, fine dining and luxury apartments occupied by the wine-sipping bourgeoisie, both black and white. They include struggling artist Anthony McCoy (Yahya Abdul-Mateen II) and his curator wife, Brianna (Teyonah Parris). Branded “the great black hope of the Chicago art scene,” Anthony is suffering from a creative block until he hears about the urban myth of Candyman from a seeming strang-

CANDYMAN
GRADE: A-
DIRECTOR: Nia DaCosta
STARRING: Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Teyonah Parris, Nathan Stewart-Jarrett, Colman Domingo and Tony Todd
MPAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 55 min.

er and neighborhood soothsayer, William (Colman Domingo), and decides to exhume the legend for his next big art project. The last Candyman was a 1970s vagrant who handed hard candy to little Cabrini Green kids until the police brutally killed him for crimes he didn’t commit. The lore goes that if you gaze into a mirror and say “Candyman” five times, he visits and kills you.

When Anthony goes on a fact-gathering visit to Cabrini Green, a bee stings his hand, triggering some gradual horror that begins to metamorphosize him. Anthony’s grisly art exhibit, titled “Same My Name,” comes equipped with mirror and instructs about the Candyman legend, unleashing his bloody business, first onto a gallery owner and his 20-something intern while they’re in the midst of foreplay (natch).

The catch about Candyman is that the victims fully control his presence. As such, his body count includes an art critic who sees Anthony’s edgy aesthetic as a next big thing and a gaggle of white teenage girls who collectively conjure Candyman for giggles, essentially those guilty of marginalizing a legacy of hate for entertainment or amusement. Meanwhile, minority characters seem to bypass the horror tropes: Brianna’s reaction to the prospect of descending stairs into a dark basement is the film’s biggest guffaw. It’s all there: police

brutality, cultural appropriation, gentrification, redlining, institutional poverty and a lot more from DaCosta and Peele — “White people built the ghetto,” Brianna tells her brother, Troy (Nathan Stewart-Jarrett), “and then erased it when they realized they built the ghetto.” “Candyman” nearly chokes on its ambitions, but there’s exhilaration in its audacity. It is valid to observe that a blistering critique of the commoditization of black culture and tragedy somewhat emulates the very thing it assails. But how else to avoid that besides streaming the film for free on YouTube?

“Candyman” expands



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Nia DaCosta directs Yahya Abdul-Mateen II in ‘Candyman.’

its vision while paying homage to the original film. Yet unlike its forerunner, “Candyman” falls short in the fundamental mechanics of its genre. The thematic tension is there in abundance, but the thrills and chills feel bloodless. DaCosta, who debuted with the critical darling “Little Woods,” is keen on hypnotic atmospherics, from Robert Aiki Aubrey

Lowe’s haunting score to some heady framing — one murder takes place as the camera zooms out from a high-rise picture window, evoking memories of “Rear Window.” But the director also shows a lack of familiarity with horror pacing and staging, and utterly botches the sometimes indecipherable sound mixing. And the climax veers wildly into the occult, seemingly un-

certain how to end the story until it decides to violate its own internal rules.

But this “Candyman” has something to say, even if it sometimes falters in how to say it. It is thought-provoking and ripe for repeat viewing. Who can take a sequel, sprinkle it with blood, cover it with social commentary and a minor misstep or two? The “Candyman” can.



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! !!

CHATHAM CHAT | SUSAN HARDY, COUNCIL ON AGING

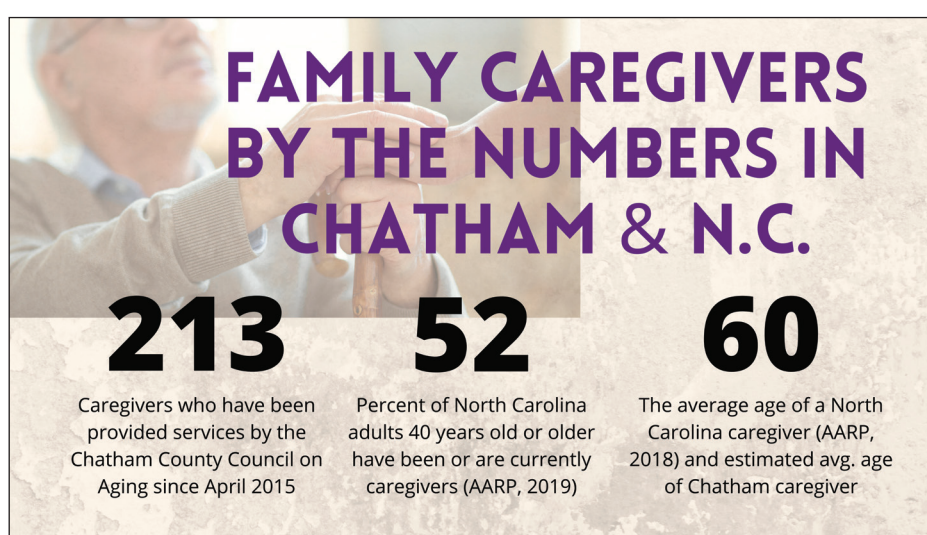
'Tools for Caregivers' classes to help those who help

Chatham County has one of the fastest-growing aging populations in North Carolina. That's creating an entire population of children and extended family members who are being asked, or will be asked, to care for them. This week, we speak with Susan Hardy of Chatham County's Council on Aging about resources available for caregivers and the COA's upcoming "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" classes.

Hardy works as Human Services Team Leader and Caregiver Specialist, and her duties at the COA include connecting caregivers to services, facilitating two caregivers' support groups and providing continuous learning and training for caregivers. In addition to serving as the Council's Family Caregiver Specialist, Hardy is an Information and Options Counselor, coordinator for the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), and she is serving as chairman for the Care Services and Caregiving implementation group for Chatham's Aging Plan. In March 2018, the North Carolina Association on Aging honored Hardy with its statewide Service Excellence Award. Hardy received both her undergraduate degree in special education and her masters of accounting from UNC-Chapel Hill.

We know that Chatham County has one of the most aged populations in the state. It would stand to reason Chatham has a large population of caregivers. Do you find that caregivers are prepared for that role, when it happens?

No one is ever prepared for the role of caregiver. Each patient/care-receiver is different in the way they respond to their diagnosis, both physically



and mentally. The role of caregiver is especially difficult when the care-receiver has been diagnosed with dementia. Even though a name may be attached to the dementia, such as Alzheimer's, Lewy body or vascular dementia, no two dementia patients exhibit the same set of behaviors or symptoms.

Why is the role of caregiver so critical?

According to the Alzheimer's Association's 2021 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, there were over 11 million Americans providing unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias. These caregivers provided an estimated 15.3 billion hours valued at 257 billion dollars. Chatham County's aging population will need caregivers. Rosalynn Carter said it first and best: "There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers."

Can you share your thoughts about some of the major challenges and struggles caregivers face?

