

# Chatham News + Record

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## CUNNUP ERA COMING TO END

# Longtime Goldston mayor will not seek reelection

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

GOLDSTON — Tim Cunnup, Goldston's mayor for more than two decades, will not seek reelection in November, he confirmed to the News + Record.

His decision to step back from the town's highest elected office marks the conclusion of a storied career in public service, which saw Goldston invert its fate: from the precipice of obscurity to a propitious future.

"When I came on, I saw Goldston as a town that was going to be left behind," said Cunnup, who will turn 65 in April. "I saw at that point that if Goldston was to survive for the future, we had to have some growth. And as stringent as environmental regulations were becoming, we had to have a sewer system in place."

Installation of sewer infrastructure became Cunnup's primary goal when he was first elected as mayor in the 1990s. Previously he



Submitted photo

**Goldston Mayor Tim Cunnup, who has served in the position since the 1990s, won't seek re-election in 2021.**

had served 23 years total, he said, with a two-year gap, and was a town commissioner beforehand. Every residence and business in town employed septic tanks, and many were nearing failure. To attract new industry and protect residents' properties, Goldston needed a centralized sewer system. It took 16 years and about \$8 million, but Cunnup and

the board of commissioners finally realized their goal within the last few years.

"It was the number one thing that we had worked on for so long," Cunnup said, "being able to implement the sewer system within town because we were a non-sewered community ... When you're looking at a town the size of Goldston, being able to implement that type of

'... I feel like it's time for the old guy to move on and get some young blood in and let them take it over and run with it.'

TIM CUNNUP, Mayor of Goldston

infrastructure was without question our greatest achievement while I was in."

Other significant projects under Cunnup's leadership included a new town hall, a new library and renovations to the town's playgrounds. Still, Goldston's above-ground aesthetic wouldn't seem to indicate much change over the last 20 years, Cunnup said. But new, robust infrastructure is a fillip to fresh development.

"Goldston has not changed much at all in many, many years, due to those limitations," he said of the town's sewer. "But

See **MAYOR**, page A3

## SILER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT



CN+R file photo

**Members of the Siler City Fire Department take part in a practice burn earlier this year.**

# SCFD achieves one of state's best ratings

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City's fire department has been awarded one of the state's best fire suppression ratings, an evaluation which represents the department's general preparedness and can decrease property insurance costs across town.

The North Carolina Fire Insurance Services Office Rating ranks departments based on their staffing levels, access to and maintenance of equipment, communications capabilities, water source availability and more. Evaluations are conducted routinely; Siler City was previously rated in 2012 and 1992.

The rating system ranges from 1 — the highest caliber a municipality or district can achieve — to 10, at which point the state will not certify a department. Departments such as Siler City's often fall within the second half of the spectrum.

"Most rural departments (fall) into the 9S category," N.C. Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey said in a press release last month. "While lower ratings do not necessarily indicate poor service, a higher rating does suggest that a department is overall better equipped to respond to fires in its district."

In the most recent evaluation, Siler City earned a 3 — the best ranking it has achieved in the last three decades. The town was previously ranked a 4 in 2012, according to Siler City Fire Chief Scott Murphy, and a 5 in 1992.

"A lot of the notable changes for this time between the 3 and the 4 are because of what you guys did for us a few years ago," Murphy told the town board of commissioners in its regular meeting last week, "... with career staff being hired and our personnel ratio, which looks at the available firemen that are on duty at any given time."

Improved water availability since 2012

See **SCFD**, page A7

# Counselors, therapists support increased mental health services at CCS

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

In the beginning months of the pandemic, Siler City Elementary School Counselor Teresa Meadows remembers scrambling to find ways to check in with students without having designated times to see them in a school building.

Counselors eventually used virtual platforms, such as Seesaw and Google Classroom, to check in with students once a week, as opposed to visiting classrooms or hosting students in their offices.

"That made our job more difficult in some ways," Meadows said, "and much more time consuming."

Now, with Chatham County Schools students back at in-person learning full time, counseling services more closely resemble how they looked before COVID-19.

Still, with increased mental health challenges wrought by and throughout the pandemic, things aren't back to normal.

"When we have families coming from all different kinds of situations

See **SUPPORT**, page A8



'Mental health is a huge topic and tremendously important,' said CCS counselor Jennifer Saylor. 'You need to attend to it.'

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## BUILT IN YOUR BACKYARD

# Tubing from Siler City's AD Tubi

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

*Editor's note: This is the second installment in an occasional series exploring Chatham's robust manufacturing backbone, especially little-known operations with major impacts on national and global economies.*

SILER CITY — Fabricated pipes and fitting products aren't glamorous commodities, but they're essential in the smooth operation of several critical industries — and a global supplier has its North American headquarters in Siler City.

1997. CEO Andrea Degano started the company after more than 20 years of



Sullivan

learning the industry from the ground up. Since then, AD Tubi products have made their way around the world, but the company has only recently increased its U.S. footprint.

"In late 2017 we made the decision to move forward with expansion of our operations into North America," Craig Sullivan, president of AD Tubi USA, told the News + Record. "There were two states being considered, North Carolina

See **AD TUBI**, page A3

# Siler City reopens applications for new immigrant advisory committee

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — After receiving too few applications for Siler City's new immigrant advisory committee, the town has opened a second 30-day application period to solicit more letters of interest.

"We just wanted to give people the opportunity, (and) to allow some time for others for the word to get out that we still needed additional applications to be able to fill the seven seats," town manager Roy Lynch told the News + Record.

The Siler City Board of Commission-

ers unanimously approved the formation of the town's first Immigrant Community Advisory Committee on June 21. The idea originally emerged several years ago amid a two- to three-year community planning project called Building Integrated Communities (BIC).

Begun in 2017, this project brought the town, the Hispanic Liaison and community members together to identify immigrant residents' needs and create a plan to address them. Forming an immigrant advisory committee was one such step in the project's finalized

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## IN THE KNOW

Memorializing Daniel could be 'new departure' for Chatham. **PAGE A9**

'Tell Me a Story' author to keynote Chatham Literacy event. **PAGE A13**

Bears struggle against as conference schedule approaches. **PAGE B1**

Newby: Catching up with the Pittsboro's new club director. **PAGE B6**



# 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 Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, at the Historic Courthouse Courtroom. An evening meeting has not yet been scheduled.

**The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library.

## OTHER

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

**The Chatham Artists Guild** announces the opening of its 2022 Membership Drive. Artists 18 years of age or older, in all mediums, that reside or work in a studio in Chatham County may apply. The deadline for application is October 31st. The application process has been streamlined to make it as easy as possible for entrants to apply. Applicants can visit [www.chathamartistsguild.org/](http://www.chathamartistsguild.org/) membership to begin their application with a small entry fee paid online.

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

## THURSDAY

**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

**A rain garden workshop** event has been scheduled for Siler City. Help protect water quality and reduce flooding. Learn how to capture rain in your yard with a rain garden, a bowl-like depressions in the ground that capture rainfall runoff from your rooftop and driveway and allow water to filter into the ground. The plants, mulch and soil in a rain garden combine natural processes to filter pollutants from runoff and

break down in the soil over time. The workshop is free to Siler City residents from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 2. (Rain date: Oct. 16.) The location of event will be provided at registration. Sign up to reserve a spot at <https://cvent.me/n9zLZ2>. Translators will be made available at the workshop for any Spanish speakers. Also all education materials are available in Spanish. - INSCRIBASE PARA RESERVAR SU LUGAR: <https://cvent.me/0KGWqD>

**Chatham County Parks and Recreation** announces 2nd annual **Chatham County Challenge** — a virtual walk, run, or bike challenge. From October 1 to 31, bikers are challenged to complete a 100k (62 miles) and runners/walkers are challenged to complete a 50k (31 miles). There is no cost to participate. Participants will be asked to track their miles through a free mobile app called Map My Fitness and must sign up through the app no later than September 30th. The top 20 bikers, 20 runners, and 20 walkers with the most distance logged in the Challenge will receive a free T-shirt. The participant with the most miles logged in each category will also receive a \$25 gift card to the local business, New Horizons. A weekly leaderboard and end of challenge winners will be announced on the Parks and Recreation website, Facebook, and Instagram. Further instructions for the Challenge and other information from Chatham County Parks and Recreation can be found at [chathamcountync.gov/parks-recreation](http://chathamcountync.gov/parks-recreation). Individuals with questions may contact Mallory Peterson at the Parks and Recreation Department at 919-545-8553 or [mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:mallory.peterson@chathamcountync.gov).

**Siler City Parks and Recreation** announces that on Friday, Sept. 24, you may join the free movie at Bray Park with a "You've Got A Friend In Me" theme. This is a free series on the fourth Friday night of September and October. The fun will continue this month with the premier of "Toy Story 4." Grab your blankets, chairs and enjoy the free family friendly movie under the stars. This will begin at dusk (approximately 7:40 p.m). Come early for fun activities, free inflatable attractions, music, and activities. Concessions will be available for purchase by Customized Dogs and Catering. In case of inclement weather, the event rain date is Saturday, Sept. 25. Also, be sure to save the date for the premier of "Trolls World Tour" on Friday, Oct. 22. The Bray Park Sports Complex is located at 200 Bray Park Complex Dr., Siler City.

**Chatham County Public Libraries** are extending 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 Oct. 28, with the following weekly schedule: Mondays at 10:30 a.m. – Natural Chef Café, seating area on the Central Carolina Community College Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, 197 N.C. Hwy 87 N., Pittsboro; Tuesdays

at 10:30 a.m. – Washington Avenue Park picnic shelter, 1305 Washington Ave., Siler City; Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – Goldston Public Library lawn, 9235 Goldston Rd., Goldston; and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. – Natural Chef Café seating area on the Central Carolina Community College Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, 197 N.C. Hwy 87 N., Pittsboro. 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. The 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 Sept. 17-18, 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 Hendersboro Tanyard Rd. in Pittsboro. To learn more, view the full schedule and purchase tickets, visit [www.Hoppin-John.org](http://www.Hoppin-John.org).

**Chatham Community Library** presents virtual film screening of "Don't Tell Anyone," from Sept. 16-23. This program is free and open to the public. Access to the virtual screening will be available 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](mailto:social.library@chathamlibraries.org) to request the password or for additional information.

**Chatham Community Library** will host a series of quarterly discussions highlighting Women Change-makers in Chatham County, that will address areas of interest to county residents, viewed from the perspective of women engaged in both traditional and non-traditional careers including agriculture, entrepreneurship, education, the arts, law enforcement, and social activism. The "Celebrating Women of Chatham" series will begin Saturday, Sept. 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](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or [rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

**The Central Carolina Community College Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET)** program will soon begin training at the CCCC Chatham Main Campus in Pittsboro. Tuition is free for students who have a sponsorship from a N.C. law enforcement agency. Learn more about the CCCC BLET program at [www.cccc.edu/blet/](http://www.cccc.edu/blet/). For more information, contact Neil Ambrose at 919-777-7774 or email to [lamb287@ccc.edu](mailto:lamb287@ccc.edu).

**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. 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 at <https://chathamhistory.org>

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

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

**JMArts** hosted a **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMA-CoronaConcert performances and #JMACorona-Concert program.

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

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

schedule for this area.

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

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

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

## Scout News

**Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit [www.bstrop93.org](http://www.bstrop93.org) for more information.

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

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

# Plan Ahead Before Joining The "Great Resignation"

It's been called the "Great Resignation" — the large number of Americans voluntarily leaving their jobs. If you plan to be part of it (ideally with another source of employment lined up), you'll need to make the financial moves necessary to keep making progress toward your long-term goals.

Here's some background: After a year in which the pandemic caused so many people to lose their jobs, the economy is opening back up, but the "quit rate" — the number of jobs people have voluntarily left — has been breaking records. Some economists say this high quit rate is because people are confident of getting better jobs, with higher pay and more flexibility to work at home, or because they are preparing to start their own business or join the gig economy.

If you're thinking of joining this temporary migration from the workforce, how can you help ensure that you'll be financially stable and can continue to make progress toward your long-term goals?

Your first move is to look clearly at your financial situation. As mentioned above, it's best to have new employment in hand before you quit your job. Alternatively, perhaps you have a spouse or life partner who earns enough to sustain the two of you, or you've built up an emergency fund that gives you a cushion.

However, if your short-term income is less than you previously earned or you need to go without a paycheck for a while, could you still pay your bills? If you are strapped for cash, you might be tempted to tap into your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But this move will generally result in taxes and, if you are younger than 59½, a 10 percent penalty as well. Because of this, and because your retirement accounts are designed to be a financial resource after you retire, think twice before

dipping into these funds if you leave your current employer.

If your employer allows it, you can leave your money in the 401(k) so you'll still be accumulating resources for retirement. You also have the option to roll those funds into an individual retirement account (IRA) or a new employer's retirement plan.

And if you plan to work for yourself as a freelancer, consultant or business owner, you'll still want to save toward retirement. Possible retirement plans for the self-employed include an "owner-only" 401(k), a SEP-IRA or a SIMPLE IRA, all of which may be relatively easy to establish and offer tax benefits. A financial advisor can help you find a retirement plan that's appropriate for your needs.

Here's something else to keep in mind — an emergency fund. As mentioned above, if you already have one, you'll have some breathing room if you're thinking of leaving your job and might have a temporary gap in income. But as the name suggests, an emergency fund is there to help cover unexpected costs, such as a major home repair, without forcing you to take out a loan, or cash out part of your longer-term investments. So, if you are planning to tap your emergency fund, work to restock it as soon as possible.

If you're participating in the "Great Resignation," it means you're feeling positive about your future employment prospects, which is great. But you'll want to support that optimism with a strong financial foundation.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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# AD TUBI

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and Texas — those are the best for new business in the country. And ultimately we settled on Siler City in 2018.”

The company invested more than \$6 million to renovate the old Olympic Steel building on Hamp Stone Road, an 80,000 square-foot complex where it manufactures specialty welded tubing for a variety of uses.

“We make small diameter welded — primarily stainless steel — tubing for energy markets,” Sullivan said. “Our tubing is used in pressure equipment that is leveraged in power plants, petrochemical refineries — really anything with a steam cycle. It could be in production of food and beverage, all kinds of different applications, but I would say our core business sits in the energy markets.”

To date, the company has shipped its tubing to clients in 53 different countries, Sullivan said. It’s also a major supplier to local industries, including Duke Energy.

“Anything with power generation, electricity, our product is used in that,” Sullivan said. “So Duke Energy is absolutely a customer of ours, and also nuclear power plants have some of the largest amounts

of welded tubing in any type of facility, so they’re a huge consumer of our products. Those are probably some of the easiest examples that anyone in North Carolina would know about.”

To accommodate different industry needs, AD Tubi makes tubing from several materials such as titanium, nickel and stainless steel alloys, including 6 Moly, duplex and superferitic. Despite its impressive output, though, the company employs a modest staff.

“It’s a heavily automated process, so fully staffed in this moment is 18 individuals,” Sullivan said. “There’s opportunity to grow, but it won’t be significant. I see this facility maxing out probably somewhere around 30, unless we go to a third shift. But at the moment, staffing a third shift seems almost impossible. I don’t see that in the in the cards right now.”

Like many employers, Sullivan has faced a hiring quandary through the pandemic. When industry restarted a few months ago, he expected a flurry of activity in the labor market. But it’s been largely stagnant, and Sullivan has found an apathetic pool of job candidates.

“I can’t overstate the challenge of trying to hire in this current environment,” he said. “I suspect anyone that wants a



Submitted photo

**The 80,000 square-foot facility employs 18 full-time workers, but the company would like to expand its operations.**

job has a job. I would say most of the people that are applying right now probably don’t really want a job. That’s evident in the way they interview, it’s evident in their lack of engagement after receiving their application, and the quality of applicants that we are getting.”

With extra federal unemployment benefits having ended this week, it’s possible that could change, Sullivan added. But he’s not confident.

“It doesn’t make sense,” he said. “I think really our only hope is to entice people in other markets, someone that’s underemployed maybe working in the restaurant industry or something like that, where they see a greater career opportunity in manufacturing. But right now we haven’t been able to connect those dots.”

Still he’s glad to be figuring it out in Chatham.

“We’re very excited to be here in Chatham County,” he said. “We’re a young and new employer and we have tremen-



Submitted photo

**AD Tubi’s North American headquarters opened in 2018 at the old Olympic Steel building on Hampstone Road in Siler City.**

dous growth opportunity within our organization. There’s an opportunity for what we see as a lifelong career working with our organization, and as the company grows that individual is going to have the opportunity to grow with us.”

North America is the largest consumer of tubular goods of any continent in the world, Sullivan said, which only increases prospects for would-be AD Tubi employees. The company’s facility has room to grow, but

first it needs enthusiastic staff.

“Given that we are a new company with a fairly small market share, we have the opportunity to grow exponentially over the years,” he said. “So we would invite anyone that’s looking for a career opportunity to check us out and see if we might be a good fit for them.”

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



Courtesy of AD Tubi

**The Italian welded tube manufacturer was founded in 1997 with a Siler City location since 2018.**

# MAYOR

Continued from page A1

now that we’re there, we have a great opportunity to move forward and

have a revitalization of our town with not only business growth but some residential growth, too, which we need.”

Cunnup is confident such growth is coming, but con-

tent to support the efforts from the sidelines with a new leader at the helm.

“It was certainly a hard decision because when you’ve done something that long and you’ve

worked on so many projects, it’s sort of hard to give it all up,” Cunnup said of stepping down. “But at the same time, I’m approaching retirement age, and really have been hoping for

some younger people to get involved in town government. And that time has come, so I feel like it’s time for the old guy to move on and get some young blood in and let them take it over

and run with it.”

His likely successor will be Jonathan Hensley, who is completing his first term as Goldston’s at-large commissioner and is seeking the mayor’s seat in this year’s election cycle. Hensley is the only filed candidate, according to Chatham County’s board of elections, and will win the seat precluding any substantial write-in campaigns.

“Tim has done an incredible job with the town getting our city sewer up and running, which was a huge hurdle for the town,” Hensley told the News + Record. “That was limiting our growth and kind of locking the community into staying stagnant ... His are definitely big shoes to fill, but if I can be half the mayor Tim has been I should be able to do something halfway decent.”

Cunnup is confident Hensley’s the right man for the job.

“I see good things in Jonathan,” he said. “He was with the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office for 14 years and now he manages his family’s restaurant, Rufus, here in town. I think he’s got a lot of great ideas and energy to put toward future leadership.”

As for Cunnup, stepping away from his official capacity doesn’t mean he’ll be absent from public discourse.

“I still want to be available to them as an advisor and to help as I can in this transition period,” he said. “But I would really like to be able to spend more time with my family and my grandchild and do some of the more fun things in life that I look forward to, maybe travel more.”

Nearly 30 years in public service, though, will always have been one of Cunnup’s greatest privileges, he said.

“I have really enjoyed the over two decades of my life in serving this town and the people,” he said. “It’s been a great honor for me and I’m just happy that I was able to do it and be a part of what I believe to be some very significant things that have happened in that period of time.”

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

# MISSING

## Aaron Lynn Blalock

### SILVER ALERT

DESPERATE NEED FOR MEDICAL ATTENTION



**PLEASE CALL 911**

Citizens are asked to be on the lookout for Aaron Lynn Blalock. He is believed to be suffering from dementia or some other Cognitive Impairment.

# VIEWPOINTS

## My vaccine worked. So did my sister's.

I was just about to head to the gym three Saturdays ago when I received an unwelcome — and unexpected — piece of news.

“Your sister’s just tested positive for COVID,” my dad told me. I nearly dropped my phone.

“Wait, what?” At first, I thought maybe I’d heard wrong. Like the rest of my immediate family, my sister was fully vaccinated; she’d received the Pfizer vaccine last spring. She’s also among the most COVID-conscious people I know. She cares for a months-old baby who can’t yet get the shot.

“Your sister’s got COVID,” my dad repeated.

I could feel the blood draining from my face. I’d just spent a couple of days with her earlier that week; in fact, my entire family had — and what about Baby Lou, the most vulnerable among us all?

I didn’t go to the gym that day — or the rest of that week.

But this isn’t a story of yet another time in which the vaccine didn’t work; it’s a story of a time it did. We hear so much from friends, family and the media about all these times the vaccines failed to prevent COVID-19 breakthrough infections. In the face of all this, it’s easy to lose sight of how effective the vaccines really are — and how they actually protect us.

Vaccines protect most of us from infection, but even if they don’t, that doesn’t mean they’re not working. It just means they’re working in a different way — by reducing

your symptoms, keeping you out of the hospital or perhaps even keeping you alive.