One of the main challenges a caregiver faces is finding time for themselves. With the tasks involved in

caregiving and the day-to-day tasks of maintaining a household, there is very little time for the caregiver to get a break. Caregiving can be a 24/7 job. Caregivers often receive very few nights of uninterrupted sleep. The sleep patterns of care-receivers, especially those living with dementia, are often erratic and this leaves the caregiver deprived of sleep.

Communication is another challenge in caregiving. The care-receiver often has difficulty communicating his/her needs to the caregiver. And it goes the other way as well when the caregiver tries to communicate instructions to the care-receiver. Language and communication difficulties are especially challenging with people living with dementia.

Asking for help is a struggle caregivers face, too. Placing someone in a facility is usually not the first choice a caregiver would make. Most of us want to keep our loved ones at home for as long as possible. Oftentimes placing someone in a care facility is not an option anyway because of the cost involved. Even if a caregiver can afford to pay someone to help in the home, it is becoming more and more difficult to find someone qualified and/or available, especially

in rural areas. And if an aide is available and qualified, caregivers struggle with letting someone else care for their loved one and it is difficult for them to let a stranger come into the home.

What support does the COA give caregivers?

We offer a variety of services and support for 24-hour caregivers. We offer two caregiver support groups. One group meets the third Monday of each month at 6:00pm at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro. We are currently meeting on the porch but are looking at other options for when the weather gets cooler. We also meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00pm virtually by invitation via Google Meet. In addition to support groups, we offer workshops, evidence-based classes and educational speakers as part of our support for caregivers.

We also receive some funding through the National Family Caregiver Support Program which can be used to pay for an in-home aide to give the caregiver a break. This funding is limited by household, which usually means we can provide an aide for three hours once a week.

There are many other services that the COA



CN+R file photo

Susan Hardy relaxes on the rocking chair front porch at the Eastern Chatham Senior Center. Hardy is the Human Services Team Leader with the Council on Aging in Chatham County. She was a special education teacher for years before joining the COA team.

offers which are not specific to caregivers but are available to caregivers. These services, in addition to the specific caregiver offerings, can help to decrease some of the stress experienced by the caregiver. Examples of these services would be our incontinence supplies we can provide through our partnership with the Diaper Bank of NC, our assistive equipment loans, our meal options under our nutrition programs and the help our volunteers can provide regarding minor home repairs.

Share more about these six 90-minute classes you have set for September through November...

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an evidenced-based educational program that consists of six classes. In these classes, caregivers develop a wealth of self-care tools to:

reduce personal stress; change negative self-talk; communicate more effectively in challenging situations; recognize messages in their emotions and deal with difficult feelings; plus make tough caregiving decisions. Class participants also receive a copy of The Caregiver Helpbook developed specifically for the class.

What thoughts or advice would you have for those who think, "I'm not sure these classes will benefit me..."?

It is very important to keep our caregivers in the best health possible. Their loved ones are depending on them for their care. The Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes have been shown to have a significant positive impact on caregiver health. The Powerful Tools for Caregivers' motto is "we want you to thrive not just survive".

Council on Aging offers classes for caregivers

From the Council on Aging

ers for their loved ones at home. Whether for financial reasons or by choice, seniors are increasingly wanting to

age in place.

Caregiving can be rewarding, but it can also be exhausting for the caregiver. Too often

the caregiver neglects taking care of themselves while they are caring for a relative or friend. Fortunately,

the Chatham County Council on Aging offers a Family Caregiver Support Program with a multi-faceted

approach aimed at helping the caregiver thrive, not just survive. The Council leads two monthly caregiver support groups, and also provides caregiver respite — placing aides in the home, allowing the caregiver some breathing room to take care of themselves for a few hours a week.

The COA's Caregiver Support Program also offers Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes to give caregivers the tools to take better care of themselves while caring for a loved one. Six 90-minute classes have been scheduled for this fall at the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City. The classes will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesdays and run from Sept. 21 to Nov. 2 (no class on Oct. 5).

The classes are free, but voluntary contributions are accepted to cover the cost of the participant books.

To register for this series of classes, please RSVP to Susan Hardy at 919-542-4512, ext. 231, or email her at susan.hardy@chathamcoa.org by Sept. 15th. Participants must be fully vaccinated. Current COVID indoor guidelines will be followed. Space is limited so please register soon.

Many families across Chatham are caregiv-



Happy Labor Day
Let's help keep your income-producing investments working as hard as you are.

Pittsboro
Chad Virgil, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®
630 East St Suite 2
919-545-5669

Governors Club
Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
919-967-9968

Pittsboro
Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
919-545-0125

Ferrington
Kathy Brommage, CFP®
190 Chatham Downs Drive
Suite 103
919-960-6119

Penguin Place
Eric C Williams, AAMS®
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

Pittsboro
Kevin C Maley
984 Thompson St Suite E2
919-444-2961

Chapel Hill
Jessica L Villagrana
180 Providence Rd
Suite 1c
984-219-6635

Siler City
Laura M Clapp, CFP®
301 E Raleigh St
919-663-1051

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On August 18, Janet Lee Baldwin, 57, 95 Ricky Road, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for negligent child abuse inflicting serious physical injury. She was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 18, Madison Sheyene Gaddis, 24, of 115 Dorsett Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Dominique York for assault and battery. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 24.

On August 19, Emmanuel Alphonzo Peat, 70, of 95 Ricky Road, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for statutory rape of a child by an adult, four counts of indecent liberties with a child, statutory sexual offense and three counts of first degree statutory sexual offense. He was issued a \$325,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County

District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 19, Jessica Catalan Villegas, 27, of 7199 US 15-501 N, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for assault and battery. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 19, Erin Jo Moore, 39, of 47 Oak Shadow Lane, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Dominique York for domestic violence protective order violation. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 24.

On August 19, Sergio Geovanny Rodriguez, 25, of 37 N. Hampton Street Lot 37, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for three counts of felony discharge firearm in enclosure to incite fear. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on

September 20.

On August 19, Denise Jacqueline Harris, 35, of 1801 Cynthia Place, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for two counts of possession of marijuana up to ½ ounce, unsealed wine/liquor in passenger area and shoplifting/concealment of goods. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on September 13.

On August 19, Anna Marie Andrews, 36, of 1112 Moonrise Meadow Drive, Siler City, was arrested for two counts of failure to appear. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 22.

On August 20, Matthew Graham Gordon, 32, of 1637 Bill Lambert Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for exploiting the trust of a disabled/elderly person, obtaining property by false pretense, identity theft, financial card theft and possession of stolen goods/property. He was issued a written promise

to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 21, Joshua Glen White, 37, 1794 Epps Clark Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for assault on a female. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 24.

On August 21, Stacey Pugh White, 36, of 1794 Epps Clark Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for assault and battery and communicating threats. She was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on August 24.