My sister, her husband, Baby Lou and a stowaway virus flew into the Charlotte Douglas International Airport on Aug. 24, after a weeks-long trip to the United Kingdom. They’d gone to bring Baby Lou to meet her other grandparents in Scotland and to attend a wedding in England.

Both tested negative before boarding the plane. My family and I had, too, so when they arrived in North Carolina for a short visit, we didn’t think twice about unmasking, hugging and carrying on. But three days later, one after she’d returned to the west coast, she took an at-home rapid antigen test — and much to her shock, it came back positive.

As it turned out, the groom at the wedding they’d attended the week before had contracted COVID

and hadn’t even known it. She probably wouldn’t have either if she hadn’t taken a test on a whim.

We were all but certain she’d caught the Delta variant, which we knew even vaccinated people could spread. So, we decided to get tested — especially after most of us began to manifest “symptoms.”

Suspiciously, mine began the day I found out I’d been exposed, which should have tipped me off, but I still managed to convince myself that I’d been infected — headache, cough, etc. No fatigue, though my mom felt tired and she’d spent the most time with my sister out of all of us.

My sister’s husband tested negative first. Then Baby Lou. After inconclusive antigen test results, both of my parents tested negative — twice — on a PCR test, but not before they had to cancel the international trip they’d been looking for-

ward to for months. By the end of the week, my brother and I tested negative, too.

Out of six adults and an unvaccinated baby, only my sister tested positive for COVID-19. That’s pretty darn good.

Magically, my “symptoms” dissipated within hours of receiving my results. Placebo effect? Maybe. My body fighting off the infection? Lord, I hope so. Ending up with Delta antibodies on top of the original vaccine would feel like an early Christmas present.

The vaccine worked for me. It worked for my family. It even worked for my sister — besides a few sniffles and fatigue, she had few symptoms and tested negative for COVID just a week later. Vaccines will work — or perhaps have worked — for you, too, in one way or another. Sometimes, it just comes down to a matter of perspective.

## To read or not to read not the only question; consider content also

Among the many weaknesses in my life are too much tea (notice I didn’t say “iced” or “sweet,” since any other form is not tea), a tendency to stay too long at the table, and a healthy dose of procrastination.

The drive toward procrastination has been with me since forever, I guess. My guiding principle there has been “never do today what you can put off until tomorrow” and I have taken it to a high level through the years. But I’m not sure that’s a good thing and I really am trying to get away from it since I don’t think I have 70 more years to play around.

Nowhere, though, has it been more perfected than in the world of literature and reading in general. In my study, on the bedside table, on the floor beside the bed, on the table next to the couch — really, anywhere there’s about 20 square inches of available space — you’ll find a book or two or four or more, sometimes stacked pretty high and often leaning a bit. Most of them are volumes I “had” to have; many are about half-read.

Not my fault there is such good stuff out there. It kind of reminds me of an episode of the original “The Twilight Zone” in which a nerdy little banker played by Burgess Meredith gets himself locked into a timed vault during his lunch hour on a Friday. After the weekend passes and the vault unlocks itself and he’s set free, he discovers an atomic blast has destroyed civilization as he knew it.

Now he has time to read all he wants. Except on his way to his first taste of his newfound freedom, he drops his glasses and they shatter on the rubble.

Poor guy. I’ve always been hooked on the printed word. It was in the 4th grade, I think, I decided to keep a notebook of the books I’d read. Seems the list got up to about 150 or so; of course, most of them had only seven or eight pages but still it looked pretty good when, at the tender age of 9 or so, I showed the list around.

Today, some of my volumes are for pleasure; others for edification or personal improvement and some I’m not sure why. For instance, there’s a book about how Christianity should respond to today’s culture. It’s pretty deep, something not to skim over lightly. I have to read and reread; maybe that’s why I’m only up to about page 37.

Then there’s one titled “Tombstone.” It’s about Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday and all the folks at the OK Corral. When I read it, I remember the movie of the same name and how good that was. Maybe that’s why I’m more than half done with it.

Then there are some once read that probably should be read again. One of those is one used in a long-ago Sunday morning church study class. Entitled “One Month to Live: Thirty Days to a No-Regrets Life,” basically it’s about setting priorities as in what would we do with our lives if we knew we had only 30 days to live.

There’s some great stuff in it, for sure, and I learned some things and improved my focus on some. Truthfully, I think it’s probably the kind of book that is best utilized on a second or even third go-round.

But here’s the real key. The stuff I either already knew, either innately, from experience or as new information, is all well and good. But I’m still having trouble putting significant amounts of it into play and I wonder why.

That reminds me of the young book salesman who went from farm to farm trying to peddle his company’s new publication entitled “How to be a Better Farmer.” One day he’s leaning on a prospective customer’s fence extolling the virtues of the book.

“Why, if you’ll just buy this book and do what it says do,” he said, “you’ll be farming 10 times better than you are now.”

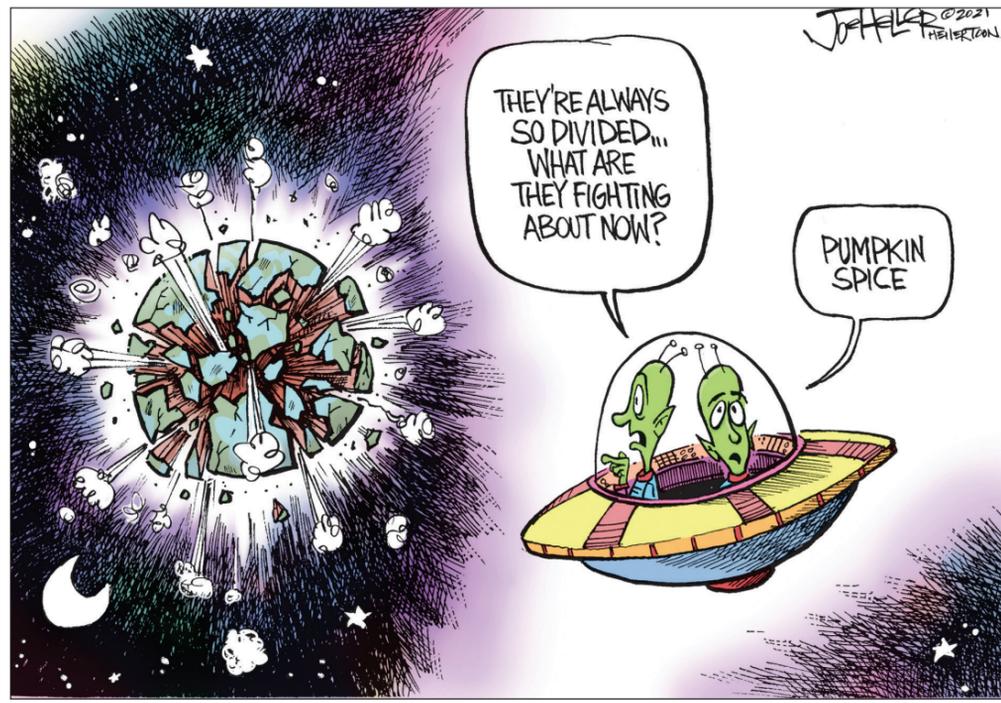
“Son,” the old farmer replied, “I already know how to farm a sight better than I’m actually doing.”

Southern comic Brother Dave Gardner, a legend of the 1950s, had a line or so in a standup routine where he said, “I know what’s in every book in every library in the world.”

“What?” the straight man would reply. “Words,” came the answer. And so it is. It’s just picking some and leaving others that’s hard.

And putting the good ones into practice, as well.

*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.*



## A perspective on 9/11 and fear

I write this on the morning of Sept. 11. A mentor and friend came to my house for supper last night and shared his story of that infamous day 20 years ago. The Friday before the attack, he had visited New York City for the first time. A friend took him to the top of one of the Twin Towers so that he could look over the city.

He has pictures from a viewpoint that no longer exists.

After 9/11, America invaded Afghanistan and Iraq, setting off a chain reaction that killed many of our soldiers and many more civilian citizens of those countries.

But instead of our foreign policy, I write with a perspective on the state of our souls.

Metaphorically speaking, the viewpoint of Americans fundamentally changed after 9/11. Many of us felt unsafe for the first time. Terrorist attacks that we had thought only happened in other countries were now a reality here in our country. We felt vulnerable and exposed.

We responded by hardening our hearts. We have branded groups of people as our enemies. Muslims and other minorities became victims of hate crimes. A North Carolina politician named Walter Jones introduced legislation to rename a certain fried potato “freedom fries” because the country of France did not support our invasion of Iraq. Never mind that french fries actually originate in Belgium and refer to the style of cut!

In the years since, our hearts have continued to harden. Another North Carolina politician, Madison Cawthorn, recently threatened “bloodshed” and promised his willingness “to pick up arms against a fellow American.” And his talk of violence isn’t based on any substan-

tiated evidence of voter fraud.

Such rhetoric from politicians is based not on reason but fear — a fear we attempt to hide with bravado and tough talk. Because of our fear, we elect politicians like Cawthorn and grant such leaders extraordinary powers to, for example, restrict voting rights. This fear is in direct opposition to our American values of liberty, equality and justice.

Fear is also contrary to the religious values many of us claim, including Cawthorn. Writer Marilynne Robinson’s 2015 observation in *The New York Review of Books* is still relevant: “First, contemporary America is full of fear. And second, fear is not a Christian habit of mind.” She cited Psalm 23: “Yea, though I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.” She points to the risen Christ’s promise to be with us “to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20).

Yet, instead of placing our trust in a Higher Power, we increasingly attempt to wield power with our hands. The past 20 years offers evidence from abroad and at home that our actions have often resulted in unintended, disastrous consequences. I can’t help but think that Cawthorn’s careless, callous rhetoric will result in the same.

Returning to my friend, his pictures from the top of the twin tower cannot be recreated. That viewpoint is gone.

But we Americans can change our perspective. What is needed is to ground ourselves in humility and compassion for others. Instead of reaching for lofty, violent rhetoric, we need to walk a mile or two in someone else’s shoes. Only love can drive out fear (1 John 4:18).

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

### What’s on your mind?

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

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

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

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



# VIEWPOINTS

## What's more democratic than an election?

Do the ends justify the means? This familiar question produces strong feelings precisely because its answer is necessarily complicated. Just about all of us admit to a scenario, such as the proverbial ticking time-bomb, in which we would countenance unsavory means if required to save lives. In general, however, most religious and ethical traditions teach that we are not permitted to use injurious or unethical means to accomplish even noble ends.

Constitutional republics, in particular, are based on precisely the opposite formulation: the means justify the ends. Whatever our personal interest in a given governmental outcome may be, citizens of a republic are required to accept unwelcome ends as long

as the means by which they were achieved are proper. A guilty person may go free if a police officer or prosecutor acts illegally or unethically. The other side may win a legislative argument. The other party may win an election.

In recent years, Democrats have complained loudly that Republicans have breached the social contract regarding means and ends. Although I am politically conservative, I have agreed with some of those Democratic complaints, regarding such matters as legislative encroachment on executive power and the irresponsible rhetoric that preceded Jan. 6.

My hate mail switches from Republican to Democratic, however, when I point out that our political history extends far past 2010. That many of the same Democrats who criticize Republican gerrymandering, for example, were once enthusiastic practitioners of Democratic gerrymandering, including Gov. Roy Cooper. That before there were Republican

Birthers questioning Barack Obama's citizenship there were Democratic Truthers who thought the 9/11 attacks were an inside job.

Of course, two wrongs don't make a right. "He started it!" is no more an excuse for political heavy-handedness than it is an excuse for one of your children to attack the other in a backseat rumble while you're trying to keep your eyes on the road.

At the moment, it happens to be the Democrats throwing the punches. In Washington, Joe Biden has exceeded any reasonable definition of presidential power by ordering vaccine mandates on private businesses. In Raleigh, a local judge is threatening to fine Republican legislators unless they enact an education program concocted by progressive policy wonks and Democratic politicians.

Here's another example, involving two amendments North Carolinians added to their state constitution in 2018. One requires that a voter show a photo ID before casting a

ballot. The other sets North Carolina's maximum tax rate on personal income at 7%. Both were popular ballot measures, gaining 55% and 57% of the vote, respectively, in the 2018 election. But progressives dislike them. So they filed a lawsuit claiming that the referendum were illegally held because the legislature that placed the measures of the ballot was illegally constituted by gerrymandered districts.

I've advocated redistricting reform for decades. For most of that time, the gerrymanderers were Democrats. I never thought to argue that the state budgets they enacted, the laws they passed, or the constitutional amendments they placed on the ballot were illegal acts of an illegal legislature.

That's because the argument is ridiculous and dangerous, especially when applied to constitutional amendments. What more democratic process is there than allowing voters to decide an issue by referendum?

It gets still worse. Now that the matter is before the North

Carolina Supreme Court, the plaintiffs are attempting to force two Republican members from the case. They argue that Justice Phil Berger Jr. can't participate because his father is president pro tem of the Senate, and that Justice Tamara Barringer can't participate because she served in the Senate when the amendments were submitted to the voters in 2018.

Berger and Barringer were themselves elected by voters in 2020 to preside over constitutional questions on the Court. Are Democratic activists, cheered on by Democratic leaders, truly willing to undermine popular sovereignty in this way? Yes, it seems. Can they not foresee how Republicans will respond?

"He started it" is no way to end 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).*

## A great teacher teaches on

When Julian Pleasants died on Sept. 7, North Carolina lost one of its most important academic and popular historians.

Pleasant grew up in Southern Pines, graduated from Davidson College, and earned masters and doctoral degrees in history at UNC-Chapel Hill. For almost 40 years he taught history at the University of Florida before retiring in 2008 and returning to North Carolina.

Pleasant wrote or co-wrote 10 books, including "The Political Career of W. Kerr Scott: The Squire from Haw River," and "Frank Porter Graham and the 1950 Senate Race in North Carolina." Pleasant detailed the divisive conflicts in mid-20th century North Carolina politics. His work helped readers begin to understand the background of the political conflicts that divide us today.

In "The Political Career of W. Kerr Scott," Pleasant described what may have been the greatest political upset in North Carolina: Kerr Scott's victory in the Democratic Primary for governor in 1948. The dairy farmer from Alamance County beat the favored candidate of the conservative wing of the party, Charles Johnson.

When in office he adopted a liberal program of road improvements, public school improvement, and the expansion of government services. Hard-working and hard-headed, plain and direct spoken, Scott appointed women and African Americans to government positions and disregarded criticism of his actions.

Future governors Terry Sanford and Jim Hunt were inspired by his success. Hunt says, "If not for Kerr Scott I would never have run for governor. My family viewed Scott as our political savior."

In "Frank Porter Graham and the 1950 Senate Race in North Carolina," Pleasant described how in 1949, Governor Scott appointed UNC President Graham to a vacant U. S. Senate seat. Graham was, for the times, a liberal on race and social issues.

So conservative Democrats recruited Willis Smith to run against him in the 1950 Democratic primary, the winner of which would face only token Republican opposition in November. Smith was a distinguished Raleigh attorney who had served as president of the American Bar Association. At the beginning of the campaign, both men enjoyed wide respect throughout the state.

Graham led the first primary in May 1950 with 48.9 percent of the vote. Smith had 40.5 percent. Smith's supporters, including young Jesse Helms, orchestrated an impressive show of public support that persuaded Smith to call for a run-off.

Smith's campaign faced an enormous challenge in the run-off: how to persuade working-class Democrats to vote for a conservative business-oriented lawyer.

In 1950 two things would persuade many North Carolina whites to vote against their economic interests. They were race and communism. Smith's supporters used both issues. Although Smith distanced himself from his supporters' tactics, they "played the race card." Flyers, newspaper ads, and mail used crude inflammatory language to assert that Graham supported mixing the races in the workplace and everywhere else. And to a lesser degree, Smith's followers played up Graham's membership in organizations that were supposedly communist "fronts."

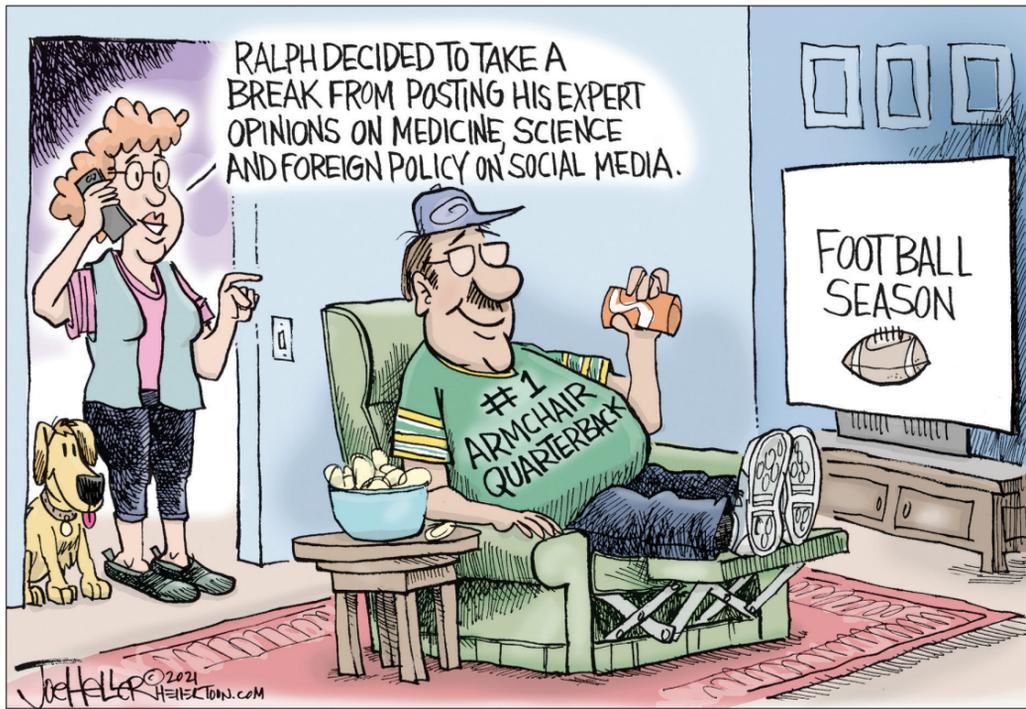
Graham refused to respond in kind. But his supporters attempted, without success, to inflame voters against Smith's "big business" leanings. In the end, Smith's supporters' tactics won the run-off for their candidate.

Why does the Graham-Smith contest continue to be significant? One reason is that several important recent political leaders cut their teeth in that battle. For instance, Jesse Helms worked vigorously on the Smith side and Terry Sanford for Graham. There are others, a few still alive, who got their start in this campaign and still remember. But many more are indirect disciples of Graham or Smith, through political figures like Sanford and Helms.

That war between the Smith and Graham sides is not over. It is still being fought, and it is not yet clear which side is really going to win in the end.

Through his books and his other works, Julian Pleasants will live on, doing the things he loved to do, teaching, and helping us understand the world we live in.

*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.*



## Is it really worth \$850,000 per month?

About this time in the legislative session — when the session runs interminably long and little is happening — the press corps, lobbyists, legislative staffers and even some lawmakers start a pool to predict how long the session might last before adjournment.

Currently, Halloween seems a pretty safe bet. I think it was 2016 when folks were decorating Christmas trees; it didn't look like they would ever adjourn. But all this hemming and hawing comes at a price. You and I, the taxpayers, are spending about \$850,000 per month to keep this circus in Raleigh and it's fair to ask whether we are getting our money's worth.

When the General Assembly convened the 2021 session on Jan. 13, it was scheduled to adjourn July 2. Our lawmakers had three primary tasks — passing a new biennial state budget, drawing new districts for congressional, legislative and local government elections, and appropriating a large accumulated surplus. Today, they've been meeting eight months and in baseball parlance they are 0-for-3.

They haven't passed a budget, drawn districts or acted on the bulk of the surplus, other than saying they want to put a large amount of it into savings. Yes, they've passed a few laws and tackled a few subjects better left alone, such as rewriting North Carolina history instruction for our schools and limiting gubernatorial powers during emergencies.

I think we are seeing why we need someone who can act quickly in times of crisis. The legislature certainly doesn't.

North Carolina has a \$6-plus billion surplus, with millions more accumulating each month. There are many significant ways we could be spending it. For starters, we should guarantee every schoolroom in our state is COVID-safe and make sure we have enough remedial help for our children. Our economy has recovered nicely from the pandemic but some wise and timely investments could stimulate our labor force participation rate, which is still well below pre-pandemic levels.

Even legislative leadership acknowledges it might be October before a conference budget is sent to the governor. My research indicates the latest a final budget was approved was in 1998, on Oct. 30. Unless there are substantive negotiations and compromises taking place with Governor Cooper's office, anything

similar to the respective budgets from the two chambers will quickly get the big red veto stamp. Overriding the veto requires a three-fifths vote — 30 votes in the Senate and 72 in the House.

It's hard to tell what's going on so far as redistricting is concerned. It's all behind closed doors. Some say lawmakers have already drawn the maps, even before the 10 hearings are held to get public input. And in a state as large as ours, having only 10 hearings is a farce, especially in the locations selected. In 2011 there were 30 hearings scheduled.

This is no way to run a state. If our legislators were your employees in a \$30-plus billion enterprise, you would be an unhappy camper.

Wait, they are your employees.

Here are some ways to improve state governance.

First, we need a constitutional amendment limiting legislative sessions. Thirty-nine states have them; most are 60 to 90 days instead of our open-ended session lengths. Let's raise legislative pay for those 100 days (and only 100 days) to a level where working-class citizens can serve instead of just the wealthy, retirees and special interest advocates. Then let's put pressure on legislators to get a budget passed in time to start of the new year (July 1) by repealing the law that allows the state to continue operating using the previous year's budget until a new one is approved.

If state government was shut down, you can bet we would get some action. We would also insist every program and agency undergo a zero-based budget process every four to six years, with required public legislative hearings.

While we are reforming let's make legislative terms four years instead of two, set term limits of 16 years for members and six years for legislative leadership. We should require an independent redistricting commission and restore balance of appointive powers, especially allowing the governor to make appointments to our UNC Board of Governors.

Here's my spin: We get the government we expect and demand. If we are not getting the government we want we have the power to change it at the ballot box, especially if there are fairly drawn districts.

*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.*

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

# Chatham BOE reapproves mask mandate, OK's retention, recruitment bonuses

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

approximately 2,000 staff members had been vaccinated. The district has not previously collected staff vaccination data, but on Tuesday, CCS employees could start voluntarily reporting their vaccination status to the district.

**Retention and recruitment bonus**

The board also approved a retention and recruitment bonus plan for district employees, which would be in addition to the one-time bonuses given to employees last year; it would be paid for through part of the district's \$17.4 million allotted COVID-19 relief funds. Under the plan, all full-time employees will receive a \$1,250 one-time bonus and all part-time employees will receive a one-time bonus of \$650.

The plan now must be approved by the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction before it can be implemented. "Before offering incentives to new employees, we felt it important to publicly and tangibly honor the outstanding work our employees have done under incredibly difficult circumstances because of the pandemic," Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said in a CCS release. "This is just one of the ways to let our employees know that we see their efforts and they are deeply appreciated."

Under the plan, employees who join the district between Oct. 11 and Dec. 13 and who make a "firm time commitment" for how long they'll stay in the system will receive a signing bonus — \$1,500 for classified employees and \$3,500 for certified employees.

Staffing shortages across the state span multiple industries and sectors, including education. Several school districts across the state adopted similar incentive programs to help address the problem.

"This will help fill vital vacancies that range from our bus drivers to instructional assistants in the classroom," Jackson said in the release. "These incentives are designed to

attract and retain high-quality faculty and staff in all employment areas."

**Other business**

The board approved Carla Murray as the Executive Director for Elementary and Middle Grades Instruction — a role previously held by Chris Poston, who now leads the district's equity efforts.

Murray has worked for 23 years as an educator, 17 of which have been at CCS, where she has been the principal of North Chatham Elementary since 2015.

She was named the Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for Chatham in 2021. Murray attended Siler City Elementary and Chatham Middle School. She also graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School.

"I am truly honored and feel privileged for the opportunity to serve Chatham County Schools in this capacity," she said in a CCS release. "I look forward to collaborating with stakeholders to ensure we maximize outcomes for all of our students."

The board approved the consolidated grant application for federal grants, following the completion of the district's needs assessment last year. For the 2021-2022 school year, a federally funded consolidated grants planning allotment of nearly \$2.1 million has been awarded for all consolidated grants — an overall increase of approximately \$145,000 from the 2020-2021 school year.

CCS's Amanda Moran, the assistant superintendent for academic services and instructional support, presented the district's student achievement data to the board, based on state testing data released at the beginning of the month.

Though CCS performed above the state average in multiple categories, the majority of students failed end-of-grade and course state exams last school year — a trend reflected statewide. At CCS, 45.3% of high schoolers demonstrated grade-level proficiency on their exams last school year, as opposed to 53.3% in

2018-19, before the pandemic, according to district data. Among CCS elementary and middle schoolers, 48.6% of students were grade-level proficient on their tests, compared to 64.8% in 2018-19.

Chatham's grade-level proficiency and college- and career-readiness scores for reading topped the state average for all grades, and exceeded the state proficiency rate for math in every grade except 8th grade. In addition, the district's high school score outperformed the state average in English II and Math I.

"We know that this year was not a typical or easy one," Moran told the board, "but the successes that we have to share tonight are a direct result of the creativity and resilience and the hard work of all of us."

The district revised its technology policy, removing two portions regarding parental consent regarding use of third-party platforms by students and students' "independent access to the Internet." The board approved the updated policy.

"Obtaining parental permission for every third-party platform or project would not be reasonable or practical," the district's agenda read.

The state sometimes requires school districts to use third-party programs for courses and assessments. The district uses filtering and monitoring features to protect privacy and security of instructional technology tools, the district said, and does not sell information to third-parties.

"In addition, the internet is now a reasonable instructional tool that is required to teach and carry out the curriculum outlined by the N.C. Department of Public Instruction," the agenda said. "It is not reasonable to allow parents to object to the use of technology tools for this reason."

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

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Education again voted to require universal masking on all CCS campuses at its regular meeting Monday night, in accordance with state legislation requiring school boards to vote monthly on face mask requirements.

The legislation, Session Law 2021-130/Senate Bill 654, is a wide-ranging COVID-19 bill that was passed Aug. 25 and requires school boards with mask mandates to hold monthly votes on whether to continue or modify such policies.

There are eight active cases of COVID-19 at CCS, according to the district's tracker dashboard, and there have been 134 total cases since the beginning of classes on Aug. 23. Only one cluster at Chatham Central High School, with nine associated cases, was identified during the second week of classes. In comparison, Chatham County is seeing an increase of cases among people 18 and younger — a group which makes up about 31% of cases locally and statewide, Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek told the board Monday.

"Masking is slowing the spread of COVID," said Zelek, who has repeatedly supported the district's mask mandate. "They not only slow the spread of COVID, they keep kids in the classroom."

About 39% of 12- to 17-year-olds in Chatham are at least partially vaccinated, he said. The district offered two vaccination clinics at each of its four high schools last week, to work toward increasing those numbers. Plans to offer COVID-19 testing on-site with state-approved vendor MAKO Medical are also under way. The district said on Monday it hopes to do testing of groups such as marching band and athletes.

As of March 8, three weeks after teachers were eligible to be vaccinated in Chatham, 550 of the district's

## IMMIGRANT

Continued from page A1

plan, but the COVID-19 pandemic and personnel turnover delayed its implementation until June.

The original application period closed on Aug. 9. According to Lynch, the town had planned to compile and present all applications to the board during an August or September board meeting, but by the Sept. 7 regular meeting, the town had only received five letters of interest to fill the seven-member committee.

That's when staff decided to reopen the application period beginning last Wednesday.

"I think it's based on the fact that maybe it took a little time for the information to get out about the committee," Lynch said. "And so once the word was out to the community, I think the interest started to develop, and hopefully we'll have a few more people."

The second application window closes on Friday, Oct. 8. If the town receives enough applications to fill all committee seats, Lynch said staff will present the applications to the board for review during their Oct. 18 regular meeting.

Otherwise, the town would consider extending the deadline again — but Lynch said he thinks that unlikely.

"Since Thursday, we received one additional," he said, "and so we are at six now."

Among those applicants, three have Siler City home addresses; one lives in Pittsboro and the other two live in Durham and Chapel Hill respectively.

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

Committee members will also take the lead on implementing any and all recommendations outlined in BIC's action plan to better serve the town's immigrant residents.

"I think it's a really important step to create more relationships and communication and a channel for the immigrant community to have direct communication with town commissioners, town management and town staff about issues in the community that are relevant and need to be uplifted and need to be talked about and addressed,"

the Hispanic Liaison's founder and executive director, Ilana Dubester, previously told the News + Record.

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

Eligible committee members must come from "historically underrepresented communities" with recent immigrant ancestry — be that from Latin America or other parts of the world. As part of that, committee members must either be foreign-born or the children and/or grandchildren of immigrants. According to Dubester, documentation status doesn't matter.

Apiring members don't have to live in Siler City, but when it comes to choosing among the pool of candidates, the town will be looking for those with strong connections to Siler City.

"To me, if you want to build a town or a community, you have to have people that want to be here, and they want to stay here," Mayor Pro Tem Cindy Bray told the News + Record in July. "... You

have to be a member of the community. People know who you are, and they can trust you and say, 'Oh, yeah, I know so-and-so.'"

To apply, interested applicants can submit letters of interest to the town clerk, Jenifer Johnson, at jjohnson@silercity.org by Oct. 8. The letters should include applicants' home addresses, contact information, educational background and current jobs. Applicants should also add in their level of civic involvement, why they wish to serve on the committee and anything else they deem necessary.

All positions are unpaid. Appointed committee members will serve in three-year staggered terms. Members may serve a second term if reappointed, but they must rotate off the committee for at least a year before serving a third term. Once formed, the committee will determine its own meeting schedule, but must meet at least once a month, if not more.

"I think (the committee's) going to be great," Lynch said, "and I believe that given time, we will receive additional applications for the board to be able to review."

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

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## SCFD

Continued from page A1

also impressed inspectors and enhanced this year's rating, he said.

Causey personally applauded Murphy and Siler City's fire staff for their high-quality service.

"I commend you and your department for your dedication and commitment to making your community a safer place to live," he said in a letter filed among Siler City's public records.

Causey emphasized that town residents should be especially

pleased, not only to know they have a responsive and capable fire department, but that property insurance premiums will likely decrease.

"(T)he majority of citizens may not be aware that the rating of their responding fire department directly impacts their property insurance calculations," he said.

Siler City's rating will officially go into effect on Dec. 1, according to the State Fire Marshal's office, after which it could "significantly lower homeowners insurance rates."

**'You deserve to brag a little about the expertise of your personnel, which saves homeowners money and, most importantly, makes their lives safer.'**

**MIKE CAUSEY, NC Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal**

"You deserve to brag a little about the expertise of your personnel," Causey told Murphy in his letter, "which saves homeowners money and, most importantly, makes their lives safer."

Insurance companies use local fire department ratings to help set home insurance rates and sometimes offer lower rates because a well-prepared fire department should be able to put out a house fire more quickly, according to the N.C. Dept. of Insurance.

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

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CHATHAM BEVERAGE DISTRICT

# Pittsboro's newest drinking hole: BMC Brewing

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — BMC brewing, the newest addition to The Plant on Lorax Lane in Pittsboro, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sunday, finally opening two years after its owners set out to join the local beverage scene.

"It was really hard waiting," said John Rice, who founded the brewery with his wife, Carmen, and serves as master brewer. "But it is what it is. We know the state's been doing the best it can. And whereas the impatience, of course, was there, it's fine now. It worked out all right."

More than 30 people attended the brewery's unveiling at 2 p.m., over which Mayor Jim Nass presided. Dozens more cycled through the building throughout the afternoon to sample the diverse menu.

"The Plant really embodies what Pittsboro is all about," Nass told the News + Record, "and it's exciting to see BMC open their doors and offer another great place for people to get together."

The grand opening was a long time coming for the Rices. John got his start in home brewing more than 30 years ago — long before the craft brew boom of the last decade. He made his career as a pharmaceutical researcher specializing in drug discovery, cell biology and yeast physiology, but commercial brewing was always the dream. After years of deliberation, he decided in 2019 it was finally time to ditch his career in research and pur-



John Rice (left) of BMC Brewing gets a handshake from Pittsboro Mayor Jim Nass at BMC's grand opening on Sunday.

sue his lifelong passion.

Then came COVID and plans started unraveling.

"It's obviously not how we expected this to go," he said.

But he and Carmen are fixed on the brewery's future, despite its tumultuous start.

"I feel good about it," Carmen said. "I mean, we want this to be a great local joint where people just come and hang out, where they come often and they don't have to stay long. But this is the place to be — The Plant is the place to be — and we're excited to be a part of that."

The Brewery's opening drink lineup includes 16 offerings, most of them John's own brews. While hot weather persists, he's partial to Mendel's Dominant Recessive Kolsch, which honors the

father of modern genetics, Joseph Mendel, according to BMC's website. The German-inspired ale features a traditional yeast tempered by North Carolina-sourced hops and grain.

"The kolsch is the best right now," John said. "It's not too heavy — it's got a nice crispness to it that you can drink in the heat."

In cooler days to come, Carmen's favorite will be the Uisce Móna Beilgeach, she said, derived from a Gaelic phrase meaning "bog water." The Irish Stout is strengthened with Belgian candied sugar and fermented with Trappist yeast. BMC also partnered with Chatham Cider Works, one of The Plant's veteran establishments, to produce a hops-infused cider and a coffee



John and Carmen Rice offer a diversity of flavored beers at BMC Brewing at The Plant in Pittsboro.

cider available at the brewery.

"For whatever people like," John said, "we should have something to match their style."

BMC also sells an assortment of cookies, a specialty from which the brewery derives its name: "Bite My Cookie." And they're not your run-of-the-mill baked goods.

"We take grain we use to make the beer and we dehydrate it and dry it out and then grind it up into flour," Carmen said. "It's part of our sustainability. We don't want it just to go to farmers to feed their animals or the compost, we wanted to try to do something useful. A lot of breweries make dog biscuits, but we started using it for cookies at home with our home brew and thought it was really interesting. The

cookies have a really good flavor."

The Rices hope their cookie menu will signal to visitors that BMC is not just a bar, but a destination for the whole family.

"We want everyone to come out and have a good time," John said. "We're really happy to have this opportunity to be at The Plant because we wanted the outdoor space and we wanted to be able to have people wander into the woods and sit in the shade if they want, or outside there at the picnic tables, not just have to be inside. So this was really perfect for us. We're really excited and we really expect it to take off."

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

## SUPPORT

Continued from page A1

and backgrounds, it's just hard to figure out, you know, what is the need?" Meadows said. "And how can we meet the need?"

Teaching about and supporting mental health is just one piece of the job of school counselors, who primarily support social emotional development, cognitive development and career development in schools.

At CCS, the district is working to address rising mental health needs in schools by increasing its contracted mental health services for in-school therapy and by hiring two additional counselors and three social workers — supported by federal COVID-19 relief funding. The district will continue its contract with Renaissance Wellness Services, a Pittsboro clinic it has partnered with since 2017, for \$57,811.

Eight of Renaissance's 19 employees work with CCS students, Renaissance owner and Clinical Director Karen Barbee told the News + Record last month. The clinic works with about 150 CCS students who typically meet with therapists once a week at their base school during a non-core class.

"It's definitely the accessibility and the consistency of the service," Barbee said of the appeal of in-person therapy to students and parents.

Every year since 2017, the services offered at CCS have increased, she said. She doesn't expect that will be different this year, particularly in light of the pandemic.

"One of the big things that we're preparing for currently is just an uptick in referrals," Barbee said. "I do believe that we are going to be inundated in just being with referrals. And it's not a bad thing — I think that it could really be an amazing thing. Because as a whole, we need to be utilizing mental health services more."

As a general practitioner, district counselors usually refer students to outside services if they meet with a student about the same thing more than five or six times.

"That's a loose guideline that we use," Meadows said, "so that we know their needs are being met."

Beyond meeting one-on-one with students, counselors address social emotional and mental health in a variety of ways.

Counselors provide classroom guidance by speaking to classes about various mental health topics and by providing training for teachers regarding strategies for things like conflict management and caring for grieving or traumatized students.

"Then when we know that we're going to have some kids who need more," Meadows said. "So we meet with them in small groups, and then through individual settings. Of course, we also refer them out to mental health and school based services like Renaissance."

Sandra Young, a counselor at Chatham Central and CCS's lead high school counselor, said she emphasizes teaching students about stress and how to deal with it — particularly as they enter high school. Even without the added stressors of the pandemic, she said the transition to high school often brings increased workloads and stress for many students.

"You've learned about stress in K-8, but when you get here, let's talk about it a little bit more in depth," she said. "Let's talk about what are things that work? And what are things that don't work for you? And then, how can we support each other?"

Such conversations are particularly important for students, Chatham School of Science and Engineering Counselor Jennifer Saylor said, because at that age, the brain is still developing.

Saylor is talking about the brain with 9th and 10th grade students this year, emphasizing how

understanding your brain can better inform how you make decisions related to mental and emotional health.

"Mental health is a huge topic and tremendously important," Saylor said. "I think of it as breathing, you know, you're breathing all the time. And your mental health is doing its thing all the time — so you need to attend to it."

It should be the job of educators, she said, to help students feel safe and connected — because those are the environments in which learning is better able to happen.

"Here we are, in this pandemic, and a lot of students have experienced the loss of family members, or parents or family members who've had changes in their em-

ployment," Saylor said. "There's just been so many different shifts."

That's why she's encouraged by the emphasis the district is placing on supporting students beyond just their academic needs.

Just last week, Saylor attended a meeting with the district's high school counselors, at which there was a large emphasis on social and emotional health.

"One positive thing through the pandemic," Young said, "is that I think people are finally realizing that your mental health is of the same importance as your physical health."

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



Submitted photo of Karen Barbee, owner and clinical director of Renaissance Wellness Services, in Pittsboro.

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TRUTH, JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION

# Event memorializing Daniel could be ‘a new departure point’ for Chatham County

**BY W. ROBERT PEARSON**

Special to the News + Record

*Editor’s note: W. Robert Pearson is a member of Chatham’s Community Remembrance Coalition; the CRC-C will host two events on Saturday to remember both tragic and glorious parts of the county’s history. Before his retirement, Pearson — who lives in Fearrington Village with his wife, Maggie — was an innovative diplomat, leader and crisis manager at the top levels of the U.S. government. He was U.S. ambassador to Turkey and completed a 30-year career in 2006 with the Department of State as Director General of the Foreign Service. He is a frequent writer and speaker on diplomacy, foreign policy, Turkey, NGOs and development, and served under six presidents (four Republican and two Democratic) and 11 secretaries of state. In this essay, he shares thoughts on the emphasis of Saturday’s events.*

this way. White police officers are like this. Black voters in large cities are like that. Young people think this way. Old people think that way. And so it goes. We pick up that familiar image, and we apply it. With social media, and media generally, now we can actually see only what we agree with.



**Pearson**

But things that have been hard for many to accept are pushing through. That’s where Truth emerges. George Floyd’s murder on live video in 2020 galvanized the nation. The tragedy of Breonna Taylor was swept up into Floyd’s story. The meaning of Black Lives Matter burst into the consciousness of millions of white Americans. Young whites, white women, white men, corporations, TV advertising, sports leagues, universities and many others suddenly saw a reality that changed their thinking.

Here in Chatham, on July 12, 2020, our rally by Black and white leadership attracted many young local Black and white students to join. Demands for reform across the entire spectrum of race awareness have increased and solidified. Like the lifting of a fog, the methods within our social, education, economic, legal and political systems that discriminate

are coming into view. We no longer have to be shackled by the past. “Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done,” says Bryan Stevenson, the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. If we see a thing we can measure it, and if we can measure it we can make it better.

Once Truth is acknowledged, then Justice has space to grow. Here in Chatham County, we can see the good things that have happened and are happening. The county is changing in its focus on equal justice in government, in health care, education, and police reforms. We are better — but more is expected. Our standard county history, written in 1971, is hopelessly outdated, silent on Jim Crow, silent on lynchings, with patronizing treatment of “the Negro.” Our Historical Association would make an enormous contribution with a new history for the 250th anniversary that tells the whole story of our county. The focus of our business community emphasizes statements and symbolism when what is needed is action that helps the Black community increase its wealth.

Chatham is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Businesses are flooding in; where is the visible justice in economic growth for our

Black businesses and workers?

This coming Saturday, two things are going to happen that have not happened in the last 250 years of Chatham’s history. These events offer Truth, light the path to Justice, and give us the view of Reconciliation. In the morning, there will be a ceremony to remember and memorialize the last lynching victim in Chatham County, Eugene Daniel, forever aged 16 years and 8 days. In the afternoon, there will be a recounting of the Black history of the county, music, and speeches by political and community leaders to highlight the victories and struggles of Black Chathamites over the past 250 years.