On August 21, Michael Anthony Ronman, 32, of 2 Dogwood Acres Drive, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for assault by strangulation, assault on a female and larceny. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in

Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 21, Susan Ray Burris, 45, of 4960 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for failure to appear. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 21, Willie Douglas Johnson, 59, of 375 West Greenhill Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for failure to appear. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 1.

Johnson was also arrested on August 21 by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for probation violation. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on September 7. Johnson was also arrested on August 21 by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for simple possession schedule II controlled substance and possession

of drug paraphernalia. He is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on September 20.

On August 23, Christine Hall, 47, of AmeriVu Inn and Suites, Room 204, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for failure to appear. She was held on a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on August 30.

On August 23, Justin Ryan Green, 21, of 7155 Pleasant Hill Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on September 9.

On August 24, Steven Robert Allen, 27, 7323 Pecan Avenue, Sunset Beach, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear regarding a probation violation. He was issued a \$100,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Brunswick County Court in Bolivia on September 7.

Voting rights restored to 55,000 North Carolinians

In a 2-1 decision, judge quickly ruled in favor of overturning 150 years of felon disenfranchisement

BY JORDAN WILKIE
Carolina Public Press

The largest expansion of voting rights in North Carolina since the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18 in 1971 and the largest expansion of disproportionately Black enfranchisement since the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 is happening.

Effective Monday, the state can no longer prevent people convicted of a state or federal felony, and who are still under supervision but are not in prison, from voting — a group totaling more than 55,000 people.

North Carolina is now one of 22 states and the only state in the former Confederacy to automatically restore voting rights to people when they are released from prison, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. This also means that people convicted of felonies and sentenced to probation, but not prison time, will retain their right to vote.

In a last-minute call Monday, Judge Lisa Bell told the parties to the CSI v. Moore lawsuit that she and Judge Keith Gregory decided to extend their preliminary injunction from last year to immediately apply to everyone on “community supervision,” rather than just those serving sentences due to financial obligations.

Several of the plaintiffs and their lawyers started smiling when Bell announced the decision on a video call. “When I heard the ruling, I wanted to run

in the street and tell everybody that now you have a voice,” said Diana Powell, the executive director of Justice Served N.C., an organizational plaintiff in the case, during a press call that afternoon.

“I am so excited for this historic day,” Powell said.

Judge John Dunlow, the other member of the three-judge panel, opposed the decision.

Bell said that a written order could be expected as soon as this Friday, though it may take longer.

Bell did not elaborate on the logic for extending last year’s preliminary injunction or why she and Gregory were siding with the plaintiffs in the case. The call was so last-minute that there was not a court reporter and therefore the call is not considered a court record, Bell said. It was simply to announce the decision.

“The court as of today is granting plaintiffs’ request for a preliminary injunction that prohibits the state defendants from refusing to register to vote any person on community supervision, whether a state felony conviction or a federal conviction,” Bell said.

This group of North Carolinians has not been able to cast a ballot since the state first decided to strip the right to vote from people convicted of felonies back in 1876.

The order will be appealed, according to reporting by the New & Observer. Sam Hayes, the general counsel for

North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore, said they would appeal the order and seek to put it on hold. Neither Moore nor his legislative codefendant, leader of the state senate Phil Berger, responded to Carolina Public Press when asked for comment.

The State Board of Elections said its attorneys “are reviewing the decision and will consider the written ruling upon its release,” according to a press release. No formal appeals can be filed until the judges file their written orders with the court.

Meanwhile, the Board issued orders to county boards of election to immediately permit non-incarcerated people serving felony sentences to register to vote.

The plaintiffs, who include groups that help people reenter society after incarceration, the state chapter of the NAACP and people convicted of felonies, first filed their lawsuit in November 2019.

In September 2020, the judges issued a preliminary injunction and a motion for summary judgment that allowed about 5,000 people who were only still on probation or supervision because they owed fines or fees to vote in the 2020 general elections.

The trial for the case was not heard until last week. Bell’s announcement today is an extension of the preliminary injunction from last year, not the decision from the full trial, which is expected at the very earliest in mid-September.

This decision is only temporary until the judges make a full ruling, though it is a strong indication that the judges will again side with the plaintiffs.

As COVID-19 situation worsens in Chatham, health department implores county: get vaccinated

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

County. Visit www.vaccines.gov to find a location.

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Public Health Department is imploring all county residents to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and wear a mask in public places to protect themselves and their community against the deadly virus.

Chatham County recently saw its first deaths due to COVID-19 since May as case numbers are surging at a level not seen since the county’s previous peak in January.

- Other facts:
 - Since early July, nearly a quarter of COVID-19 cases in Chatham County have been among children under age 18
 - The average patient hospitalized from COVID-19 in North Carolina is in their 40s, down from above the age of 60 earlier in the pandemic
 - The average total cost of these hospitalizations is in the tens of thousands, with an out-of-pocket cost of more than \$1,000

A new weekly surveillance report from the N.C. Dept. of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS) revealed some more stark data. (Read the full report here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/media/380/open>.)

- Unvaccinated individuals are almost 4.5 times as likely to get COVID-19 as vaccinated individuals.
- Unvaccinated individuals are 15.4 times as likely to die of COVID-19 as vaccinated individuals.

“COVID-19 deaths are no longer mainly in nursing homes,” said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. “They are in the community and among the unvaccinated. The facts are clear: those who are unvaccinated are much more likely to get COVID-19, spread it to others, get very sick and die from COVID-19. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is how we end this pandemic and avoid preventable deaths.”

Vaccination continues to be the most effective tool for preventing COVID-19 disease, hospitalization and death. There are many regularly-open options for vaccination in Chatham

New Vaccination Options
New pop-up vaccine clinics are operating in the next two weeks across Chatham County:

- Thursday, Sept. 2, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in partnership with Optum Health; at the Old Agriculture Building, 65 E. Chatham Street, Pittsboro
 - Tuesday, Sept. 7, and Thursday, Sept. 9, 4-7 p.m., in partnership with NCDHHS; at Northwood High School, 310 Northwood High School Rd., Pittsboro, and Seaforth High School, 444 Seaforth Rd., Pittsboro
 - Wednesday, Sept. 8, and Friday, Sept. 10, 4-7 p.m., in partnership with NCDHHS; at Chatham Central High School, 14950 N.C. Hwy. 902, Bear Creek, and Jordan-Matthews High School, 910 E. Cardinal St., Siler City.
- The Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines will be available at these public events. No appointment is needed, and second doses will be available at the same locations.

New COVID-19 Testing Options

The CCPHD is working with Optum Health to establish additional no-cost COVID-19 testing options in Pittsboro and Siler City. Through at least Oct. 6, Optum Health will be offering testing each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 6 p.m. at the Old Agriculture Building at 65 E. Chatham St., Pittsboro. Plans are in the works to offer a similar testing site in Siler City. Residents can visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting to see a regularly-updated list of COVID-19 testing options.