Chatham’s white and Black leadership deserve commendation for joining hands to make this possible. This is a great step forward. It represents an acknowledgement from the whole community of the failures of the past. It provides the opening for the Black community to keep on pushing to move ahead. It offers all our community the inspiration to build the county its brighter future.

Our common experience and the science of human behavior teach us that together people can overcome their differences to find benefit for all. Psalm 85:10 has given us a timeless lesson, “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.” With truth comes

**IF YOU’RE GOING**

**Remembering the 1921 Lynching of Eugene Daniel**

**WHEN:** 9 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 18

**WHERE:** New Hope Baptist Church, 581 New Hope Church Road, Apex

On the 100th anniversary of his lynching, Eugene Daniel will be remembered.

The soil collection ceremony begins at 9 a.m.; a libation and remembrance ceremony begins at 9:55 a.m., where the story of Eugene Daniel will be shared and surviving Daniel family members will be recognized.

(RSVP required if you plan to attend, proper face coverings also required)

**Chatham Black History Celebration**

**WHEN:** 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 18

**WHERE:** Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, and via Zoom

(RSVP required if you plan to attend, proper face coverings also required)

mercy, with righteousness comes peace. My hope is that this Saturday will be a new departure

Speakers will include Chatham County Commissioners Karen Howard and Diana Hales, N.C. Rep. Robert Reives II, N.C. Sen. Valerie Foushee, Congressman David Price, Dr. Charles Johnson and historian Antonio Austin; the final program for the event is still being developed.

(RSVP required if you plan to attend, proper face coverings also required)

**TO ATTEND:** RSVP at <https://www.crc-c.org>

**For more history**

The six lynching victims in the years between 1885 and 1921 in Chatham County were Harriet Finch, Jerry Finch, Lee Tyson, John Pattishall, Henry Jones and Eugene Daniel. For more information from the University of North Carolina about the history of lynching in the state, go to <http://lynching.web.unc.edu/>

point for Chatham County on our path to Truth, Justice and Reconciliation.

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# OBITUARIES

## CORNELIA BAKER HERRING



Cornelia Baker Herring, 93, of Burlington, passed away at her residence on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 8:58 p.m.

A native of Alamance County, she was the wife of the late Roy Zell Herring and the daughter of James Monroe Baker and Margaret Tingen Baker, both deceased. She was a graduate of Pleasant Grove High School, Class of 1948. Cornelia was employed in the hosiery industry for 50 years, retiring from Tower

Hosiery where she worked as a quality controller. She volunteered at Alamance Regional Medical Center for 19 years with over 5,300 hours of service. Cornelia served the Lord in many capacities — as a Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, and Christmas play director for over 30 years. She was a member of Bethel Baptist Church.

Survivors include a daughter, Margaret H. Smith and husband Ronnie of Siler City; son, Mark R. Herring and wife Debbie of Burlington; three brothers, Harvey Baker and wife Judy and William Baker and wife Marie, both of Burlington and Nathan Baker and wife Goldie of High Point; sister, Carolyn York of Browns Summit; two grandchildren, Brian Smith of Ramseur and Kevin Smith of Siler City; and three great-grandchildren, Teagan, Kenan, and Dean Smith. She was preceded in death by two sisters, Janie Sue May and Juanita King and a brother, Jimmy Baker.

A graveside service was conducted at Bethel United Methodist Church Cemetery on Snow Camp Road on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. by Rev. David Jackson and Rev. Tony Brafford.

Memorials may be made to AuthoraCare Collective Hospice, 914 Chapel Hill Road, Burlington, N.C. 27215.

Our family would like to publicly thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for every doctor, nurse, caregiver and especially the hospice staff that he has put in our path to help us navigate mother's journey. We would also like to thank our church family and friends who have faithfully lifted us in prayer and been by our side.

Rich & Thompson Funeral Home and Crematory in Graham is assisting the family.

Condolences may be offered at [www.richandthompson.com](http://www.richandthompson.com).

## ROBERT FRANKLIN WILLIAMS

Robert Franklin Williams, age 67, of Moncure, died Sunday morning, September 12, 2021, with his family by his side, at UNC Hospital.

Robert was born at Lee County Hospital in Sanford, N.C., on March 18, 1954, to Ben Robert Williams and the late Frances Brooks Williams. He was also preceded in death by an older sister, Mary Susan Williams, maternal grandparents, Charlie Brooks and wife Pearl and paternal grandparents, Paul Williams and wife Lydia.

Robert grew up loving the countryside and living close to his maternal grandparents, where he spent many days roaming the woods and playing outdoors with family and friends. Robert graduated from Pittsboro High School in 1972. He attended Campbell College in Buies Creek, N.C., where he flourished and met many lifelong friends. He worked for Budget Rental Cars at RDU Airport and was transferred to Knoxville, Tennessee, in the late 1980s, where he loved living in the mountains. He was particularly smitten with a beautiful place, "Cades Cove," where his family spent time when visiting him. He had a fondness for nature and the simple things in life. His favorite holiday was Christmas.

During his childhood, scouting for a tree in the woods to bring home and decorate in the family living room was his passion. He enjoyed watching sporting events, especially Duke basketball. He also enjoyed music and possessed unusual background knowledge of artists, particularly classic rock. His dog, Woodrow, was his pride and joy for many years and he often rode him around in his Toyota truck. Photography was a favorite hobby and he loved taking pictures of the outdoors or of his family members, especially at get-togethers. During the emergence of video camcorders, he was once quoted as saying, "There is nothing like a still photo to capture a single moment in time."

In addition to his father, he is survived by one brother, Richard Williams and wife Joni of Moncure, and one sister, Sandra Burke and husband Bill Slaughter of Goldston; his nieces and nephews are Brooke Strowd and husband Robert of Moncure, Richie Williams of Pittsboro, Hayden Burke and wife Jessie of Goldston, Carter Burke of Goldston and Banks Burke of Goldston.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, September 15, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home, Pittsboro, N.C.

A private family service will be held at a later time.

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

## JOYCE ELAINE BOLLINGER HERSEY

Joyce Elaine Bollinger Hersey, 80, of Cameron, passed away on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. on Monday, September 13, 2021, in the Mausoleum Chapel at Lee Memory Gardens with Rev. Curtis Norris officiating.

She was born in Stoverstown, Pennsylvania, on June 4, 1941, to the late William A. and Pauline Fissell Bollinger. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles W. Hersey. She retired from Coty Inc. and was a member of Hillmon Grove Baptist Church.

Survivors include her children, Charles E. Hersey of Fayetteville, Janet McElroy, Lolita Hunt, Terry Hersey, Eric Hersey, all of Cameron, and Teresa Furrage of Parkton; a sister, Patricia of Pennsylvania; 12 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

## BARBARA BURNS TRUELOVE

Barbara Burns Truelove, 87, of Sanford, passed away on September 8, 2021, at her home.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. Friday, September 10, 2021, at East Sanford Baptist Church with Pastor Steve Ray and Pastor Robbie Gibson presiding. Burial followed in the Cool Springs Baptist Church Cemetery.

She was born in Lee County on June 13, 1934, to the late Jesse Burns and Vallie Burns Fowler. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, James Edward Truelove. Mrs. Truelove worked at Mack's Offices in Accounts Payable and was a member of East Sanford Baptist Church.

Surviving relatives include her son, Eddie Truelove of Sanford; daughters, Susan Bonardi and Terri Parrish, both of Sanford; six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Enrichment Center of Sanford and/or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

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

## JEFFREY RABON KNIGHT

Jeffrey Rabon Knight, 62, of Broadway, died Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at Central Harnett Hospital in Lillington.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Antioch Baptist Church, where he was a member. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born in Lee County, son of William Rabon Knight and Doralene Brown Knight. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his wife, Sharon Knight.

Surviving are his children, Travis Knight and Hayle Knight of Broadway; brother, Oris Knight of Lillington, and one grandson.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

## LACY CHRISTIAN MCLENDON JR.

Lacy Christian McLendon Jr., 73, of Sanford, died Friday, September 10, 2021, at his home.

There will be no services held at this time.

He was born on January 13, 1948, son of the late Lacy Christian McLendon Sr. and Anna McLendon. Lacy was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Karen Lynn McLendon and his sister, Barleigh Salmon. He retired from Honeywell.

Surviving is his daughter, Crystal McLendon Shaw of the home; four grandchildren; and his sister, Linda Salmon.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A12

## KAREN BETH SBROLLINI HEILMAN



Karen Beth Sbrollini Heilman, age 55 of Chapel Hill, N.C., passed away on Thursday, September 9, 2021, with her husband by her side after courageously facing an aggressive cancer.

Karen was born in Suffern, N.Y., on March 30, 1966, to Rebecca Schwartz Sbrollini and the late Paul Sbrollini. A lifelong athlete, she played basketball for Gettysburg College, where she joined the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. She also participated in adult basketball, softball, and

volleyball leagues; coached basketball, softball, and soccer; taught fitness classes; and was an avid cyclist. After achieving her Master of Education, Karen taught high school English in Chatham County for over 20 years. She advocated strongly for her students and received Chatham Central's Teacher of the Year award in 2018. She loved spending time with her family and friends and enjoyed books, music, the beach, Disney, and college sports.

Karen is survived by her husband of 29 years, Thomas "Newt" Heilman II of Chapel Hill, N.C.; mother, Rebecca Schwartz Sbrollini of Pittsboro, N.C.; daughters, Becca Heilman of Washington, D.C., and Sara Heilman of Chapel Hill, N.C.; sister, Lauren Sbrollini Macaluso and husband Vincent F. Macaluso of Douglaston, N.Y., and their children, Abigail Macaluso of New York, N.Y., and Vincent P. Macaluso of Douglaston, N.Y.; and her beloved dog, Trevor.

A celebration of her life will take place at a later date, tentatively scheduled for spring 2022.

In lieu of flowers, the family wishes that donations be made to the cancer research or education charity of your choice.

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

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

## HELEN TALLENT NEAL



Helen Tallent Neal, 77, of Franklin, went home to be with Jesus on Wednesday, September 8, 2021.

Born in Macon County, Helen was the daughter of the late R.L. and Lucille Cunningham Tallent. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Dale Tallent. Helen enjoyed working in her garden with her flowers and watching the hummingbirds. She loved everyone, especially her nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Doug; one brother, Kalen Tallent of Franklin; four sisters, Loleta Hodnett of Willow Spring, Shirley Cope, Joyce Tallent and Katrina "Tinker" Dehart, all of Franklin; sister-in-law, Tina Tallent of Franklin; her numerous nieces and nephews, who loved her dearly, great nieces, nephews, and cousins, also survive.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 10, at Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery. Rev. Mark Bishop officiated.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Windy Gap Baptist Church Cemetery.

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

## ROGER THOMAS GOVIER



Roger Thomas Govier, 74, of Siler City passed away on Monday, September 6, 2021, at Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

Mr. Govier was born in Detroit, Michigan, on April 6, 1947, the son of Lynn and Marie Yarnell Govier. Roger spent his working years as a construction roofer. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Arlene LaMay Govier.

He is survived by his step-sons, Benjamin E. Greer, and Timothy Greer and wife Mildred, both of Siler City; six granddaughters, two grandsons and one great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 2 p.m. at the First Wesleyan Church, 608 N. Third Ave., Siler City, with Pastor Don Southern officiating.

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

## VICKY JEAN ELLINGTON BRAY

Vicky Jean Ellington Bray, 60, of Siler City, passed away on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at UNC Hospital.

The graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at Brush Creek Baptist Church with Rev. Frank Taylor presiding.

She was born in Chatham County on July 10, 1961, to Billy Carson Ellington Sr. and Jean Johnson Ellington. She was a cook/dietician at Sunbridge until her retirement. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include her husband, George "David" Bray, of the home; children, Mark Anthony Bray of Graham, Crystal Gaile Bray of Siler City, Ashley Robin Bray of Seagrave, Stephanie Dawn Bray of Siler City, Shaina Ele-

na Combs of Asheboro; sister, Patty Ann Thomas of Siler City; brothers, Carson Ellington Jr., of Smithfield, Jimmy Vann Ellington of Siler City; eight grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Brush Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Judy Lane, 45 John Lane Rd., Bear Creek, N.C. 27207.

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

## MAMIE LEE (FRENCH) NETTLES

Mamie Lee French Nettles, 62 of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Funeral services were held Thursday, September 16, at 2 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial in Lee Memory Gardens.

## WALTER 'WALT' EUGENE TURNER

Walter "Walt" Eugene Turner, passed away on September 2, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

He was born on May 5, 1939, to the late Hubert E. B. Turner and Opal Irene Sanders Turner in Weed, N.M. He worked in the potast mines in Carlsbad, N.M., then Boeing Inc. in Renton, Washington. He retired from Department of Labor (Mine Safety and Health Administration). He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Kathleen Anderson Turner; son, Sloan Eugene Turner; daughter, Leslie Rene Turner; two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

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

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

## HELEN MARIE (BRANDON) PETTY

Mrs. Helen Marie Petty, age 94, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at Westfield Nursing Home.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following at McQueen Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery.

## KIMBERLY NEELY NIACARIS

Kimberly Neely Niacaris, 61, of Broadway, died Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville.

The family will hold a private service at a later date.

She was born on November 21, 1959, daughter of the late Donald Lee Neely and Madonna B. Neely. She was preceded in death by her parents and her step-sister, Paula Ward. Kimberly was a Veteran of the United States Army.

Surviving is her daughter, Stephanie Niacaris of the home; son, Anthony J. Niacaris of West Palm Beach, Florida; sister, Robbin A. Neely of Broadway; and four grandchildren.

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

## ANTHONY MORRIS WORRELL

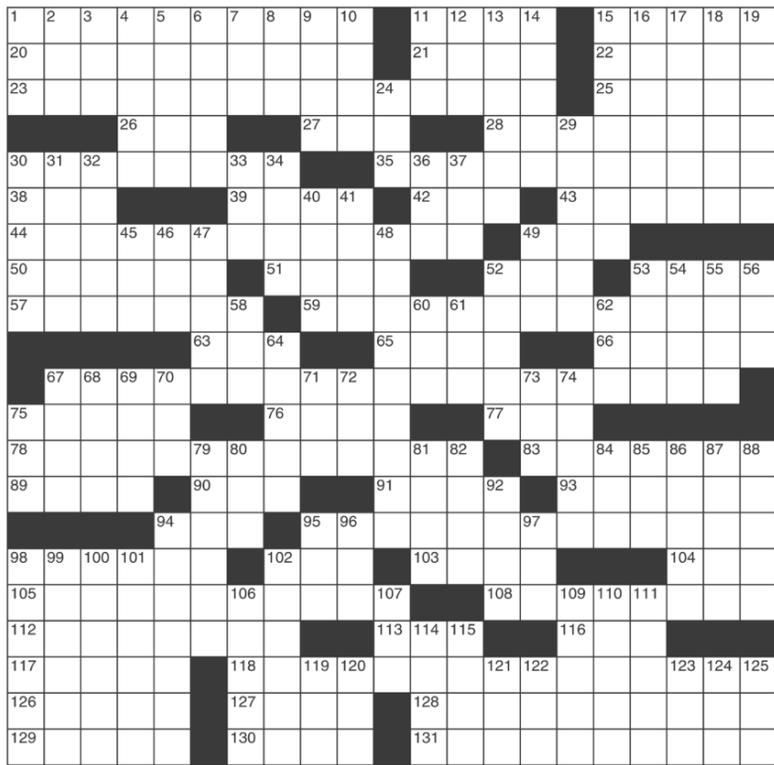
Anthony Morris Worrell, 67, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at his residence.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home with burial following at Liberty Chapel Church Cemetery.

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**COOLING TREND**

- ACROSS**  
 1 Didn't move any closer  
 11 Swedish retail giant  
 15 Frets  
 20 Book you can't stop reading  
 21 Pupil's book  
 22 Palmer of golf, to fans  
 23 Additional person called on to peruse something  
 25 Ebbed and flowed, as water  
 26 Premaritally named  
 27 Rarity in golf  
 28 Curative stuff  
 30 Fills with a crayon, say  
 35 Feel hopeless about  
 38 — Grande  
 39 Bring to ruin  
 42 Authorize to  
 43 Tony winner Bernadette  
 44 Longtime "Masterpiece Theatre" host  
 49 Increases  
 50 Corporation combination
- DOWN**  
 1 UV ray-blocking stat  
 2 Sticky sealant  
 3 Cake candle count
- ACROSS**  
 51 Malicious  
 52 Start for historic  
 53 "I'm outie!"  
 57 Practice exam, maybe  
 59 Legendary title figure of a 1999 horror film  
 63 Granola bit  
 65 Invalidate  
 66 Bards' Muse  
 67 Some schoolkids' judged constructions  
 75 Startle  
 76 D.C. VIPs  
 77 Outback bird  
 78 Bit of jewelry with a single diamond  
 83 English class concern  
 89 Skirt borders  
 90 Hagen of the stage  
 91 Egg, in Paris  
 93 "Lawrence of Arabia" star  
 94 '60s hallucinogen  
 95 "Main Street" novelist  
 98 How silverware is often sold  
 102 Hip-hop producer Gotti
- DOWN**  
 103 String after J  
 104 O'Hare abbr.  
 105 Times of trouble with tresses  
 108 Has a helping of humble pie  
 112 Explosion fragments  
 113 Qty.  
 116 Pi-sigma link  
 117 "I — Say No" (song from "Oklahoma!")  
 118 State flower of Iowa  
 126 Sporting site  
 127 — about (circa)  
 128 Foldaway bed or table, e.g.  
 129 — arms (old soldier)  
 130 Gps. such as Oxtam and CARE  
 131 Ducted cooling system (and what nine answers in this puzzle have)
- DOWN**  
 4 Like some simple questions  
 5 Old anesthetic  
 6 Swindles  
 7 Lingerie top  
 8 Darth Vader, as a boy  
 9 "Juno" actor Michael  
 10 McDonald's honcho Ray  
 11 Suffix with Gotham  
 12 Essential  
 13 Off the hook  
 14 Really baffled  
 15 Lampoons  
 16 Ribbed cloth for dresses, e.g.  
 17 Option for bitter greens  
 18 Frankfurter  
 19 Jewish feasts  
 24 Nourished  
 29 Ladle  
 30 Runner's pain  
 31 OPEC vessel  
 32 Tours' river  
 33 Dictator Amin  
 34 Average  
 36 Wapiti  
 37 Witness  
 40 "Rhyme Pays" rapper  
 41 Ark "captain"  
 45 Mil. bigwig  
 46 Masters peg
- DOWN**  
 47 Fiery felony  
 48 A unified goal for the future  
 49 Mentalist Geller  
 52 GI's chaplain  
 53 Mag. sales stat  
 54 "Leave — that"  
 55 Doesn't delay  
 56 "Well now!"  
 58 Tic-toe link  
 60 Div. of NYC  
 61 Cup's edge  
 62 Minuscule  
 64 — cotta  
 67 Gin flavorer  
 68 Not flustered  
 69 Camera part  
 70 CPR teacher, maybe  
 71 Service cost  
 72 Rainy mo.  
 73 "U can't b serious!"  
 74 Hearer of court evidence  
 75 Fire residue  
 79 Texas capital  
 80 "— be a pleasure"  
 81 Guitar part  
 82 Aquatic bird  
 84 Ocean off Fla.  
 85 A Stooze  
 86 It cuts grass  
 87 Samuel of justice
- DOWN**  
 88 Cut again, as lumber  
 92 Star status  
 94 Pounced on  
 95 Lady of Sp.  
 96 Climbing vine  
 97 — funk (sad)  
 98 1978-80 FBI sting  
 99 African desert  
 100 Best Actor winner Brody  
 101 "Pacific Blue" actress  
 102 Like engines in neutral  
 106 Took back, as one's title  
 107 Sticky stuff  
 109 Hearer of court evidence  
 110 Tom Jones' "— Lady"  
 111 Reef material  
 114 Richie's mom, to Fonzie  
 115 Sticky stuff  
 119 John, across the pond  
 120 OR workers  
 121 John, across the pond  
 122 Sales check: Abbr.  
 123 Female cells  
 124 Six, in Italy  
 125 Go astray



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



**LOVES CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

The 196th Homecoming Celebration, along with Memorial Day, will be observed at Loves Creek Baptist Church on Sunday, Sept. 19.

Services will begin at 10 a.m. with Fishers of Men leading special worship in music. Services will continue, led by the pastor.

Those services will be followed by a covered dish meal on the grounds. We would love to have everyone bring their addition for that meal. All will be welcome.

The church is located at 1745 East 11th St., Siler City.

**STAUNTON MEMORIAL CME CHURCH**

Come join Staunton Memorial CME Church Family for revival at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19. The services will be held

**CHURCH NEWS**

outside if weather is permitting. Reverend Keith Wooten will be the host.

Face coverings are requested. Zoom streaming services will be available by using the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9720283226> (password is 2020) or dialing in at 646-568-7788 (enter in member id#972-028-3226 then #).

**PLEASANT GROVE WESLEYAN CHURCH**

Homecoming services will be held at Pleasant Grove Wesleyan Church at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 19.

There will be a time of fellowship following the service, including a meal. All are welcome.

The church is located at 3275 Piney Grove Church Rd., Siler City.

**HOLLAND CHAPEL AME ZION CHURCH**

Family & Friends

Day 2021 will be held at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church on Sunday, Sept. 19, with guest minister Cynthia Jacko-Wise of Raleigh bringing the message. Join us for this exciting event.

Free COVID-19 vaccination and testing is available at Holland Chapel AME Zion Church from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Register at [www.myspot.nc.gov](http://www.myspot.nc.gov).

**ROCKY RIVER FRIENDS MEETING**

Family Fun Day at Rocky River Friends Meeting, from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25, will include a cruise-in, a bounce house, water balloons, chalk art, face painting and free refreshments. At 4 p.m., there will be music on the porch with the Vintage Trio. All are welcome.

**HONOR STUDENTS**

**LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE**

Tyler Romel is one of Lebanon Valley College's ice hockey student-athletes recognized for their academic performance during the 2020-21 season. He has been named to the U.C.H.C. All-Ac-

ademic Team.

Romel, a graduate of Northwood High School, is pursuing a master of business administration. Lebanon Valley College is located in Annville, Pennsylvania.

**Chatham County expands COVID-19 testing options**

From Chatham County Public Health Department

**PITTSBORO** — The Chatham County Public Health Department has been working with multiple testing providers to offer new options across the county throughout the week.

The department has partnered with Optum Health for two sites, one each in Pittsboro and Siler City, and StarMed Healthcare for three sites, one each in Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston. Additionally, local urgent cares and pharmacies are also offering testing. To see a full list, which is updated regularly, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting).

The new Optum testing sites are:  
**Pittsboro:** Old Chatham County Agriculture Building (in front of Justice Center), 65 E. Chatham Street, Monday-Friday, 10 AM-6 PM  
**Siler City:** Chatham Hospital Medical Office Building (located behind Chatham Hospital), 163 Medical Park Drive, Monday-Friday, 5 PM-8 PM

Tests are free. Walk-ins welcome, or pre-register at [www.lhi.care/covidtesting](http://www.lhi.care/covidtesting).

Those who should be tested include:

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19.
- People who have had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with confirmed COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated people who have taken part in activities that put them at higher risk for COVID-19 because they cannot physically distance as needed to avoid exposure, such as travel, attending large social or mass gatherings, or being in crowded or poorly ventilated indoor settings.
- People who have been asked or referred to get tested by their healthcare provider or public health department.

Fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed

COVID-19 and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

People who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine and be tested immediately after being identified, and, if negative, tested again in 5-7 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop during quarantine.

People who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past three months and recovered do not need to get tested following an exposure as long as they do not develop new symptoms.

Residents who have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine or testing can call the CCPHD COVID-19 Vaccine Infoline at 919-545-8323.

More than half of Chatham County is now fully vaccinated against COVID-19, but the county continues to experience high community transmission of the virus due to the infectiousness of the Delta variant. The vast majority of COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths across the state are among those who are not fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated people are also more likely to get COVID-19 and spread it to others.

Over the last week, Chatham County has seen 137 new cases of COVID-19 and 8.2% of COVID-19 tests have come back positive, according to data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC). This pushed Chatham over 6,000 total cases since the beginning of the pandemic. This shows how important it is that all residents continue to wear a mask in indoor public settings. Most importantly, all eligible residents should be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. A full list of Chatham County vaccine providers can be found at [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov).

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD's vaccination plans, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting). To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth) or [www.facebook.com/chathamhealth](https://www.facebook.com/chathamhealth).

**Family Fun**

**Saturday September 25, 2021**

**At Rocky River Friends Meeting**



**CRUISE IN**

**2:00-4:00 pm**

**Along with**

**Bounce House, Water balloons, Chalk art, Face Painting and free refreshments**



**And then at 4:00 pm**

**Music on the Porch: Vintage Trio**



**Bring your lawn chair or quilt**



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Siler City, NC**

**Be Our Guest!**

Discover your local Rotary club! Meet other professionals & get involved with community service projects. Local involvement has far-reaching & long-lasting benefits, so join us each Wednesday at NOON.



75 W. Salisbury St. (Pittsboro)

Beginning September 22, you will temporarily find us at Postal Fish Company. Follow Rotary Club of Pittsboro on Facebook for more information & other upcoming events.



# OBITUARIES

Continued from page A10

## SUSAN ROGERS DRIGGERS

Susan Rogers Driggers, 69, of Sanford, died Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at Transitions Hospice in Raleigh.

Graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, September 12, 2021, at Poplar Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery with Rev. Keith Miller officiating.

She was born in Lee County, daughter of the late Bert Townsend Rogers and Phoebe Hardy Rogers. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Tommy Rogers, her sister, Lillie Mae McLeod, a daughter, Libby Burnette and grandsons, James Michael Driggers and Daniel Driggers.

Survivors include her daughters, Michelle Driggers Jernigan of Hope Mills, Misty Driggers of Sanford; sister, Virginia Davis of Burlington; brothers, Richard Rogers of

Broadway, Keller Pate of Oak Island; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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

## TREVELL DAYQUNE STANFORD

Mr. Trevell DayQune, 17, of Sanford, N.C., passed away on Sunday, August 29, 2021, at his residence.

Wake services were held from 4 - 5 p.m. Friday, September 10, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home.

## CAROLYN (CHESNEY) SNIPES

Ms. Carolyn Chesney Snipes, 80, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, September 4, 2021, at her residence.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Friday, September 10, 2021, at Macedonia AME Zion Church in Gulf, with burial following in the church cemetery.

## CHARLES S. RUDLOFF

Mr. Charles S. Rudloff, 85, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, August 27, 2021, at his home.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## MARJORIE CURRIN DICKENS

Marjorie Currin Dickens, 94, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, September 10, 2021, at Liberty Commons Nursing and Rehabilitation.

Graveside services were held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Lee Memory Gardens with Chaplain Joel Cameron officiating.

Mrs. Dickens was born in Granville County on August 13, 1927, to the late Elbert Currin and Ocie Sherman Currin. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter Carol Bowling Chacon. Marjorie was employed by

Lee County Board of Education. She also worked many years with Central Carolina Hospital. She was a member of Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church.

Survivors include her son, Mike Bowling of Sanford and daughter, Patricia Rosser of Broadway; two grandsons and six great-grandchildren.

Donations may be sent to Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home to assist with funeral expenses.

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

## WILLIAM LINDSEY 'BILL' OLDHAM

William Lindsey "Bill" Oldham, 89, of Broadway, died Friday, September 10, 2021, at his home.

Graveside memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at the Bethany Baptist Church Cemetery in Gulf with Pastor

Patrick Daniel officiating.

He was born in Chatham County, son of the late Burnice Butler Oldham and Ethel May Oldham. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Raymond, Exon, Melvin, Earl, Reggie, Douglas, Don, and Floyd Oldham; sisters, Evon Gilliam, Mabel Cole and Peggy Spivey. Bill was the owner of Bill's Body Shop and Auto Sales and was a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Surviving are his wife, Gloria Mills Oldham of the home; daughters, Donna M. Oldham Fogleman, and Stephanie Dalrymple, both of Sanford; sons, Edwin L. Oldham, S. Warren Oldham, W. Alan Oldham, all of Sanford, and Jason Phillips of Camden, S.C.; sister, Joyce O. Martin of Bonlee; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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

# Playground to be built in memory of Siler City Elementary's Janet Bridges

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Nearly nine months after beloved Siler City Elementary School teacher Janet Brady Bridges' death on Christmas Day, the Chatham County Schools Board of Education approved a donation from her sister, Sandi Brady, to install a bench and musical playground equipment at SCE in her memory.

"My hope is that her positive influence can continue as long as it can," Brady told the board, "and also sitting there'll be like a grieving process for us and the school and community."

The board unanimously approved the request, later thanking and applauding Brady. The donation is expected to be between \$6,000 and \$7,000; per board policy, donations over \$5,000 require board approval.

Bridges, born in Chatham County, was 45 when she died and in her 22nd year of teaching at Siler City Elementary. Friends and co-workers told the News + Record that Bridges had died from COVID-19 complications, which death records filed with the county's register of deeds later confirmed.

She was a lifelong member of Fall Creek Baptist Church in Bennett, where she was

the pianist — known for her solos, wedding music and love for Jesus. She also attended New Salem Baptist Church in Pittsboro. She loved to offer encouragement and "always had a kind word for everyone she met," her obituary said, and she loved her family deeply.

Among Chatham students and staff, Bridges was regarded especially for kindness and a beautiful smile.

"It was the most beautiful smile," her co-worker Alirio Estevez said in December, "even with a mask on."

Siler City Elementary Principal Tania Poston emailed her school community following Bridges' death to alert them of

the news and extend counseling services to them. Bridges most recently worked as an ESL teacher with 1st and 2nd grade students.

"She not only taught our children but also — as someone extremely gifted musically — shared her special talents with the adults and students in our school," Poston wrote. "Ms. Bridges will be greatly missed by our entire school community."

"I dare say," her sister, Brady, told the board Monday, "you'll be hard pressed to find a teacher that loved her job and her people more."

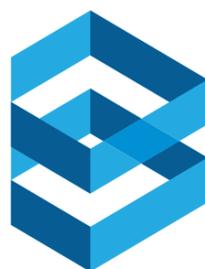
Reporter Hannah McClellan can be reached at [hannah@chathamnr.com](mailto:hannah@chathamnr.com)



Submitted photo

Bridges

chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @HannerMcClellan.



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CHATHAM CHAT | AUTHOR CASSANDRA KING CONROY

# Author of 'Tell Me a Story' to highlight Chatham Literacy's fall event

*She'll share stories about the late Pat Conroy, the most celebrated Southern writer of our generation*

Cassandra King Conroy met, and then married, celebrated novelist Pat Conroy after each were successful, published authors. Their marriage and 18-year relationship ended when Pat Conroy — author of “The Lords of Discipline,” “The Prince of Tides” and “The Great Santini,” among many others — died of pancreatic cancer in 2016.

In 2018, Cassandra published “Tell Me a Story,” a memoir about their life together. The book became a best-seller and won the Southern Book Prize for nonfiction in 2020. Each of her previous books, all novels, have received wide acclaim and numerous book of the year nominations.

On Oct. 9, she'll be the keynote speaker for Chatham Literacy's “Fall for Literacy” luncheon. The fundraiser will provide funds for the nonprofit to help adults living or working in Chatham County acquire the literacy and educational skills they need to function successfully in society. The luncheon is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro. To register, or for more information, go to [chathamliteracy.org](http://chathamliteracy.org).

News + Record Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III spoke to Cassandra about her work and her upcoming visit to Chatham County. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

**I want to ask you first about your journey as a writer. You've taught creative writing, you've written in just about every genre that you can imagine. All of your novels have earned awards and acclaim. And you were married to the premier Southern novelist of our time. Can you talk through your journey as a writer and share with us what the secret sauce is for being a great writer?**

Well, I wish I had that. If I did, I could bottle it and sell it and make a big donation to Chatham Literacy.

I always wanted to be a writer and I loved storytelling, loved reading. But I came along in a generation where women could be teachers or secretaries or nurses. And so my mother said, “Yeah, you know, that's a nice little

hobby, writing, but you need to get a teaching certificate.”

You know, I loved teaching ... but I have written stories, and tried to write books, since I was able to pick up a pen.

But I never took myself seriously, or considered myself a writer, until really and truly later in college. I had a professor who encouraged me and I had some stories published in academic journals. And when my kids got older, I went back to school to get a master's in English and that's when I really started out. So what I'm saying is this: I came late, really late to the game.

I was 50 when my book was my first book was published. And so I had a little bit different start than a lot of writers, but that kind of qualifies me to say, “You know, folks, if I can do it, you can too.” Don't think that it's too late.

**In the beginning of “Tell Me a Story,” you talk about how you met Pat Conroy. I won't spoil the story, because you might tell it when you come to Chatham County. But I've got to ask you: you talk in the book about “blurbs,” and how Pat would write blurbs for authors whose books he really liked, and how probably every writer in the south probably went to Pat asking for a blurb for their book. You did not do that, even after meeting him. But I'm curious: What kind of blurb would Pat write for “Tell Me a Story,” if he were to have read it? What would he say?**

What I would hope he would say, of course — because Pat had this very flowery language at times, and could be over the top — but what I would want him to say is that it's the best book since Tolstoy! But knowing Pat, he would be much more likely to say, “Do not believe a word about me in this book!” And that would be his blurb.

**Obviously, Pat Conroy was larger than life; that's what everybody says about him. I'm curious: what did you love most about him?**

I think I sort of said it about the made-up blurb from him, and that's his sense of humor. That's one thing I loved. And I've heard so many people tell me about Pat's books — you could be laughing, with tears roll-



Courtesy of Cassandra King Conroy

**The late Pat Conroy and his wife, Cassandra King Conroy, outside their home in Beaufort, S.C.**

ing down ... laughing on one page, and then crying with real tears at the tragic, tragic turn of events on another page.

But he was every bit as funny in person.

**You talk in your book about using his novels in teaching your writing classes, well before you even met Pat. What did you love most about his writing?**

In the classes I had taught before I met Pat, I would give handouts on examples of different writers' use of imagery and so forth. And of course, I could have done those strictly on Pat Conroy's books, because of his beautiful, poetic language. That's what he's known for as much as anything else.

But I have to admit, I also just personally love the storytelling. Pat was a great storyteller. And a lot of books I've read are full of beautiful imagery, and can transport you to a place like that. And sometimes you just read them for that reason. But with Pat, you'd have a page-turner of a story as well. And that's what I loved about his writing.

**In what ways did knowing Pat, and being with him for all those years, change your approach to your craft of writing?**

I'm not so sure that in my craft that I changed that much, but he certainly did one important thing for me as a writer. And that was Pat, more than anyone, taught me to respect myself as a writer and to respect my time.

I think that that's a something that male and female writers run into, but probably more female writers would say this — that you feel guilty sometimes if you're taking a lot of time away

from your family to off somewhere to write. Pat told me right at first: “Your family is not going to look at you as having a job, like when you were teaching. You couldn't do such and such for them because you had classes.”

You've got to look at your writing in the same way, he said. And that's a very practical kind of thing that I don't know I would have gotten from anywhere else. And it really, really was important. It gave me a whole new perspective about writing.

**Pat wrote six books in the 18 years you were together. How did you influence Pat's writing? What did you teach him about the craft?**

Well, I'm not even going to pretend that I had much of an influence at all on him, though I did a lot of editing because he teased at first when we got married, saying, “Oh goody, I've got an in-house editor! Now my editor in New York is going to be so happy.”

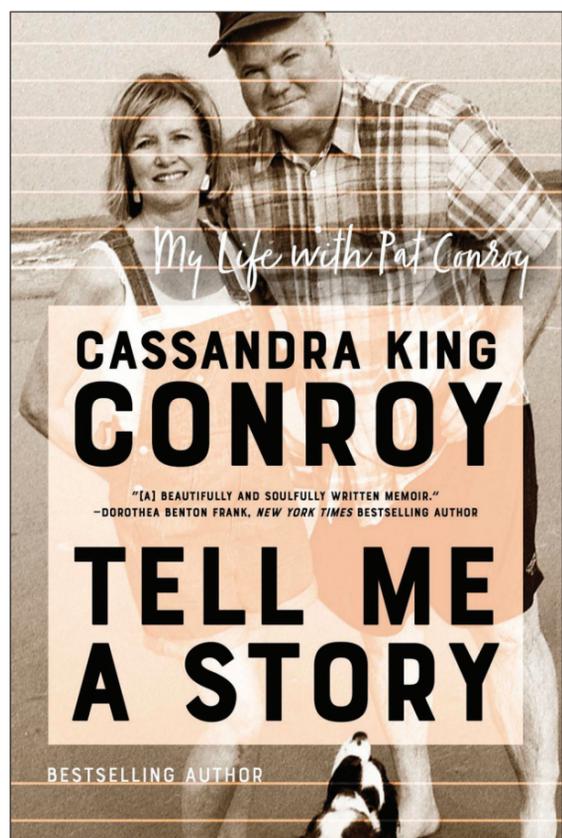
Because Pat always had so much more material that ended up in his books, which is a shame because he wrote so beautifully ... So I would go over and he would say, “Now treat it just like you were grading an essay.”

And Pat was very honest with himself. He would say things like, “I know, I repeat myself a lot. You know, so help me out with this.”

He did take a page out of my book, so to speak, about not being so easily distracted. When we first got together, he just couldn't believe that I could go out grocery shopping and come home and put the groceries down, and then start right back to work on my book. He felt like he had to be totally isolated; he didn't want to have any distractions going on. So he worked at getting better at that, and I think he became more productive as a result.

**This book really gives us a sense about who Pat was. What do you miss most about him?**

You know, I mentioned



Courtesy of William Morrow

**“Tell Me a Story,” published in 2019, won the Southern Book Prize for nonfiction.**

his sense of humor. And I definitely miss that, because Pat also had a dark sense of humor, as I have. And I talk about it in the book, and it can be kind of embarrassing at times because it's a kind of cringe-worthy humor. But you know, that can pull you out of a bad place at times, and we've all done that — where we're just all down in the dumps together and then somebody will say something funny, and it'll change the mood. So I certainly miss that about Pat.

But I also miss the companionship. And no one could talk about books like Pat, and I loved that. He would tell me about a book he was reading and a lot of times it wasn't anything I would ever think I'd want to read. He had a wide, wide range of interest and he read a lot of books that wouldn't necessarily appeal to me. But I really miss hearing him talk about what he was reading.

**What do you love about writing and about reading, and the privilege that we have about that?**

I don't think there's anything that I don't like about it. I was raised on a family farm and we had no neighbors in sight, and lived way down a dirt road in southern Alabama. Reading took me to another place, to places I could never have gone ... But it did more than that. It took me inside other people, people that I never would have been exposed to as a child on this isolated farm.

And that's the main thing that I love about reading. And I love that in my writing because as a writer, then, I get to explore and I get to go inside a person — say,

you know, a character's head — and explore more about why they're what motivated why while they act as they do. And you get empathy from reading.

**Why is storytelling so important?**

Anytime you tell a child, “Sit here, and I'm going to tell you a story,” you just watch their faces light up. I don't care who they are, they will put down their cell phones and their iPads. There is, I think, a universal appeal. That child's reaction is not something we lose; it's still there. We love hearing stories. Stories help us understand folks better and help us understand how to solve problems.

**Why should people support this event that Chatham Literacy is hosting, and what do you plan to share?**

I hope to tell more stories — that's sort of the theme of my discussion. We'll talk about storytelling and some of the stories I tell in my book about my life with Pat.

I would love to have people sort of expand the idea of literacy, because I think so many times we think, “Oh, you teach people who can't read how to read.” And that's wonderful, but literacy is so much more than that. It's maybe the most important part of anyone's education — it helps our understanding of the world and the broadening of our perspectives. So it's just so important and I hope people will consider supporting literacy in the same way they might support their church or the environment or any other different charities, because literacy is every bit as important.

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WHEATMORE 39, CHATHAM CENTRAL 6

# Bears struggle against Warriors as conference schedule approaches

BY JOHN MCCANN

News + Record Correspondent

BEAR CREEK — There are no two ways about it: Wheatmore whupped Chatham Central real good. The score is what it was Friday night, with the Warriors winning, 39-6.

But late in the fourth quarter of that contest, the Bears were on the verge of carrying a couple of goose eggs into the locker room.

Then Travis Crissman's eyes got big. "I saw the ball and went and got it, and I was just trying to get some yards," the junior Chatham Central free safety said after the game.

He was talking about the Wheatmore pass he plucked from the chilly fall air in which Crissman returned to Wheatmore's 18 yard line.

The clock showed 4:09. The score was 39-0, Warriors.

Chatham Central's offense got another crack at it, putting the ball in the hands of senior running back Malachi Moore, who dashed right, dipped, dodged multiple defenders, detoured and darted down the left side of the field.

Warriors in pursuit had a good angle

on him. Moore was running out of sideline, but he'd invested in enough real estate to slip into the end zone almost exactly where the goal line meets the pylon.

"Every time in the huddle I say, 'Block. Just pick up a man,' and they said, 'OK,'" Moore explained. "I just had to score the ball. I saw it wasn't open on the right. I just went back to the left."