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

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD’s vaccination plans, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.



What and what?

I think some of the funniest people on the planet are the Brits.



DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

The Kid would start and finish any list of hilarious U.K. people with Monty Python. But I find just about every aspect of British and British culture knee-slappingly comical. I have a friend from Devonshire who would talk about his puppy having accidents on the kitchen floor that would have me in stitches. I would ask him about the dog, and by the time he finished I would literally be in tears. It may have been especially

funny because there was cursing in the story, and to hear someone who sounds like the queen talking like a sailor, well Gentle Reader, to me that is the purest of comedy gold.

They call umbrellas “brollies” and trucks “trollies.” Instead of one tap in their sinks, they have two, so you get freezing water coming from one and the other spouts the fires of hell. They don’t believe in electrical outlets in the bathroom.

Their judges and lawyers all wear Benjamin Franklin wigs and Harry Potters robes while in court. They have a monarchy that don’t do anything but wave and cost money. They call their surgeons “Mister” and their expensive private schools are called “public schools.”

But this Island of Mirth really shines when it comes to food. Cookies are biscuits and biscuits are unknown. Fries are chips and chips are crisps. Pudding isn’t just creamy chocolate, vanilla, or banana treats from our childhood — it’s any dessert, and also, astonishingly, a dinner roll.

Beans on toast? Brown sauce? And marmite on toast, which comes from leftover yeast somehow ... it started out as hoof shine for horses, until a stable boy ate some!

Then there’s tea. They firmly believe, from the Prime Minister to a navy (a Brit term for ditch digger) that tea will absolutely solve anything, from a stubbed toe, to a broken heart, to a Puritan overthrow of the government. They don’t even call it a cup of tea, it’s a “cuppa,” but everybody knows what it means.

And then there’s bangers and mash. A banger is a sausage and mash are mashed potatoes. It’s a delicious combination, even though it sounds kind of funny.

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

The very best brats are a white sausage with a combination of pork and veal. That type is available at Trader Joes. Boar’s Head make the correct kind and can be found at many grocers.

But since brats are not bangers, you can use any sausage that you like in this recipe. I’ve also used Italian sausage. You can use kielbasa, chorizo, merguez, boudin, or even actual bangers.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Bangers and mash — not a traditional American meal, but a tasty one nonetheless.

Bangers

- 6 bratwursts
- 24 ounces of pale beer
- 2 yellow onions sliced into half moons
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Mustard of your choice

Heat a large skillet on medium. Melt butter and add onions. Season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring frequently, until onions have cooked and browned to amber.

Pour the entire can of beer into pan and turn heat to medium-high. Let boil until the liquid has reduced by half. Add sausages and cover. Turn heat to medium-low and cover. Cook for 15 minutes or until the sausages are hot — do not let them cook so much they burst.

Serve with mustard and some of the caramelized onion.

Mash

I always use baking potatoes in my mashed spuds because they lend a light fluffiness to the final product.

- 3 pounds gold potatoes, peeled and cut into uniform chunks
- 2 large baking potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks the same size as the golds
- 12 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup fat-free buttermilk (approximately)
- Chives or green onions
- Salt and pepper

Place the chunks into a large pot full of heavily salted water. Cook on medium-high until they are fork tender.

Drain into colander and pour back into the pot.

Add 8 tablespoons butter, cut into 10 or 12 pieces. Using a potato masher, mash the potatoes and butter together until they blend together, the butter’s melted, and the spuds are mostly smooth.

Stir in buttermilk, a little at a time until they are just a bit looser than you’d like (they will firm up as they sit).

Season and reseason until the mashed potatoes sing.

Serve with bangers and a side veg.

The traditional is — wait for it — mushy peas.

What did I say about those nutty Brits?

Apply to join the Chatham Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors

The Chatham Economic Development Corporation seeks applicants for its board of directors.

The Chatham EDC serves as the lead economic development agency for Chatham County and is seeking applicants for its board of directors. As a nonprofit corporation, the Chatham EDC is looking for candidates who live or work in Chatham County. People with private sector business backgrounds and who are interested in furthering economic growth in the County strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline to apply is September 10th.

Apply: <https://bit.ly/3iteXcZ>
Learn more: <https://www.chathamcdc.org/news/join-the-board/>



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TEMPLESHOWS.ORG

Rotary Club of Pittsboro fills the bus with school supply donations

More than 20 boxes filled with school supplies and \$500+ raised for Chatham students

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Rotary Club of Pittsboro held its first Fill the Bus school supply drive the weekends of Aug. 14 and 21, generating more than \$500 in cash donations and filling 20 large boxes with school supplies.

The drive was held at the North Chatham Walmart. Cash donations were used to purchase additional supplies, and Pittsboro Rotary members sorted and delivered the supplies to Pittsboro, North Chatham, Chatham Grove, Moncure and Perry Harrison elementary schools on Aug. 23.

“Our teachers do so much for our community, and they have gone above and beyond during these uncertain times,” said Connolly Walker, the Pittsboro club’s Rotarian of the Year. “It made complete

sense for our Rotary Club to support our teachers and schools so everyone could have much needed school supplies.”

The Fill the Bus drive will become an annual fixture for the Pittsboro Rotary Club; the success of this year’s drive is owed to the outstanding support of the Chatham community.

“Our Rotary Club is built on serving the communities where we live and work, and we were blown away at the response from our community,” said club President Katie Walker. “Thank you to everyone who donated and supported our cause.”

The Rotary Club of Pittsboro was founded in 2017 and currently has 33 members. Its mission is to build a welcoming networking organization that provides a resource to its community through service and fellowship. Rotary



Submitted photo

Pittsboro Rotarians pose at Walmart during the club’s ‘Fill the Bus’ effort to collect school supplies for local students.

Club meets each Wednesday at noon at The Modern Life Deli in Pittsboro, and you can also join virtually. For more information about Rotary, please

contact Walker at katie.walker@fidelitybanknc.com or visit <https://www.rotary7690.org/Clubs/PittsboroRotaryClub.shtml>.

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It's School Time Again!

You may be having a lot of different and mixed feelings about going back to school this year. You might experience feelings of excitement about the new school year, sadness about summer being over, or nervousness about new teachers, new friends and new stuff to study.

Having different feelings at the same time is normal! But it can also be tiring. So, doctors agree it is good to take care of your body, to help manage all of the feelings.

Draw the expression to show how you feel about each of these things. Share what you drew with a family member to talk about it.



FRIENDSHIPS



HOMEWORK



READING



MATH



NEW TEACHER



THE YEAR AHEAD

How many pencils can you find on this page?

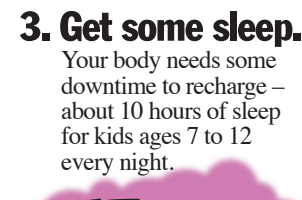
10 Easy Steps to a Better School Year



1. Clean out that backpack.
Clearing the clutter out of your backpack at the end of each day not only lightens your load, it helps you stay on top of school assignments.