That kind of effort is what the Bears (0-3-1) must have heading into their first conference game of the season Friday in Burlington against Cummings High School.

"We just need to have confidence in ourselves," Moore said. "We need to learn how to block, play as a team, don't fuss at each other. If somebody messes up on a play, don't get mad."

"Our offense has got to start getting some more yards, getting first downs, moving the chains," Crissman added.

Chatham Central's lack of offensive production is a problem.

Teams have been able to get the Bears' offense off the field in no time. That means players on defense for

See **BEARS**, Page B3



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central senior running back Malachi Moore (8) takes the ball early in the first half against Wheatmore junior Ethan Roberts (left, in white) and senior Cade Hamilton (4) last Friday in Bear Creek. The Bears suffered their third loss this season, 39-6.

## I don't care about your fantasy team

I don't care about your fantasy football team.



VICTOR HENSLEY  
Sports Editor

Actually, let me rephrase that.

I don't care about your fantasy football team if you're berating a player on social media for a lack of fantasy production or thankful for injuries because it helps your team win its matchup.

Otherwise, I'm

happy to hear about the players you're excited about on your roster. The stories about your big wins or razor-thin losses. The concerns you have about this player or that player moving forward.

However, I should've started with this: I'm a die-hard fantasy football player myself. I've been in a league with my friends from high school since 2013 — yes, I'm the league's commissioner — where we all put in \$15 at the beginning of the season and the Super Bowl champ takes home the pot of \$150 when it's all said and done.

But our group isn't the only one which sits around at an online draft each September to pick very real players for our very fake teams, then proceed to manage said teams as if we're actual NFL general managers.

In fact, a recent ESPN story claims that around 40 million people play fantasy football in the United States annually, while that number jumps up to 60 million if you include those

See **TEAM**, Page B4

'DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHARTER SCHOOLS'

## Bill focusing on transparency, NCHSAA's finances passes through Senate, will go to House



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Bundled in warm clothes, spectators look on as runners approach the finish line at the NCHSAA state cross country meet in January. The two-day championship event, typically held in early November, is one of 17-plus state championship events put on by the NCHSAA each year.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — It appears that, for now, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association isn't going anywhere.

But that doesn't mean things won't change.

An amended version of House Bill 91, a piece of legislation originally introduced to dissolve the NCHSAA, passed through the N.C. Senate on Sept. 8 by a full vote of 28-14 that was mostly along

party lines.

Sen. Kirk deViere (D-Cumberland) was the only Democrat that deviated from his party, while 14 other Democrats voted against the bill, including Sen. Valerie Foushee (D-Chatham, Orange). Eight senators (seven Democrats, one Republican) were absent from the session.

The bill, which is primarily focused on transparency and financial management of the NCHSAA, will bring about myriad changes in

N.C. high school athletics if it's both passed through the House of Representatives and signed by Gov. Roy Cooper.

Under the bill, the NCHSAA would be able to continue its governance over high school athletics as long as it signs a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Education.

Per the likely memorandum, it would be required for the NCHSAA to adopt procedures comparable to state open meetings laws and

public records laws, as well as post any potential rule changes to its website for public comment in an effort to make the association's processes more transparent.

The creation of the bill stemmed from a months-long investigation by the state legislature into the NCHSAA's finances, which revealed in April that the association's total assets, valued at \$41 million, put it ahead of all other state athletic associa-

See **BILL**, Page B2

## Moments from week two that make college football great

Week 2 of the college football season was filled with drama. There was an Oregon road upset



MAX BAKER  
CN+R Intern

over the No. 3 Ohio State Buckeyes, a disastrous welcome to the Southeastern Conference party for Texas and a Stanford beatdown of USC, which led to the firing of Clay Helton, the Trojans' head coach.

I could write an entire column about these games, but amid this excitement were stories that

make college football so wacky and unique. Here were my favorites:

### The Flying Cat

By now, you've probably seen the video. A gray and white cat somehow made its way into the stands and even more astonishingly, found itself hanging off the edge of the upper deck at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami. As fans tried to lift it back up to safety, the cat fell — dropping what appeared to be at least 20 feet onto the lower concourse.

When I first saw the video, I gasped. But Craig and Kimberly Cromer, University of Miami season ticket holders,

according to The Miami Herald, made the best catch of the Appalachian State-Miami football game. They used an American flag to brace the cat's fall; the feline survived. Someone else in the stands then picked up the cat and raised it like Simba from "The Lion King" and fans roared. I've never seen anything like it. It may never be clear what ultimately happened to the cat, but the band of people that came together to save its life made for an awesome moment.

### How far will one go for love?

There have always been a number of exciting sports proposals. Whether it's

at halftime on the 50-yard line, in between innings in the outfield bleachers or the occasional proposal-gone-wrong, they always capture an audience.

You may remember Boise State's Ian Johnson proposing after its dramatic upset over Oklahoma in the BCS Fiesta Bowl back in 2007. But never have I seen anything like what Florida State offensive lineman Brady Scott did on Saturday. Moments after the former college football powerhouse team lost at home on a Hail Mary to FCS Jacksonville State, he got down on one knee. Thankfully, she said yes. What an

See **FOOTBALL**, Page B4

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

# This week's schedule and last week's results

**BY VICTOR HENSLEY**  
News + Record Staff

Another week, another schedule chock full of Chatham County sports.

Last week, our top teams were Woods Charter volleyball (2-0 on the week, 7-1 overall), Chatham Central women's tennis (2-0 on the week, 6-1 overall) and Chatham Charter volleyball (2-0 on the week, 6-3 overall). Which teams will have a strong week this time around? We'll find out soon enough. But first, check out the scores/recaps for any games you missed last week and check this week's schedule for any upcoming events you'd like to attend.

Here are this week's schedules and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, September 15**

Tennis: Chatham Charter women at North Moore, 4 p.m.  
Tennis: Northwood women at Eastern Alamance, 4 p.m.  
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women at Bartlett Yancey, 4:30 p.m.  
Tennis: Seaforth women at Graham, 4:30 p.m.  
Soccer: Chatham Charter men vs. Hawbridge, 5 p.m.  
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men at Graham, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Northwood men at Person, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Seaforth men vs. North Moore, 6 p.m.  
Volleyball: Seaforth women vs. Cummings, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, September 16**

Golf: Chatham Central, Seaforth women at Mid-Carolina Conference Meet (Siler City Golf Course), 3 p.m.  
Tennis: Chatham Charter women vs. Franklin Academy, 3:30 p.m.  
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews

women vs. Southwestern Randolph, 4:30 p.m.  
Tennis: Seaforth women vs. Southern Wake Academy, 4:30 p.m.  
Volleyball: Woods Charter women at Southern Wake, 5 p.m.  
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Eastern Randolph, 6 p.m.  
Volleyball: Chatham Central women vs. Jordan-Matthews, 6 p.m.  
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women at River Mill, 6 p.m.  
Volleyball: Northwood women at Eastern Alamance, 6 p.m.

**Friday, September 17**

Football: Northwood at Walter M. Williams, 6:30 p.m.  
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. Swansboro, 7:00 p.m.  
Football: Chatham Central at Cummings, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, September 18**

Cross Country: Northwood, Woods Charter at Adidas Festival (at Wake Med), 9 a.m.

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, September 6**

No events scheduled; Labor Day.

**Tuesday, September 7**

Tennis: The Chatham Charter women lost to the Burlington Christian Academy Royals, 5-4. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were senior Lorelei Byrd (8-1), junior Rebecca Brookshire (8-1) and senior Emily Stecher (8-0), while the duo of Brookshire & Stecher also won its doubles match (8-0).  
Tennis: The Northwood women swept the Person Rockets, 7-0.  
Tennis: The Chatham Central women swept the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 9-0. Winning their singles matches for the Bears were junior Olivia Brooks (6-1, 6-0), junior Ellie Phillips (6-1, 6-3), sophomore

Rachel Albright (6-0, 6-0), junior Jaylee Williams (6-0, 6-1), sophomore Samantha Scott (6-0, 6-0) and sophomore Lauren Caviness (6-0, 6-3), while the duos of Phillips & Brooks (8-0), Williams & Albright (8-1) and Caviness & Scott (8-1) won their doubles matches.

Cross Country: Chatham Charter and Woods Charter both participated in the second Central Tar Heel Conference meet of the season, with the Wolves taking first place as a team in both the men's (31 points, 1:48:53) and women's (20 points, 2:11:38) events. Placing in the top 15 for the Wolves in the men's race were Wiley Sikes (second place, 19:14.00), Collin Thompson (fifth, 21:26.00), Nick Vallanat (eighth, 22:20.00), Jesse Sikes (ninth, 22:22.00) and Ethan Galiger (14th, 23:31.00), while Ellie Poitras (first place, 21:29.00), Maddie Sparrow (second, 21:39.00), Chloe Richard (26:41.00), Anna Peeler (30:33.00), Analise De Leon Villa (31:16.00) and Isabel Wood (33:17.00) all finished in the top 15 of the women's race. The Knights placed second in the men's race (57 points, 1:56:49), but didn't qualify as a team in the women's race. Finishing in the top 15 in the men's race for Chatham Charter was Brandon McKoy (first place, 18:03.00), Caleb Kolb (12th, 23:08.00) and Silas Christenbury (13th, 23:18.00), while Meredith Reece (sixth place, 28:31.00) and Ariana Rivera (13th, 32:25.00) placed in the top 15 of the women's race.

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women defeated the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 3-0, to improve to 6-1 on the season and win their 6th match in a row.

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women lost to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 3-1. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (11 kills, 45.8 kill %) and senior Lind-

sey Johnson (6 kills, 50 kill %).

Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women swept the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 3-0.

Volleyball: The Northwood women won a close road match against the Person Rockets, 3-2.

Soccer: The Northwood men continue their six-game losing skid with a 2-1 loss to the Williams Bulldogs. Scoring the lone goal for the Chargers was senior Geovany Chavez, assisted by junior Benjamin Schoolcraft.

**Wednesday, September 8**

Tennis: The Seaforth women defeated the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 5-1. Winning their singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Evelyn Atkins (6-2, 6-3), sophomore Ellie Cook (6-0, 6-2), freshman Bailey Shadoan (6-0, 6-0), freshman Jenna Robinette (6-1, 6-3) and freshman Charlie Ann George (6-2, 6-0), while junior Jocelyn Sanchez was the lone Jet to win her singles match.

Soccer: The Seaforth men lost a narrow home game to the Graham Red Devils, 3-2, to remain winless on the year. Scoring for the Hawks were Blake Price and Alex Gallegos.

**Thursday, September 9**

Tennis: The Chatham Central women swept the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 9-0, to improve to 5-1 on the season. Winning their singles matches for the Bears were junior Olivia Brooks (10-8), junior Ellie Phillips (10-8), sophomore Rachel Albright (10-2), junior Jaylee Williams (10-4), sophomore Samantha Scott (10-4) and sophomore Lauren Caviness (10-3), while the duos of Phillips & Brooks (8-2), Williams & Albright (8-0) and Caviness & Scott (8-5) won their doubles matches.

Volleyball: The Chatham Central women defeated the

Seaforth Hawks, 3-0.

Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Triangle Math & Science Academy Tigers, 3-0. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Emerson Clark (8 kills, 88.9 kill %, 6 digs) and sophomore Riley Manor (1 kill, 6 digs).

**Friday, September 10**

Volleyball: The Woods Charter women swept the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 3-0, to extend their winning streak to seven games.

Soccer: The Woods Charter were shut out by the Research Triangle Raptors, 3-0, to keep them winless on the year at 0-6.

Football: Chatham Central lost a lopsided game to the Wheatmore Warriors, 36-9, to keep the Bears winless on the season at 0-3. Read game report in this edition.

Football: Jordan-Matthews lost a road game to the Trinity Bulldogs, 48-6, to drop them to 0-4 on the season.

Cross Country: Northwood and Seaforth participated in the Friday Night Lights Festival in Kernersville against 98 other schools. Some highlights: Seaforth placed 6th in the Boys Open 5K (234 points, 1:34.30) with freshman Jack Anstrom winning the race with a time of 16:38.60, nearly 22 seconds faster than the second-place finisher. Seaforth had three runners, sophomore Lily Cox (5th, 15:02.80), freshman Zuzanna Mikolajec (7th, 15:12.60) and freshman Ava Belle Cox (21st, 16:10.40) in the Developmental Mixed 2 Miles. For Northwood, senior Caroline Murrell (1st place, 17:55.70) won the Girls Championship 5K and set a personal record time in the process.

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

## BILL

Continued from page B1

tions in the country.

The investigation also called into question the NCHSAA's endowment fund of \$26.5 million and what it was being used for.

It comes as no surprise, then, that the legislation would see the NCHSAA reducing annual fees to schools by at least 20% when the total fund balance is 250% of the organization's total expenses from the previous fiscal year, essentially limiting the amount of money it could have in the bank at one time.

It would also require that the NCHSAA retains no more than 33% of the net proceeds for state championship events and prevents it from obtaining corporate sponsorships outside of state tournament games.

"We believe that it would diminish our state championships for our student-athletes because of the ways in which we would have to change the manner in which we conduct our championships," Que Tucker, the commissioner of the NCHSAA, told High School OT in an interview on Aug. 27.

Under HB 91, Tucker and the NCHSAA appear concerned about whether or not the association could make enough money to cover its expenses for its state tournament and state championship events, since most of its championships are held at larger venues — namely colleges and universities — to account for space and provide a better experience for student-athletes. It may not be able to afford those spaces if HB 91 goes into effect.

The bill would also have other financial effects, including preventing the NCHSAA from issuing grants to schools, providing scholarships to student-athletes and fining athletic programs for any form of rules violations.

### 'You're really just punishing the kids'

Charter — and other "non-public" schools — have plenty of reason to be concerned with HB 91.



Tucker

The bill states that while charter and "non-public" schools will be allowed to remain members of the NCHSAA, in order to do so, they would have to be bumped up to the next highest of the state's four classifications (1-4A, which are also set in stone under the bill, as no other classifications are allowed to be added).

This means that schools like Chatham Charter and Woods Charter, both members of the Central Tar Heel 1A conference, would have to move into the 2A classification and compete against schools much larger than them.

"That's going to give us a very, very slim chance of competing with those other schools," Clint Fields, athletic director at Chatham Charter, told the News + Record on Monday. "We can compete at the 1A level, but you throw us in there with 2A schools, there's no chance. And the only stipulation of why we'd be in there is because we're a charter school? Now, to me, that's discrimination against charter schools."

Fields said he understood why athletic directors and coaches from some non-traditional schools are getting tired of charter schools

— especially those who recruit athletes from around the state — for their dominance in the 1A classification, but all charter and non-public schools shouldn't be lumped together and forced to play in a higher classification.

As of now, Chatham Charter's newly realigned conference — which began this year — consists of Woods Charter, Clover Garden, River Mill, Southern Wake Academy and Triangle Math and Science, all of which are charter or non-traditional public schools.

If bumped up, it's unclear whether the Knights' and Wolves' conference would stay intact or if the schools would be dispersed amongst other conferences in yet another realignment, causing potential travel and scheduling issues.

"Those are the types of things that I don't think many legislators are thinking about because of how they're lumping all of us into one basket," Fields said.

According to Fields, charter schools such as Chatham Charter would inherently be at a disadvantage against other schools like Jordan-Matthews or Seaforth simply due to the size of their student populations.

Based on the most

recent 10-day enrollment report from Chatham County Schools, Jordan-Matthews' student population is nearly 900 for the 2021-22 school year, while Fields said Chatham Charter only has around 200 high school students eligible for varsity athletics.

With a student population of nearly one-fifth of Jordan-Matthews', Fields said it's unrealistic to think the Knights could compete with the Jets or any team on its level on a consistent basis.

A non-conference game/match here and there is one thing, Fields said, but competing in conferences and postseasons with schools of that size is a tall task for both Chatham Charter and Woods Charter, which would be considered average — lacking any state titles — for most sports at the 1A level.

"That's not giving those kids a fair opportunity to compete," Fields said. "You just want to have an equal playing field as much as possible and give your kids the opportunity to be successful. ... But if you're just going to automatically put us with a 2A school and make us compete with them in everything, you're really just punishing the kids."

If HB 91 goes into effect and all of the non-tradi-

tional public schools are bumped up a classification — most of which are 1A schools that would move up to 2A — another major concern would be the over-saturation of schools at the 2A level versus a lack of schools at the 1A level.

Fields also wonders if a vast majority of charter schools would choose to break away from the NCHSAA to form its own athletic body.

These, among many other questions, are issues that have yet to be addressed by the state legislature as part of its conversations on HB 91 and how it'll all fall into place if the bill becomes law.

After passing through the Senate last week, HB 91 will now make its way through the N.C. House of Representatives, starting with the House

Education Committee. If it passes, it'll hit the desk of Gov. Cooper, who said in a press conference last Thursday that he already has concerns about the bill.

A three-fifths majority vote would be needed to overturn Cooper's veto, if he chose to do so.

"It's just one of those things that's in the back of my mind," Fields said. "Right now on a daily and weekly basis, I'm making sure that officials show up, that we don't have any COVID positives on our teams, that I've got someone to work the gate. ... Those are my main issues. My main worry each week is making sure I do my job."

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



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# Northwood's Jason Amy named N.C.'s Athletic Director of the Year

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has named Jason Amy as the state Athletic Director of the Year for the 2020-21 school year when he served as athletic director at Northwood High School.

The state awards are designed to recognize those who have done the most for high school athletics in the state rather than a single accomplishment or

having an outstanding record.

Amy, who's now the AD at Seaforth High School, had been a long-time athletic director at Northwood. In 15 years with the school — 11 years as the athletic director — Amy took on many roles, including that of a health/physical education teacher, varsity wrestling/women's golf coach and, of



Amy

course, athletic director.

The Chargers had one of their best years in recent memory in the 2020-21 school year, sending the men's basketball team to the state championship game and making deep playoff runs in football, women's basketball and several other sports.

This is the second major award given to Amy for his accomplishments at Northwood last school year, as he was also named the Big 8 Coach of the Year

for women's golf this past spring.

"We are extremely proud of Mr. Amy's honor," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. "It's representative of the hard work and dedication he puts in, and it's an award he truly deserves."

Tavares Toomer, NCHSAA director of business and finance, presented the award to Amy at the Monday's Chatham County Board of Education meeting.

## BEARS

Continued from page B1

Chatham Central have less time to catch their breath, being forced to take the field as a tired bunch to try to stop the opposition from scoring the ball.

"It's tough because you're out there a lot of the game," Crissman said. "(You) don't get many breaks."

"We didn't give the defense an opportunity to get rest," Chatham Central Head Coach Sherman Howze said. "What people don't understand is we're young."

Wheatmore head coach Philip Yarbrough said his offensive linemen are young, too. It showed in the first half when they committed a string of penalties that kept the Warriors from capitalizing in the red zone.

"After we kind of settled down, we played really well," Yarbrough said.

When the Warriors scored touchdowns, they always went for two-point conversions, except once.

Their regular kicker was injured, and his replacements are iffy, Yarbrough said.

"We just felt like the higher-percentage play was to try to spread



Chatham Central senior linebacker James Baker (2) tackles Wheatmore senior Perry Welch (with ball) in Bear Creek during the Bears' 39-6 loss to the Warriors last Friday.

'em out and find a little pocket to throw in," Yarbrough said.

The Bears couldn't stop it.

Howze, fresh off of a shutout loss to North Stokes on Sept. 3, tried to fix his offensive line.

Against Wheatmore, he had some of his veterans on the defensive side of the ball also put in work

for the offense, tasking them with blocking for Moore and senior quarterback Colton McKeithan. Then again, athletes playing both ways further facilitates fatigue.

"It's a growing situation here," Howze said. "It's going to come. It's going to come."

Until then, the Bears

will have to offset fatigue with moxie.

"Be competitive," Moore implored.

That's not some kind of pep talk. Moore is the team's top tailback but slid under center and played quarterback until McKeithan returned Friday from concussion protocol. And there was that sequence against



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Central sophomore linebacker Joaquin Gordan (center, in red) and sophomore Omar Browder (51) attempt to trap Wheatmore senior quarterback Ben Walker (with ball) in the pocket during the Bears' 39-6 loss to the Warriors last Friday night in Bear Creek. With the loss, Chatham Central falls to 0-3-1. Wheatmore improved to 2-1 on the season.

### NEXT UP:

Chatham Central (0-3-1) opens conference play in Burlington Friday in a 7:30 p.m. game against the Cummings Cavaliers (2-1)

Wheatmore when Moore not only kicked off to the Warriors but went and laid hands on the return man to stop his progress upfield.