2. Never skip breakfast.
Breakfast helps you stay energized and focused at school. A bowl of oatmeal or a breakfast burrito keeps your brain running at full speed until lunchtime.

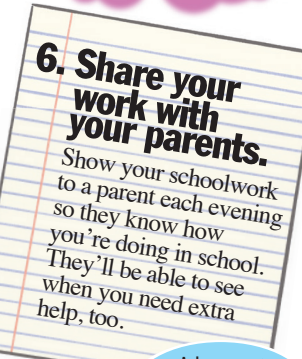


3. Get some sleep.
Your body needs some downtime to recharge – about 10 hours of sleep for kids ages 7 to 12 every night.

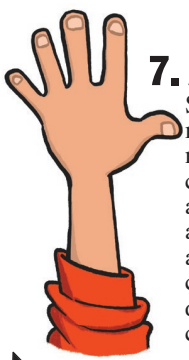
4. Do your homework first.
Do your homework first thing after school and the rest of the day is yours!



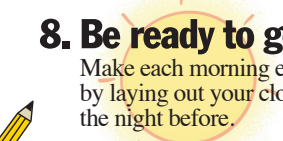
5. Be on time.
Starting your day rushing to get to class makes it hard to focus once you are there. Leave home a little bit earlier instead.



6. Share your work with your parents.
Show your schoolwork to a parent each evening so they know how you're doing in school. They'll be able to see when you need extra help, too.



7. Ask questions.
Sometimes your teacher might be moving through a new lesson faster than you can understand it. Don't be afraid to raise your hand and ask to go through it again. (Someone else in class likely has the same question as you, but is too chicken to ask!)



8. Be ready to go.
Make each morning easier by laying out your clothes the night before.



10. Unplug!
Spend time doing non-electronic things. Read, solve puzzles, or draw. These things use parts of the brain that electronics do not.



Smiling Lifts a Bad Mood

Scientists have found that smiling on purpose can help people feel better. Just the simple act of putting a smile on your face can lead you to feel actual happiness, joy, or amusement.

When one person in a classroom smiles, everyone else feels better. Maybe your smile can transition a bad day into a good one!

How many differences can you find between these two pictures? Now have a friend try. Who found the most differences?



Extra! Extra! Headline Humor

Have a laugh with your new friends! Select a headline from the newspaper and rewrite it to have the opposite meaning.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Share a Smile

Draw lines to connect each riddle with its punch line. Then share these jokes with friends to spread some smiles!

Why do math books always look sad?
Why was the clock always in trouble at school?
What is the smartest insect?
Which vegetables do librarians like best?
Why was the broom late for school?

IT OVER-SWEPT.
THEY HAVE A LOT OF PROBLEMS.
QUIET PEAS.
FOR TOCKING TOO MUCH.
SPELLING BEE.

Double Double Word Search

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

TRANSITION
HAPPINESS
HAPPIER
SADNESS
SUMMER
NORMAL
SCHOOL
SMILE
SLEEP
BRAIN
MOOD
LAZY
BODY
WEAR
JOY

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

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

REPORTER'S CORNER

Choose an article in this newspaper. Cut out the headline and glue it in the box below. Or write the headline in the box.

WHO gave the reporter some information? List the names of the people and organizations in the article that provided the reporter with information.

What questions did the reporter ask to get this information? Write down at least three questions you think the reporter asked to get the information in the article.

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Students ask, CN+R answers: Journalism questions

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III, Reporter Hannah McClellan and Photographer Kim Hawks spoke with about two dozen CCS students about journalism at a presentation to Chatham School of Science and Engineering students last Thursday.

The students, part of the school's American History elective course, are working on a journalism-related project — either completing a history photo blog or writing an opinion piece about the meaning of freedom. Their teacher, Anna Blackwell, invited the News + Record to speak with students about interview and photography tips, among other subjects.

During the presentation, students asked many questions about reporting and interviewing, specifically in Chatham County. That Q&A session is recorded below, and has been edited for clarity and length.

What happens when a story goes viral?

MCCLELLAN: Getting attention for the work you do, and knowing that it resonates with people is something that is just rewarding, because it's affirming that maybe you're writing and telling stories that people want to hear. I do think showing that you can write things that people care about matters. One of my favorite things about it is the potential for it to have a positive impact in the community. When people in the community care about that story, and maybe have strong feelings about it, a lot of times it does give institutions and people in power the push to prioritize that issue.

HORNER: When we think about doing stories, we want to make sure that our stories are covering important topics and that they're compelling and well written. But you never know what's going to go "viral." You want to have an impact with the work that you do, but you can't always control what takes off.

What story has gotten the most positive reception?

MCCLELLAN: I personally am a huge people pleaser, so even to this day, if someone isn't super thrilled with something that I wrote that they were quoted in, it honestly still stings a little bit. But the goal shouldn't necessarily be when you write a story to get a ton of public or positive reception, the goal should be to capture whatever story you're covering as fairly and accurately as possible.

What do you like about photography?

HAWKS: What I love about newspaper photography, I love the community. I love being in the community as a way of recording history. There's also decisive moments like if you're covering a basketball game or volleyball game, like covering the excitement of the winner, and the emotion of the losers. I love the variety of assignments that I get. I cover high school sports, special events like the Chatham County 250 Founders Day, St. Mark's has a weekly free meal and the health department's been doing all these COVID clinics. So there's just no end to what we can cover in the town. It's very exciting — and you get to meet so many people.

Do you censor? How do you keep subjectivity out of the paper?

HORNER: Our responsibility to the community is to report what's relevant and what's going on. We can't cover every single thing, but we won't not cover something just because we think it's unpopular.

Now to your question about subjectivity: I think the way we describe that in our business is we don't editorialize stories. In other words, we don't inject our opinions into stories. For a newspaper credibility is everything. If someone thinks that we're slanting the news or trying to inject a certain viewpoint or opinion, that's not good. And I don't think it happens.

MCCLELLAN: It's definitely our goal as journalists to be objective, but I think it's also important to make a distinction between, we naturally



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Chatham News + Record Reporter Hannah McClellan (pictured far right), Publisher Bill Horner III and Photographer Kim Hawks spoke to a class of social studies students at the Chatham School of Science and Engineering about journalism last Thursday.

as people are not objective — we all come into whatever job we have with our own perspective, experiences, our various identities that affect how we see the world, what first comes to our mind when we think about who to reach out to for story, things like that. That's just natural, and exists as a neutral thing. That's just what makes different people different. I think the goal as journalists is to, in spite of those things, be so aggressive in our reporting and our reporting processes that we write and produce objective stories.

Do you have freedom when it comes to your writing and reporting?

HORNER: I really kind of leave it up to them in what they want to write about. Part of helping reporters flourish in their creative abilities is to let them pursue what they're interested in. The worst thing is to have a reporter who is just not interested in certain stories that they're assigned, and they just go through the motions. I'm fortunate that everyone on our team will embrace the stories I ask them write. Part of the reason they do is because I don't ask that much of them outside their own interests, and fortunately, their interests align with what I think would be good for the paper — so that works out.

What do you do when an interview is going poorly?

MCCLELLAN: I will say no matter how many tricks you have up your sleeve, it's still not fun when you're in that situation. The best starting point is going into any interview over prepared. For me, that means even if I only have five minutes to prepare for an interview, I'm gonna either write down on my phone Notes app, or in my journal, bullet points of what I want to ask.

I find it helpful if an interview is going really poorly to try to make it less of a formal interview for a second, and more like we're two people having a conversation — rather than, I am a scary journalist asking you scary questions and you're responding to me. And then sometimes — and I think this is rarely the case — sometimes a person is just not a good interview. At that point, if you've tried a bunch of different strategies to get them to open up and answer more in depth, and it's not working, then you want to be polite and finish the interview and then go back to the drawing board.

HORNER: You want to try to set people at ease. And one of the best ways is to remember that most people like talking about themselves. Another thing is that you don't want to ask "yes" or "no" questions. You want to ask open-ended questions. And another thing is to not be afraid of silence. Ask a question and if they don't say a lot, just

let it hang. And just don't say anything. Sometimes people just need to process the question before giving a response.

Do you have to be an extrovert to be a journalist?

MCCLELLAN: I hope not, because I am not an extroverted or outgoing person, and that's part of the reason I over prepare. Some of it's muscle memory, so some of it has gotten easier but some days, I have to pick myself up, look at my notes and say like, I know how I'm gonna have this conversation, I can do it. So it does get easier with practice, just because you kind of find little tricks that help you.

HORNER: I'm an extreme introvert. I'm totally comfortable talking to a large group of people, but I'm very uncomfortable talking to just one person. But what makes it easiest, like Hannah said, is that it's muscle memory. I've done it so much that I know after that first 30 seconds, it's going to be fine.

Is it better to be informal or formal in an interview?

HORNER: You want to do whatever makes the person you're interviewing comfortable. So you don't want to be really formal.

MCCLELLAN: The actual conversation itself, I tend to try and make it informal in the sense that it's like, I'm a person, not someone just reading a list of questions — I'm trying to have a conversa-

tion with someone rather than just talking at them.

The only other thing I would add is that regardless of how formal or informal a conversation or interview feels with someone, it's really important to make sure the person you're talking with understands why you're interviewing them and understands the interview process. You want to make sure they know that you are a journalist reporting on a story and your informal conversation is something you're either writing down or recording and could be quoted.

Did you ever feel your work was inferior? How did you go about fixing it?

HORNER: Not every story is going to win an award. I think, as a writer, you just push through it. Do your best.

MCCLELLAN: It's really important to regularly check in with yourself and think, what are my goals with my stories, and have I met those goals? And also just to reflect on like mistakes, or even if it wasn't a mistake, something that could have gone better and thinking about how you can address those.

The other thing I would say is I think unfortunately sometimes it's human nature, and especially in journalism, which can be very competitive, to perceive your own work as being inferior, when you're really doing good work that you should be proud of.

Money-grubbing food delivery hubs are coming for local alternatives

Food delivery services Grubhub and DoorDash made headlines last week when the city of Chicago sued them for deceptive and harmful business practices. But for one Chathamite, the litigation only confirms what he's been saying for years.

In two lawsuits filed Friday, Chicago alleged Grubhub and DoorDash capitalized on restaurants' vulnerabilities during the pandemic to mark up prices in violation of the city's emergency cap on food delivery commissions.

"As we stared down a global pandemic that shuttered businesses and drove people indoors, the defendants' meal delivery service apps became a primary way for people to feed themselves and their families, as well as support local restaurants," Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said in a news release, first reported by The Chicago Tribune. "It is deeply concerning and unfortunate that these companies broke the law during these incredibly difficult times, using unfair and deceptive tactics to take advantage of restaurants and consumers who were struggling to stay afloat."

The lawsuit also claims that both delivery services advertised partnerships with non-partner restaurants and misled customers with "deceptively low delivery fees upfront that increased up to sixfold at the end of the transaction," the Tribune said. The city contends Grubhub charged 25% higher for some menu items, and DoorDash 58% higher.

The allegations paint a sordid picture

of unethical, big-business behavior, which comes as no surprise to North Chatham resident Wes Garrison.

"What these companies do is really devastating," he told me. "They come in with just tons of money and undercut local competition and they're dishonest — listing all these restaurants that they don't actually have — and then they don't even serve their customers well."

Garrison is co-founder and CEO of Takeout Central (www.takeoutcentral.com), a Chapel Hill-based food delivery service with partner restaurants across the state. The company started in 1996 as Tarheel Takeout, and served mostly UNC students. Back then, third-party meal delivery services were few and far between. The company took orders over the phone and its driver network coordinated via walkie talkies.

"It was the first of this concept in this area," Garrison said, "but not nationwide. I think the first was in Austin in around 1987."

Three decades later, though, almost none of those pioneering food-delivery companies still exist.

"We're one of the last older ones still in operation in the country," Garrison said. "We're kind of getting wiped out."

Some delivery services dawdled as modern technology overtook them, and their collective customer bases dwindled. But Takeout has kept pace, introducing a convenient app with a smart aesthetic. The user experience is natural (I tested it out) and the company's drivers are responsive (my food arrived within 45 minutes).

Technology isn't the issue for Garrison, a computer scientist by trade. It's "venture-backed Silicon Valley delivery

companies."

"Their goal," he said of the big competitors such as DoorDash and Grubhub, "is clearly to gain as much market share as possible and put everybody else out of business. Then they can raise prices and all of a sudden they've won."

Garrison — along with his fellow co-founder, COO and brother-in-law Charles Douthitt — employs 27 full-time staff and about 170 drivers from Asheville to Wilmington. The company has served Pittsboro for four years and their available partners include such local favorites as Carolina Brewery, Breakaway Cafe and O'YA Cantina.

With the pandemic's advent, and people stuck at home, Garrison thought Takeout Central might see its coffers replenish.

"But in some markets we actually continue to do worse," he said. "We're doing a lot fewer orders than we used to do. In some markets, we're doing maybe a third to 40% of what we used to do. And in some other places I'm doing so few orders I can barely staff for it."

The problem is visibility. DoorDash went public last year and promptly raised billions of dollars. Local companies such as Takeout can't compete with that kind of advertising fund. With most search engine queries for food delivery, Takeout Central might not appear until the second page of results — and let's face it, who clicks to the second page of results on Google?

"But DoorDash is everywhere," Garrison said. "If you're looking for a specific restaurant, you're more likely to find DoorDash. If you see their Google My Business Profile, there's a DoorDash link there and there's a DoorDash ad there, and Google won't even sell us

that ad. I've tried."