"He's more than one-dimensional," How-

ze said. "He's an athletic kid, man. You've got to get the best out of your athletes."

It's exactly what Howze and his coaching staff are up against here at the midpoint of the season.

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# Performing under the lights



Submitted photo by Eric Hepburn

Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom (left, red) battles in the Boys Open 5K at the Friday Night Lights XC Festival in Kernersville, consisting of 100 high schools around the state, last Friday. Anstrom (16:38.60) won the Boys Open 5K by nearly 22 seconds for his second cross country victory of the season. Seaforth placed 6th as a team (234 points) in the Boys Open 5K.



Northwood senior Caroline Murrell poses for a photo with her medal after winning the Girls Championship 5K at the Friday Night Lights XC Festival in Kernersville last Friday. Murrell's time of 17:55.70 was not only a personal record for her, but also places her at No. 1 in the state for the 2021 season so far. She also became just the 20th girl in history to run a sub-18-minute time at Kernersville's Ivey M. Redmon Sports Complex.

Submitted photo by NCRunners

## FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

awful night that would have been. I'm sure he had planned this for weeks, but what awful timing. On Twitter, some fans of the 28-point favorites seemed to not appreciate

Scott's decision.

Thankfully, he didn't take it to heart and even posted the link to his gift registry for the wedding.

### Brigham Young ends the drought

Maybe it's time I mention

some actual football that was played on Saturday.

Before BYU played its in-state rival, Utah, on Saturday night, it had already been an exciting week. On Friday, BYU was invited to join the Big 12 Conference, a major move for an up-and-coming program. The

following day, the Cougars ended their nine-game losing streak in the Holy War with a 26-17 win at home. The win marked the school's second consecutive win over the Pac-12 after the school defeated Arizona in its first game of the season. While I'm not a BYU fan or have any ties

to the school, it was cool to see the excitement from the crowd as they stormed the field with an early season rivalry victory.

CN+R Intern Max Baker can be reached at [max@chathamnr.com](mailto:max@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@Maxbak-er\\_15](https://twitter.com/Maxbak-er_15).

## TEAM

Continued from page B1

who play any form of fantasy sport.

Some leagues have money as their final prize, others bragging rights and physical trophies. And then there are the gutsier football fans out there who choose to have punishments for the league's last-place team — such as getting a tattoo of the winner's choice or spending 24 hours in a Mississippi Waffle House — that are all in good fun ... at least for the other nine fantasy GMs that aren't having to suffer the punishment.

Fantasy football can be exhilarating, competitive and downright fun.

It gives you a reason to watch that (likely subpar

Jaguars-Texans game when you're a Panthers fan because you might have Houston's Mark Ingram II or Jacksonville's James Robinson on your fantasy squad.

It brings football fans together and keeps old friends in touch — as is the case for my group, which hasn't been in the same room together since high school yet talks to each other nonstop during the NFL season.

But then there's the darker side to fantasy football, perpetuated by those that take the game too seriously — in part because they might have big money riding on the season — and choose to take their anger out on the players themselves.

For example, New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley tweeted

a couple of heart emojis in response to a video the Giants' Twitter account posted of Barkley's daughter cheering him on ahead of the Giants' 27-13 loss to the Denver Broncos on Sunday. In that game, Barkley had just 10 carries for 26 yards, a rough performance for fantasy owners.

In the reply to that tweet, one Twitter user responded with, "You let me and this little girl down."

In another example, users responded to a tweet from Cleveland Browns wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. — who was declared inactive just before Sunday's game against the Kansas City Chiefs; he's not been fully healthy since tearing his ACL last season — calling him a "coward" for not

suiting up.

Every week, these replies pile up. On Instagram, on Twitter, wherever they may be, they're unacceptable.

If you're upset about a player's performance — especially because it hurts your fantasy football team — then that's O.K. It happens. But taking it out on the player by sending them threats, telling them they've disappointed their own family members and hurling insults isn't the way to go about it.

Months ago, I wrote a column condemning fans in the NBA for their dangerous and despicable behavior in the stands

towards athletes on the court.

This is no different. It may not be as serious as throwing trash at a player or berating their family members to their faces, but it's still just as appalling.

In addition — and maybe this is just a pet peeve of mine — don't get excited over player injuries just because they could help your fantasy team win one week.

As I've said before, athletes are humans, too. Let's treat them like it.

Overall, fantasy sports aren't a bad thing.

There are people out there who say they don't want to hear about your

fantasy football team at all because it annoys them or they don't care anything about it.

But I'm not one of those people.

You should be able to relish in your wins, sulk in your losses and vent to your friends, family members, pets and local postal workers to your heart's content.

But if you're planning to take the route of sending out a tweet wishing harm on a player or telling them you're disappointed in them all because they're on your fake team, just don't.

I promise *they* don't care about your fantasy football team.



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

September 16th through September 22nd

### Thursday, September 16th

- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly](#) at 1:00 PM 📶

### Friday, September 17th

- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 🕺

### Monday, September 20th

- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🕺 📶

### Tuesday, September 21th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🕺
- [Getting Active & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🕺 📶
- [Powerful Tools for Caregivers](#) at 3:00 PM (at WCSC) 🕺

### Wednesday, September 22nd

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🕺
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center (Pittsboro) and on Zoom) 🕺 📶

🕺 **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/](http://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/)

### Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program - Starting 9/28

Join the Council on Aging's Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program for an evidenced-based program to improve quality of life for those with arthritis. Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 am. For more information, contact Jackie Green at 919-542-4512 or [jackie.green@chathamcoa.org](mailto:jackie.green@chathamcoa.org)

### Drive Thru Immunization Clinics!

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September 20th (Siler City at WCSC)

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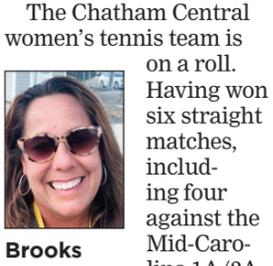
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THE CLIPBOARD | HEATHER BROOKS, CHATHAM CENTRAL TENNIS

# Fresh off of hot start, Brooks insists Bears could make regionals, run table in conference



**Brooks**

The Chatham Central women's tennis team is on a roll. Having won six straight matches, including four against the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference, the Bears look primed for a run at regionals this year. Chatham Central's top three players — junior No. 1 Livvy Brooks (6-0), junior No. 2 Ellie Phillips (5-1) and sophomore No. 3 Rachel Albright (5-1) — are a major reason for the team's on-court success this season, along with the doubles duos of Brooks & Phillips (5-1), Albright & junior Jaylee Williams (5-1) and sophomores Lauren Caviness & Samantha Scott (4-2). With Chatham Central's season in full swing, the News + Record sat down with 10th-year head coach Heather Brooks to discuss her team's early season success, her take on the Bears' new conference and her high expectations for postseason play. Conversation has been edited for clarity.

**After having graduated some of your strongest players over the off-season, your team is still 6-1 and managing to have an impressive start to the season so far. How are you feeling about the way this season's gone up to this point?**  
 HEATHER BROOKS: I'm excited. They're on the pathway to possibly being conference cham-

pions. We're undefeated in conference, our only loss this season was to Chatham Charter and we play them again. I just feel like we can only keep going up and getting better at this point in the season. We lost two seniors last year, so my team is very young. I only have three upperclassmen; everybody else are underclassmen and, of those, most of them started playing tennis last April when girls' tennis came around. They don't even have a year of experience yet. So to watch them play and give it their all is amazing.

**Who are some of the players that you're kind of the most impressed with and who have made the most improvement?**

The most improved, it's hard, that one's a hard one. Lauren Caviness is my No. 6 and she's playing amazing and strives. She comes to practice and she's the first one there and she's hitting on the back board. She's really diligent about trying to become better. And then also Rachel Albright; she started in April and she's playing No. 3 this year and she's killing it. She works. She works on Saturdays, she goes and plays. And then there's Jaylee Williams, she's No. 4 and she was doing golf and tennis, but she puts in the time and she's improving also.

They're all so coachable. Our No. 5, Samantha Scott, she came from Chatham Charter, so she had some middle

school tennis, which is very unusual. She's just perfecting her game and her strokes. And then the Nos. 1 and 2, Livvy Brooks and Ellie Phillips, they love the game and they have their goals to try to make it to regionals this year, that's a goal they started off with during their freshman year, and they're now playing No. 1 doubles and are a superb doubles team.

**Now that Livvy Brooks and Ellie Phillips have taken over the Nos. 1 and 2 spots after your two seniors graduated, what have you seen out of them in their six matches as the team's leaders?**

They both will dig to come out on top. For instance, Ellie was down at Chatham Charter. She lost a set, won a set and went to a third-set tiebreaker and came out and won. She really had to dig to win.

Livvy is undefeated, but, for instance, at Southwest Randolph, we played a 10-game pro-set and she was down, 8-2, but she just found her inner drive and came back and won, 10-8, so she won the next eight games. I don't think either one of them are thinking about what the girls did last year or how good they were, I think they're just focused on themselves, which is great because sometimes it's hard to step into that spot, especially as a junior stepping into Nos. 1 and 2 and having to play seniors. They've both

been remarkable.  
**With your team being 6-1 right now with plenty of success, what are your expectations for the rest of the season?**

I really expect to make it to the dual-team playoffs this year. Going into the East, the East is always a little bit weaker, so I feel like we could go a few rounds into it. I'd be ecstatic if we made it to regionals, but I also like to keep it real. So a couple of rounds in would be good. I really feel like Livvy and Ellie will go to regionals in doubles. Their goal is to make regionals and states this year.

My goal was to go undefeated in the conference, so as of now we've played everybody and we're undefeated. Our biggest competition has been Seaforth and we play them again in two weeks. I would really love to get a win against Chatham Charter on Tuesday. That's our one loss and that's Livvy and Ellie's one loss in doubles and, they'll tell you, they lost because they were just gassed from just playing it all out in singles. It was the first match of the season, so if they get the win next, they've improved. (Editor's Note: Results of the Chatham Charter-Chatham Central tennis match were not available by press time, check our website for updated scores.)

**What's your take on the new conference, the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A, and where your team stands among the competition? On top of that, you mentioned Seaforth being your toughest conference opponent, so what have you seen out of their team in their first season as a program?**

Seaforth came into the conference only having freshmen and sophomores and next year, I have a feeling they will be a big powerhouse in tennis. The rest of our conference is a little weak this year, which is really disappointing to me because we're in a 1A/2A split and you would hope that the 2As would be pretty good, but it is what it is. I've always said that 2As have been weaker than 1As in tennis. So in the new conference, it's kind of sad when you have two schools that don't even have a team, so that makes it a little difficult and that's why I go outside of those matches with Chatham Charter and Southwest Randolph so that the girls can get some good competition.

**You've mentioned Chatham Charter a couple of times and, as of now, you two are probably the strongest tennis programs in the county. What do you enjoy about going over there and**

## Heather Brooks

**ROLE:** Head Coach, Tennis  
**EXPERIENCE AT CHATHAM CENTRAL:** 10th season

**FROM THE COACH:** "(My favorite thing about coaching) is just watching the girls' excitement and joy when they win a match or when they play their best, that's what really gets it for me. Just watching their drive and determination makes me happy and that's what I like to see."

### NOTES:

- When she took over the job as Chatham Central's head tennis coach (men's and women's), Brooks had almost no tennis experience, but said she was "willing to learn."
- In 2016, one of her doubles teams — Courtney Williamson and Linsey Batten — won the NCHSAA 1A Women's Doubles Championship in her sixth season as head coach.

## Chatham Central Bears

**CONFERENCE:** Mid-Carolina 1A/2A  
**RECORD:** 5-1 (3-0 in Mid-Carolina 1A/2A)  
**UPCOMING SCHEDULE:**

- Wednesday, Sept. 15 vs. Lee County (non-conference)
- Monday, Sept. 20 vs. Jordan-Matthews (conference)
- Thursday, Sept. 23 vs. Southern Alamance (non-conference)

### playing?

It's a good rivalry. The girls, they're friends outside of the court. They go out on the court and both teams play probably the best tennis they've played all year and they have fun with it. Kelly (Eldridge) is a great coach and you always know you're going to go there and have good sportsmanship. The parents for both teams cheer for both team's girls. It's just a great environment, especially for high school tennis, when sometimes you don't have that going to other schools. Right. Last year, we split with them, we lost once and won once, and I'm hoping for the same this year. They've got a really strong team.

**This season, especially compared to last year when the schedule was much shorter, it seems like your team is playing a lot of matches closer together, including a back-to-back-to-back this week. This, on top of having just ended last year's women's tennis season in June, what effect, if any, does that have on your play?**

By Wednesday night, after three matches in a row, they will be all exhausted. It's hard. It's hard for them, especially if it's hot, and it's supposed to get hot again this week, so we have to do what we can and just hopefully condition and hydrate, be ready. But come Wednesday night, they will all be exhausted.

One challenge of the quick turnaround is a lot of the girls don't feel like they ever had any downtime. It's good to

take a little break, but then on the other hand, they also didn't have their offseason time to work and get better and improve. Really they only had about five weeks of the offseason before the first day of practice, so by the time you do try to rest a little bit, they didn't have time to go do extra tournaments or play on the side or all the stuff you would normally do during the offseason, which is normally from November to August.

**What gets you most excited for what's to come the rest of the season?**

First of all, just getting to play a full season, that makes me so excited because last year I really felt like the girls just didn't have enough attention with the boys overlapping by three weeks. It was hard. They didn't get the matches in the beginning and so now they have a full season. I'm looking forward to hopefully sending three players to regionals and us going to the dual-team playoffs.

I think it would be amazing for such a young team to go dual teams. And we should actually have a home bid the first round because we should finish No. 1 for the 1A part of the conference, so that would also be nice because, in the past, we have not been lucky enough to have the home bid. Two years ago, when we were regional runners-up, we didn't play single dual-team match at home in the tournament, so it'd be nice to actually be able to play at home.

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Fischer Pike, a student at A.F.E. Taekwondo Fitness Academy, earned his Kukkiwon certification during a belt testing ceremony on Aug. 28 at the studio. According to Antonio Ara, the studio's owner and Taekwondo master, "The Kukkiwon is the recognized governing organization for Olympic-style Taekwondo. Ownership of a Kukkiwon certificate demonstrates international acceptance of Taekwondo skills. This is the highest Dan level certification available in the world today."

Submitted photo

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

# Catching up with the Pittsboro's new club director

**BY D. LARS DOLDER**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro's new Boys & Girls Club has hired an executive director and will officially open to area youth in October.

Last month, the club achieved a critical, minimum funding goal of \$220,000 and was authorized by the county schools board of education to operate from a dedicated building at George Moses Horton Middle School. The last remaining major step was to hire a director.

"We're excited to announce the club has selected Traci Newby," said Pittsboro Commissioner Kyle Shipp, the driving force behind the club's formation, in a recent board meeting.

Newby will serve as the location's primary, full-time staff member with a team of part-time employees to help facilitate club programs.

"It was an excellent move by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina to hire Traci Newby for the full-time position of executive director for the Pittsboro club," Shipp told the News + Record. "His experience with the schools and the Boys & Girls Club is instrumental in helping us get the club open as quickly as possible. The boys and girls in Pittsboro will be served very well by his kind heart for kids."

We caught up with Newby to learn a bit more about his background and goals for the new Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club. The club will open to members on Monday, Oct. 18. Regis-

tration for area youth will begin from 3-6 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at George Moses Horton Middle School "and will continue each Wednesday leading up to the opening date," Shipp said.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is a national organization founded in 1860 "to enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens," according to the organization's website. The Pittsboro location can host about 80 children, according to Shipp.

**Let's start with just a bit about you and your background. Where are you from? Where'd you go to school? What were you doing before this? Etc.**

I am from Siler City and I am a 2013 graduate of Jordan-Matthews High School and completed my undergrad degree at Arizona State University in 2018 in Family & Human Development. Before this role I was employed at Pittsboro Elementary working with 1st as well as 2nd grade while also working at our Boys & Girls Club location in Siler City, where I have been with since 2018.

**How did you discover a career helping children was what you wanted to do?**

I discovered this career was what I was meant to do early on, actually. During my junior and senior years of high school I interned with Chatham County's CAUSE Camp as the assistant to the director and that role pretty much solidified it for me. Seeing how pas-

sionate she was for the children and being the voice they needed was a great perspective.

**Can you share with us some of your initial goals for the club, and give a timeline of what we can expect over the next few months?**

Some of my initial goals for the club are to first and foremost become that additional support for the Town of Pittsboro's families. Along with this, over the next few months I plan to work with local schools as well as other community organizations to provide various outlets and programming to the children of the community that align with our Boys & Girls Clubs national programs.

**What would you say to any families/parents considering whether they should join the B&G club?**

If they are seeking a safe place for their children to learn and grow in various aspects of their lives, then the club is the ideal location for them.

**Can you give sort of a day-in-the-life? What will the experience be like for children who sign up, and what are you and your team doing when the kids are still in school?**

A day in the life through the eyes of a Boys & Girls Club member will be coming in and enjoying a snack before working on their homework and other educational activities. Afterwards the members will join different program areas that can be art, physical education, science, etc., on a rotat-



Courtesy of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina

**Traci Newby has been named the executive director of the new Boys & Girls Club of Pittsboro.**

ing basis. While these program areas are being facilitated, our Boys & Girls Clubs national programs will also be offered, which can include Passport 2 Manhood, SMART Girls, Torch Club and Triple Play, amongst a host of others. While our members are in school, our staff is continually furthering themselves with training opportunities as well as planning and preparing for the members of the club.

**Any especially exciting programs coming to the club that kids can look forward to?**

A few programs that our members can look forward to are our Passport 2 Manhood

and SMART Girls clubs, which both focus on self esteem enhancement as well as character building within our male and female members, respectively. Other exciting programs coming to the club include the Torch Club and our Ultimate Journey program amongst others.

**What diversions from normal activity might we see at the club because of the pandemic's ongoing presence? In the same vein, what encouragement would you give parents and children concerned about safety?**

The diversions implemented within the club follow our state guidelines in relation to school guidelines as well. Just as

**'I would like to let families know that we at Boys & Girls Club put the safety of our members at the top of our priorities in every aspect of what we do.'**

**TRACI NEWBY, Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club Executive Director**

schools adhere to distancing and mask guidelines, we do as well, along with proper hand washing protocols implemented throughout the club. Along with this, our staff assures that each area is sanitized and clean throughout the day with emphasis on end-of-day cleaning. I would like to let families know that we at Boys & Girls Club put the safety of our members at the top of our priorities in every aspect of what we do.

**How can the community at large help out with the club's vision?**

We aim to become a beacon of support within the community and would love to feel the continued support. To make a donation to the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club, visit <https://qrco.de/PittsboroBGC> or send your contribution to P.O. Box 551, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312. To express your interest in having a child or children join the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club, fill out the survey at <http://qrco.de/PBGC-survey>.

Reporter D. Lars Dolder can be reached at [lldolder@chathamnr.com](mailto:lldolder@chathamnr.com) and on Twitter @lldolder.

# Gov. Cooper vetoes Republican-passed bill limiting school discussions on race

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

One week after being presented with House Bill 324, which included new rules for how public schools could teach students about racism, Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed the bill — criticizing the priorities of Republican legislators who pushed for it.

"The legislature should be focused on supporting teachers, helping students recover lost learning, and investing in our public schools," Cooper said in an email release on Friday regarding the bill. "Instead, this bill pushes calculated, conspiracy-laden politics into public education."

The bill, "Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination in Schools," was approved along party lines by N.C. Senate Republicans Aug. 26 and by the House on Sept. 1. It was presented to Cooper on Sept. 3.

On Friday, Cooper vetoed House Bill 324 along with House Bill 805, "Prevent Rioting and Civil Disorder." He also signed nine bills into law, including one that bans the shackling of pregnant incarcerated women.

Republicans don't have the votes to overturn the veto; though they have majorities in both chambers, they don't have the three-fifths supermajorities needed to override vetoes without support from some Democrats. Senate Democratic leader Dan Blue tweeted on Friday afternoon that Senate Democrats would uphold the vetoes.

House Bill 324 was first filed under a pre-existing bill on charter schools in March amid claims by Republican legislators that some teachers are trying to indoctrinate students using critical race theory.

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

The bill would have prohibited schools from "promoting" 13 concepts, including:

- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
- Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.
- The belief that the United States "is a meritocracy is an inherently racist or sexist belief, or that the United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex."