It's a maddening situation for Garrison.

"We've got great restaurant partners; I think we got some of the best local places," he said. "We've got some pretty great drivers, although we're losing some because we're not busy enough. But the missing piece is we just can't reach customers. And we're not really more expensive than these big guys, although they can afford to do a lot more coupons ... But the key will be, how do we reach people and let them know there's a local option they can support?"

So far, he hasn't come up with an answer. With a flat \$3 delivery fee and 15% service charge, Takeout Central's pricing challenges the competition, but would-be customers don't know it exists.

Garrison isn't despondent, though. Nor is he convinced the "big guys" can outlast him. DoorDash has been the most financially successful of the major services in recent years, but still the company has never turned a profit, according to The Wall Street Journal. Eventually, prices will have to go up, and that's when Garrison intends to retake his market share.

"I'm generally pretty positive, despite all the negative things I'm saying," he said, laughing. "And I think that if we find a way to get the word out there for people to know we're a local company, that we do a good job, and if they give us a shot, then we don't have to win. We just need to survive and get back our small portion of the pie."

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

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LEGALS

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 2nd day of August 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **LUCILLE FRAZIER HAYES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 5th day of August, 2021. W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Lucille Frazier Hayes 26 Frazier Store Road

Staley, NC 27355
Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 2nd day of August 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **JUN CHEN** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of November 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 5th day of August, 2021. W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Jun Chen 918 Olde Thompson Creek Apex, NC 27523

Attorneys:
Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
206 Hawkins Avenue
Sanford, NC 27330
Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons having claims against **JUDITH M. SEED, aka Judith Ann Seed aka Judith A. Seed [hereinafter 'Judith M. Seed']** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 16th day of May, 2021, are notified to present them to David R. Seed, Administrator of the Estate of Judith M. Seed in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Mead-

owmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before November 18, 2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Administrator, and the devisees of Judith M. Seed. Those indebted to Judith M. Seed are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. Dean P. Broz Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **RAYMOND A. MOREHEAD**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before November 12th, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 12th day of August, 2021. Catherine P. Morehead, Executor Estate of Raymond A. More-

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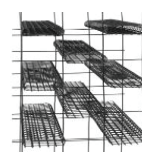
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Chatham News + Record

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Au12,Au19,Au26,S2,4tc

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Executor of the Estate of **ANDREW BRENT ELMORE**, late of Cha-

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Denied Social Security Disability? Appeal! If you're 50+, filed SSD and denied, our attorneys can help! Win or Pay Nothing! Strong, recent work history needed. 877-553-0252 [Stappacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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tham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 10th day of August, 2021.

Emily Elmore, Administrator of The Estate of Andrew Brent Elmore
1050 Bonlee 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,S9,4tc

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. Sibil Shalo Wilmont, Executor Estate of Abraham Ezra Shalo c/o J Alan Campbell Law PO Box 850 Hillsborough, NC 27278 Au19,Au26,S2,S9,4tc

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 Orelan, 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

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT IN DOWNTOWN SILER CITY
2,175 sq ft
Former Moody, Williams, Roper, and Lee law office at 235 East Raleigh Street. Multiple offices, two half baths, and kitchen area. Parking behind building.
Fisher Properties
919-656-9933

HOUSE PLUS ACREAGE
676 Roberts Chapel Rd. Goldston, NC 27252
Remodeled 8/15/21
3.63 Acres of land. 592sqft of heated space. Timber has not been cut.
336.674.3210
SERIOUS INQUIRIES ONLY

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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 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,S9,4tc

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,S9,4tc

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-BLOXOM** 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-Bloxom 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, N. C. 273444 (919) 663-2533 Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tc
TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on **Sep. 7, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the 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 arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8623, 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 919-726-8623 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. Au26,S2,2tc

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,S16,4tc

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,S16,4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Volunteer Fire Department Inc. will be held at North Chatham Volunteer Fire Station #1, U.S. 15-501 North, on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of electing three (3) Directors of the Corporation and of such business as may properly come before the meeting. All residents of the North Chatham Fire Protection District, eighteen (18) years of age or older are entitled to attend and vote at said meeting. The directors to be elected at said meeting shall be residents of the North Chatham Fire Protection District of Chatham County and shall be fairly representative of the geographic areas and populations served by the corporation. This 30th day of August, 2021. Charles Quinlan, President North Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

\$2,S9,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 439

All persons having claims against **PRIMROSE ESTELLA EDWARDS SUTTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of December, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 27th day of August, 2021. Richard Anthony Sutton, Administrator 1409 Falling Star Way Durham, NC 27704 4997

\$2,S9,S16,S23,4tp

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED WASTEWATER

The Town of Siler City had a wastewater overflow in the following area due to grease build up: Estimated start: 08/24/2021 from 12 p.m. to 08/27/21 at 12:37 p.m. at the Manhole in the area behind Chatham Square. 21,600 Gallons, reached the surface waters of Loves Creek. Siler City staff were notified and were on the scene within thirty minutes to evaluate the situation. There was no Environmental impact or harm to drinking water. For questions, call Chris McCorquodale, Director of Public Works and Utilities, 919-742-4732. Chris McCorquodale Director of Public Works and Utilities Town of Siler City

\$2,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM

THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 13th day of August, 2021, as Executor of the ESTATE OF **CAROLEE ROMING**, 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 5th day of December, 2021 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This, the 2nd day of September, 2021. JILL EMERY, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF CAROLEE ROMING c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney Walker Lambe, PLLC Post Office Box 51549 Durham, North Carolina 27717

\$2,S9,S16,S23,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **DANIEL PHILLIP MOREAU**, deceased, of Chatham County, NC, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before December 3, 2021 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of September, 2021. Sabrina Moreau, Personal Representative in c/o Kellie M. Corbett, Attorney at Carolina Family Estate Planning 201 Commonwealth Court, Suite 100 Cary, NC 27511

\$2,S9,S16,S23,4tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Section 5311 (ADTAP), 5310, 5339, 5307 and applicable State funding, or combination thereof. This is to inform the public that a public hearing will be held on the proposed FY 2023 Capital Purchase of Service Community Transportation Program Application to be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation no later than October 8, 2021. The public hearing will be held via Zoom on September 9, 2021 at 5:30 PM before the Chatham County Council on Aging Board of Directors. Those interested in attending the public hearing and needing either auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or a language translator should contact Krista Westervelt on or

before September 6, 2021, at telephone number 919-542-4512 or via email at krista.westervelt@chathamcoa.org The Community Transportation Program provides assistance to coordinate existing transportation programs operating in Chatham County as well as provides transportation options and services for the communities within this service area. These services are currently provided using Chatham Transit Network. Services are rendered by Chatham Transit Network. The total estimated amount requested for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023: NOTE: Local share amount is subject to State funding availability.

Project, Amount	Total Local Share
Administrative \$ (15%)	
Operating (5311) \$ (50%)	
5310 Capital \$ 310,000	
\$ 31,000 (10%) (Purchase of Service)	
5310 Operating \$ (50%)	
Other \$ (%)	
TOTAL PROJECT \$ 310,000	
\$ 31,000	

Total Funding Request Total Local Share This application may be inspected at chathamcoa.org from September 2, 2021. Written comments should be directed to Krista Westervelt before September 8, 2021.

\$2,S9,2tc

PROJECT CHILD FIND LAUNCHED THROUGHOUT DISTRICT

Project Child Find in the Chatham County Schools (CCS) runs from September 13th - 24th to identify youths between the ages of 3 and 21 who have disabilities and require special education and other related services. The local effort is part of a concentrated statewide push to identify young people requiring special education. Project Child Find informs parents and guardians of such individuals about services available in their local school systems and at other state and community agencies. Project Child Find seeks youths who have been diagnosed or are suspected to have mental, physical or emotional disabilities and are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. Those aware of such youths who are not in school or not receiving special assistance are encouraged to contact the principal at the school in their area, or they could call the district's Exceptional Children's Department at 919-542-6400. Community support would help the effort a great deal,

according to Melvin Diggs, the district's Executive Director for Exceptional Children and AIG. The following organizations have more information: NC Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division - (984) 236-2550 Office of Early Learning (for ages 3-5) - (984) 236-2740 NC Department of Health and Human Services - (919) 707-5520 Family Support Network - 1-800-852-0042.

\$2,S9,2tc

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE OF UNTREATED SEWAGE

The City of Graham had a discharge of untreated wastewater from our Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1204 East Gilbreath Street in Graham of approximately 33,600 gallons. The discharge occurred on August 22, 2021 for approximately 1.64 hours. The untreated wastewater entered into Town Branch Creek in the Cape Fear River Basin. The discharge was the result from heavy rains in the area. This notice was required by North Carolina General Statutes Article 21, Chapter 143.215C. For more information, contact Tonya Mann, Utilities Director, or Cris Routh, Treatment Plant Superintendent, at 336-570-6721.

\$2,1tc

PUBLIC SALE

Siler City Self Storage ("Lienor"), P.O. Box 143, Siler City, North Carolina, will hold this public sale of personal property at its storage facility on Tuesday, September 14th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Siler City, NC. The sale will start at 1407 E. 11th St. (Hwy 64 behind Sir Pizza), then to our location at 500 West 2nd Street (behind Maxway) then to 1112 S. Chatham Ave. The following persons and property at 1407 E. 11th St., Siler City, NC, are subject to this lien sale: Pamela A. Alston, Units 1082 & 1085 908 MLK Jr. Blvd. Siler City, NC 27344 Shenika Alston, Unit 1041 327 Duncan Farm Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 Craig Baldwin, Units 1072 & 1078 1316 Fairfax St. Siler City, NC 27344 Tara Burnette, Unit 1119 911 12th St Siler City, NC 27344 Lori Cockman, Unit 1096 1421 W Front St Burlington NC 27215 Thomas Garcia, Unit 1018 PO Box 10 Siler City, NC 27344 Lucian Evans Maynard, Unit 1034 295 Webb Creek Rd Fairview, NC Margaret Dee McKeiver, Unit 1060

911 12th St Siler City, NC 27344 Marcie Moody, Unit 2005 200 Moody Loop Rd Siler City, NC 27344 Thadeus Patterson, Unit 1148 1509 Duet Dr Siler City, NC 27344 The following persons and property at 500 West 2nd Street, Siler City, N.C. are subject to this lien sale: Eric Bair, Unit 175 106 Red Sunset Pl Carrboro, NC 27510 Faline Doolin, Unit 110 4539 Bunton Swaim Rd Liberty, NC 27298 Robert Willett, Unit 199 224 N East St Raleigh, NC 27601 The following persons and property at 1112 S. Chatham Ave., Siler City, N.C. are subject to this lien sale: Barbara A Altoner, Unit 333 107 Canary Dr #2 Dickson, Tenn 37055 Pattie Cromer, Unit 244 6853 NC Hwy 49N Liberty, NC 27298 Harvey & Shatoya Hanner, Unit 311 725 E Cardinal St Siler City, NC 27344 Billy Tysor, Unit 341 107 Eugene St Carrboro, NC 27510

\$2,1tc

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

The following is a list of persons appointed by the Chatham County Board of Elections as precinct officials to serve a two-year term in accordance with G.S. 163-41: **Albright Precinct** Peter Zelechowski Chief Judge Deborah Kotoris Democratic Judge William Freeman Republican Judge **Bonlee Precinct** Janet Scott Chief Judge Teresa Cheek Democratic Judge Pearl Canterbury Republican Judge **Bynum Precinct** Lynette Bagwell Chief Judge Anita Badrock Democratic Judge Richard Hansinger Republican Judge **Goldston Precinct** Lisa Gatens Chief Judge Ann Wilkie Democratic Judge Sharon Trotter Republican Judge **Moncure Precinct** Billy Johnstone Chief Judge Joan Dark Democratic Judge Carla George Republican Judge **Hadley Precinct** Veronica Remy Chief Judge

Cathy Gilliam Democratic Judge Carolyn Leggett Republican Judge **Crossroads Precinct** Jamie Brady Chief Judge Amy Crissman Democratic Judge Jennifer Purvis Republican Judge **Hickory Mountain Precinct** Susan Sigmon Chief Judge Vaughn Upshaw Democratic Judge Cindy Schmidt Republican Judge **Manns Chapel Precinct** Jeanne Mitchell Chief Judge Stephanie Lilly Democratic Judge John Hausman Republican Judge **New Hope Precinct** Jennifer Chambers Chief Judge Valerie Horton Democratic Judge Jeffrey Long Republican Judge **Pittsboro Precinct** Megan Lynch Chief Judge Angela Romatzick Democratic Judge Summer Ficarrotta Republican Judge **East Siler City Precinct** Nancy Hirsch Chief Judge Edna Johnson Democratic Judge Karl Ernst Republican Judge **West Siler City Precinct** Rory Garcia Chief Judge Gwendolyn Payne Democratic Judge Clarence Tally Republican Judge **East Williams Precinct** Carla Markham Chief Judge Cloyce Lassiter Democratic Judge Judith McDaniel Republican Judge **North Williams Precinct** Robert Waldrop Chief Judge Marilyn Chaplin Democratic Judge Grace Harris Republican Judge **West Williams Precinct** Elizabeth Swaringen Chief Judge Margaret Tiano Democratic Judge William Eckert Republican Judge Note: Election Assistants are appointed for each election and are not included in this publication. Vacancies will be filled as needed. Issued and published on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Elections. Pandora Paschal, Director Chatham County Board of Elections

\$2,1tc

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