While Republican supporters said the bill was needed to combat the indoctrination of students, Democratic leaders said the bill was vague and would lead to a chilling effect for teachers. Many educators said the implications of the bill were not clear, calling into question who would be the judge of whether teaching promotes the prohibited concepts and whether the bill would cause teachers to censor themselves from teaching certain historical facts or events out of fear or

uncertainty. Some educators worried what the bill would mean for equity efforts in schools.

"One of the concerns with HB 324 was whether it could affect equity-related conversations to help address achievement gaps," said Chatham County Schools Public Information Officer Nancy Wykle in an email to the News + Record. "Chatham County Schools is continuing to focus on equity."

The bill also required schools to make information for instruction regarding the prohibited concepts available to the public at least 30 days before teaching any concepts prohibited in the bill, along with "contracting with or hiring speakers or diversity consultants for the purpose of discussing the prohib-

ited concepts or who have previously advocated for the concepts."

In a statement on Friday, Republican Senate Leader Phil Berger (R-Dist. 30) said Democratic opposition to the bill showed "how far off the rails the mainstream Democratic Party has gone." Berger was a primary supporter of the bill.

"It's perplexing that Gov. Cooper would veto a bill that affirms the public school system's role to teach students the full truth about our state's sometimes ugly past," he said.

Across Twitter, many educators and activists expressed gratitude for Cooper's veto. Chatham County School's Amanda Moran previously told the News + Record that the bill could potentially pose challenges in discussing "hard history."

"We are grateful for Gov. Cooper's veto of HB324, a desperate effort to stop speech and end study critical to educational equity for students at the time we need it most," said Katelin Kaiser, Voting Rights Counsel with Southern Coalition for Social Justice, in an SCSJ Friday release. "By vetoing HB324, the Governor has shown that he not only supports the lived experiences of the Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people, women and girls and LGBTQ+ individuals targeted by this bill, but also stopped lawmakers' attempts to whitewash the history of others."

Around the time the bill was originally proposed, some Republican leaders took issue with the state's new social study standards,

with some Republican state board of education members saying the "anti-American" standards would teach public school students that the nation is racist. Those standards have finally been adopted, Moran said, and the district is working to train teachers and communicate with parents about what the new standards will mean for schools.

"Chatham County Schools is not changing our movement in addressing achievement gaps or equity in schools," Moran said in an email Monday. "We will continue to give all kids the support they need."

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

## 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:

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- 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! !!

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

# Bloody 'Malignant' is a horror throwback that you won't see coming

The problem with the movie plot twist as a narrative device is that it has become too ubiquitous. They have become so expected among certain genres, particularly mysteries and horror flicks, that viewers spend much of their time trying to spot the twist coming around the corner. We're a long way removed from the cerebral shocks in films like "Psycho" and "The Sixth Sense," even if the latter's director has tried to build a career on twist endings.

It is no spoiler to say that the horror film "Malignant" takes a stab at the plot twist, because being armed with that advance notice alone isn't enough to enable audiences to guess what's happening. Indeed, so

deliriously deranged is director James Wan's big reveal that you'll delight in the fact that you're shocked even when you know the shock is coming.

That said, the description of a film being "a plot twist in search of a story" applies in spades to "Malignant." After an attention-grabbing cold open set in 1993, the story flashes forward to Madison Lake, a pregnant woman living in Seattle with her abusive husband. Soon after he cracks the back of her skull against a wall, an apparition snaps his neck in two. This unlocks a mystery over the identity of the shadowy killer, who hijacks Madison's psyche as he continues to kill.

Akela Cooper's screenplay slowly unspools the links between Madison, the killer — who goes by the name Gabriel — and his victims. Most paranormal horror films begin with tangible frights that end up finding their

**MALIGNANT**  
**GRADE:** B  
**DIRECTOR:** James Wan  
**STARRING:** Annabelle Wallis, Maddie Hasson, George Young and Michole Briana White  
**MPAA RATING:** R  
**RUNNING TIME:** 1 hr. 51 min.

origins in the supernatural. Wan and Cooper's nifty trick here is reversing that sequence, as "Malignant" starts out like an ethereal J-horror film before revealing itself to be outlandishly literal.

North Carolina native Maddie Hasson — who carries a passing resemblance of Florence Pugh — does fine work as Madison's sister Sydney. Meanwhile, George Young and Michole Briana White provide a



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Annabelle Wallis stars in 'Malignant.'

breezy comic air as two police detectives trying to catch the real killer.

After moonlighting for the "Fast and Furious" and DC Comics movie franchises, Wan is back in his element as the erstwhile director of the "Saw," "Conjuring," and "Insidious" films. The result is some B-movie schlock dressed up in blockbuster garb. Between the opening scene and the eye-opening

reveal, "Malignant" is a garden variety revenge slasher with standard-issue chills and thrills. The presentation is almost parody-worthy at times, and only Wan's panache keeps you interested enough to stick around for the denouement. Although the storyline requires a healthy suspension of disbelief, certain plot points — like the origin of Gabriel's electrokinesis — are

given the short shrift and seem to exist for the sake of narrative necessity.

That said, in a modern-day filmscape in which seemingly every horror film hammers home some wider social commentary, "Malignant" is a bit of a no-nonsense, bloody 1980s throwback with an updated FX sheen. And if you say you saw the ending coming a mile away, you're lying.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Superintendent launches series of public forums

Chatham County Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson is launching a "Relationships Matter: Superintendent's Listening and Learning" tour, a series of in-person and online meetings that will give residents the opportunity to express their opinions of the district's strengths,

challenges and future, as well as hear from Dr. Jackson about the core values and beliefs he brings to the district.

"I'm looking forward to talking with our community members about where we are finding success and where we need to focus more to meet our challenges," Jackson said in Chatham County Schools press release. "This will help us shape our future and en-

sure we continue to thrive and grow."

- The meetings are scheduled as follows:
- 6 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, via Zoom in Spanish
  - 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, at Northwood High School
  - 12 to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, via Zoom
  - 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at Jordan-Matthews High School

Masks will be required by all attendees at in-person events; child care and light refreshments will be provided. No preregistration is required.

Visit <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/relationshipsmatter> for more information and to access the online events.

— CN+R staff reports

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**-Blake Hogg,**  
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# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On September 1, Rashed Leantriney Farrar, 32, of 2063 Stockyard Road, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for possession of firearm by felon and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On August 31, Sebastian Franco Soto, 36, of 903 Staley Snow Camp Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for failure to appear regarding charges of speeding and driving while license revoked. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on September 10. Soto was also arrested by Deputy Mitchell for a second failure to appear for driving while license revoked. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Surry County District Court in Dobson on September 29.

On September 1, Herbert Ferrell Jordan, 54, of 1069 Hal Clark Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for misdemeanor probation violation. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 8.

On September 1, Charles Raymond Hart Jr., 53, of 8238 Pittsboro Goldston

Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Jonas Lassiter for domestic violence protective order violation. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 15.

On September 3, Shontay Lavar Cotton, 37, of 42 John Snipes Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for violation of pretrial release. He was held without bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on September 20.

On September 5, Roy Dean Maness Jr., 58, of 1066 Falls Creek Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for assault on a female and interfering with emergency communications. He was held on a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 15.

On September 5, Deidra Marie Adkins, 30, homeless, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for identity theft. She was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 13.

On September 6, Ricky Moore, of 47 Chester Street, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for animal cruelty. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Septem-

ber 15.

On September 6, Gerald Lee Greene Jr., 49, of 8108 Siler City Glendon Road, Bear Creek, 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 24.

On September 6, Mark Anthony Mize, 19, of 277 R.E. Wright Road, Snow Camp, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 21.

On September 6, Anton Malik Moffitt, 26, of 118 College Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy David Nixon for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on September 17.

On September 7, As-Shakoor La'beeb Hatcher, 23, of 604 Dublin Road, Asheboro, was arrested by Deputy Joseph Scott for trafficking opium or heroin, trafficking methamphetamine, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule I controlled substance, possession with intent to sell/deliver a schedule II controlled substance, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a schedule VI controlled substance, manufacturing/selling/delivering a controlled substance within 1000 feet of a school

and maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for a controlled substance. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on September 27.

On September 8, William Howard Payne Jr., 65, 2227 East 29th Street, Lorain, Ohio, was arrested by Deputy Mackenzie Abbott for stalking and domestic violence protective order violation. 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 September 8, Natalie Renee Ussery, 21, 1157 Tom Stevens Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Sturdivant for multiple failures to appear. She was issued: a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Montgomery County District Court in Troy on September 21; a written promise to appear in Randolph County District in Asheboro on October 1; a \$300 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 14; and a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 14.

On September 8, Steven Wesley Coscia, 50, of 2700 Slater Road, Morrisville, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for failure to appear. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 14.

## PITTSBORO COMMISSIONERS

# Could Pittsboro be heading toward a mask mandate?

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro could soon have a town-wide mask mandate should Mayor Jim Nass — or, in his absence, Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin — exert authority empowered by North Carolina's ongoing state of emergency.

In Monday's regular meeting of Pittsboro's board of commissioners, Baldwin advocated for instituting an indoor mask mandate in response to accelerating proliferation of COVID-19's aggressive delta variant.

"We are definitely concerned about the spreading of this Delta virus variant," she said. "... And I do actually support a mask mandate for (indoors). What we're trying to do is not to trample on anyone's rights, but ensure that there is safety for our children as well as the general public. Through the protection of the mask, we could possibly curb this continuous, contagious

virus."

The assertion introduced a new question for the board: can the mayor institute a mask mandate under his or her own authority?

According to Paul Messick, Pittsboro's town attorney, the answer is yes.

"There already is an ordinance that authorizes the mayor to do it as part of the state of emergency," Messick told commissioners. "He needs to set forth in a proclamation what the terms of the mandate are, so there needs to be some degree of specificity in that. But the mayor has the authority to do it now and presumably the mayor pro tem may have that authority as well in his absence."

Nass was not present in Monday's meeting following a medical issue the day before, Town Manager Chris Kennedy said. Town staff and the board of commissioners did not disclose how long Nass may be indisposed. Baldwin will preside over board activity in the interim, but said her

interest in a mask mandate reflects what Nass told her previously.

"Mayor Nass also was in favor of a mask mandate and he wanted me to let you all know that," she said.

Though neither Nass nor Baldwin would need board support to require masks, Baldwin asked for commissioner feedback.

Opinions were split. "I'm not in favor of this," Commissioner Jay Farrell said. "I think the citizens of Pittsboro can make their own decisions. If they want to wear a mask, that's fine. If they don't, if they're vaccinated or not vaccinated, I feel like that's putting too much pressure or too much mandate on our citizens. That's pretty much all I have to say about that, but I'm not in favor of it."

Commissioner Kyle Shipp objected to a mandate citing difficulties in effective enforcement.

"People will still do as they wish in regard to this in particular," he said, "and

I don't think we're going to change that behavior with a mandate."

Commissioner Michael Fiocco likewise "stop(ped) short of supporting a mandate."

"But I would like to encourage everyone to do the right thing for yourself and for your fellow Pittsborian," he said.

Besides Baldwin, Commissioner John Bonitz offered the only other fervent support of a mask mandate.

"I also favor the idea of a rule for requiring masks indoors at retail establishments in Pittsboro," he said. "... It is clear that the Delta variant is more contagious or virulent and the evidence for that is pretty clear."

Many of Chatham's surrounding communities have already enacted similar mandates. Orange and Durham counties were the first to require masks early last month, with Wake County soon following suit. Several cities and municipalities have added their own mask mandates, in-

cluding Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Cary, Garner and Zebulon.

The Chatham County Public Health Dept. is also urging residents to mask again and get vaccinated.

"The data can be overwhelming, but what is important to understand is that there are nearly as many cases of COVID-19 today as there have been at any point in the pandemic," CCPHD Director Mike Zelek said in a press release last month. "Hospitals are filling up, mainly with those who are not vaccinated. Cases are not contained to any setting or neighborhood, but 90% are among the unvaccinated. The answer to this problem is clear: Vax up and mask up."

As of Tuesday, 55% of Chatham County's population is at least partially vaccinated and 51% are fully vaccinated.

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

## SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

# Board approves UDO amendments, 5th Street repairs

BY D. LARS DOLDER  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The board of commissioners hosted a public hearing last Tuesday to amend sections of the town's unified development ordinance and authorized town staff to begin repairs on Fifth Street.

The board diverged from its usual Monday evening schedule in observance of Labor Day.

### UDO amendments

The town's unified development ordinance outlines most local regulations concerning land development and use, building construction, zoning, subdivision development, stormwater expansion and maintenance and natural resource conservation.

It was originally adopted in 1993, but amended in 2000, 2014, and again at the start of this year.

Last Tuesday, town staff requested the board further amend the UDO to permit extra parking spaces for multi-family, downtown residences.

"Currently it's one parking space for each

bedroom," Town Planning Director Jack Meadows told the board. "And for the most part we've been working with units downtown that are only one-bedroom units, so the ordinance has been relatively welcome by developers."

But plans for new housing are under way, consistent with the commissioners' big-picture objective to restore and enhance downtown's aesthetic and attract new residents.

"We got a new developer that wants to provide multiple-bedroom units," Meadows said. "The units we're talking specifically are right beside the Farmers Alliance."

The Chatham Ave. project will probably include about six units, he added.

To accommodate such new residences, town staff recommended Siler City adopt an amendment permitting 1.25 parking spaces for units with two or more bedrooms, rounded up to the next whole number "for the development". For example, a multi-family complex with four two-bedroom apartments would have

five dedicated parking spaces (1.25 x 4). Visitors would have to park in other downtown, public parking spaces.

The ratio of parking spots to bedrooms is consistent with similar ordinances across North Carolina towns, Meadows said, including Fuquay-Varina, Benson and Winston-Salem.

The board of commissioners voted unanimously to adopt and approve the UDO amendment.

### 5th Street repairs

In June, Siler City contracted McGill Associates, an engineering consultancy based in Raleigh, to evaluate a replacement project on the West Fifth Street culverts between Camelia Ave. and the railroad tracks. The tunnels convey water beneath the road away from Loves Creek Tributary 1.

Town Manager Roy Lynch reported last Tuesday a "failure of the roadway" from roadbed material eroding around the culverts. He recommended the board immediately approve a contractor to begin repairs.

The bids Siler City re-

ceived, he said, "were all based upon an expedited construction as we had asked to be completed in 45 days from the signing of the contract."

To fund the project, the board voted to approve a budget amendment and award a contract to SKC Inc., the lowest bidder, to complete road repairs for

\$149,960.

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

*Worth knowing.*

# Worth reading.

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FILM REVIEW | SHANG-CHI AND THE LEGEND OF THE TEN RINGS

# Your kids will flip over ‘Shang-Chi’ while it trips over a China divide

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO

Special to the News + Record



Courtesy of Marvel Entertainment

**Simu Liu stars in ‘Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings.’ The film opened to smash reviews and box office receipts, but it’s in a fight to make it to movie theaters in China.**

“The hero’s last name is Xu, so his real Chinese name would be Xu Shangqi. ‘Qi’ is pronounced ‘chee.’”

“Right, Lei, I remember ‘qi’—that powerful life force—when we were reviewing ‘Mulan.’ Your mom called in a qi master to help the force be with her.”

“Yeah, Buck, but Shang-Chi has qi on steroids.”

“So is Shang-Chi a hero you grew up admiring as a kid in China like I did Superman?”

“No, Buck, he’s an American comic book hero like Superman.”

“Oh, so nothing like Mulan, whose legend has been traced to a real girl. Maybe more like Raya and her dragon?”

“Right.”

“So have you taken your daughter, Ruby, to see the film in a Wuhan movie theater yet?”

“No, unlike ‘Mulan’ and ‘Raya,’ which we could see at the movies here for five bucks or less, ‘Shang-Chi’ hasn’t been approved for viewing by the authorities yet.”

“But those other films were available online

with Disney+ for \$30.”

“Not this time. ‘Shang-Chi’ is the first Marvel Studios movie to debut exclusively in theaters since 2019.”

“And what a debut! The film is a smash, certified as fresh on Rotten Tomatoes with a rating of 92 percent — not No. 1 like ‘Black Panther,’ but higher than ‘Captain America.’”

“I’m hearing different things about the box office — how did it do there?”

“Socko! ‘Shang-Chi’ set an all-time Labor Day weekend box office record in the U.S., bringing in \$94.4 million over four days, almost two-thirds of the \$150 million or so it cost Marvel Studios to make.”

“Labor Day for you was September 6. In China it’s May 1, 2022, so Ruby and I may get to see it in a theater by then.”

“What?”

“Just kidding. So far it looks like ‘Shang-Chi’ might be a casualty of our poor U.S.-China relations.”

“Why do you say that?”

“On Hong Kong’s online ticket platform, the film’s rating is pretty low, about only 3.6 out of 10, and official Chinese media declared it a bust at the box office.”

“Why would the film be so controversial?”

“Well, Buck, let’s start with Shang-Chi’s father. The Marvel Cinematic Universe framed the film as ‘a story of a young man with a dark past who is forced to reckon with his family’s secret history.’”

“And that family secret is?”

“Well, in the comic books, the father was an evil bastard who represented the ‘Yellow Peril,’ you know, the psycho-cultural menace representing an existential threat to the Western world.”

“Oh gee.”

“Yep, that was Fu Manchu, or ‘the Mandarin.’ The film, however, changes up the character of Shang-Chi’s father, gives him the surname Xu (pronounced ‘shoe’), makes him a more complex, humane and convincing dad, then nervously makes inside jokes about the comic books’ racist past.”

“Racist, eh?”

“The original comic books depicted Fu Manchu with a ridiculous moustache and a Qing Dynasty hat. Buck, we’re living in a world where Dr. Seuss got canceled for drawing a yellow man with a ponytail as a ‘Chinaman who eats with sticks.’ Remember?”

“Touché, Lei.”

“And, Buck, it doesn’t help that Shang-Chi’s father was striving for world domination.”

“Oh double-gee. Something’s telling me you may never see the film in theaters in China.”

“That would be a big blow to Disney. In 2019, with its release of ‘Avengers: Endgame,’ Disney earned 22% of its ticket sales from China.”

“I’ve read that China is cracking down on its entertainment industry lately.”

“True dat. The govern-

ment’s crackdown follows quite a few celebrity scandals in the past year. I think it is an attempt to create a more positive influence of idols and role models for the younger generation and to enforce socialist values.”

“So you think the government regulators are tracking so much criticism on social media from angry netizens about ‘Shang-Chi’ that it’s giving them pause?”

“I think Disney is in a dance with the authorities, hoping for Swan Lake, not swan dive.”

“Lei, I keep hearing Shang-Chi described as the ‘first Asian American superhero’ even though the actor playing him, the amazing Simu Liu, is Canadian and the actor playing his father, Tony Leung, is from Hong Kong.”

“Welcome to America, Buck. That’s how Disney does its branding — and money-making. Remember, it’s all fiction.”

“So, Lei, does the film’s imagery ring true as Chinese, or is ‘Shang-Chi’ a mashup of Asian cultures like ‘Raya and the Last Dragon’?”

“It’s definitely a mashup with Chinese characteristics.”

“What makes you say that, Lei?”

“Kung fu, sure, very Chinese, Taiji boxing, dragons, yup; sacred beasts, lanterns, ninjas from Japan or maybe they are actually wearing masks from the Beijing opera, bamboo forests, car racing, fight club, karaoke, jokes. It’s a typical Hollywood understanding of pan-Asian culture. I’d say this ‘Master of Kung Fu’ story is a Chinese dumpling with Thanksgiving turkey filling.”

“Everybody seems to be offended by something these days. Anything bother you?”

“Personally I don’t see anything offensive to the Chinese culture. And I quite enjoy the bus fight and the bamboo rack fight with Jackie Chan’s footprint all over it — just like you would see in his movies.”

“What about the meaning of life — any deep insights in the film?”

“Chinese believe that your true self is flawed, like a plant that needs constant trimming and pruning. The best life is

a transformative path of lifelong self-cultivation and self-discipline.”

“That doesn’t sound like Shang-Chi.”

“Actually I think his persona is the opposite of traditional Chinese values and philosophy. The Western concept of ‘self’ portrayed by Shang-Chi is to break away from the past, to be free from tradition, and to stay true to oneself.”

“Do you think the film, if it’s ever released, will be a hit in China?”

“Not like in the U.S. The movie’s focus group is Asian Americans. It can work as an olive branch to Asian American communities amidst all the anti-Asian sentiment and harassment, even violence.”

“But so many Marvel blockbusters have been smash hits in China in the past.”

“That’s true, Buck. I guess people, whether they be Chinese or American, are never tired of the highly commercialized vengeance stories. With Shang-Chi, you have a car-parking underdog rising to the top joining his spandex-wearing, hammer-carrying friends to save the world.”

“Any hope the film might be celebrated by the Chinese authorities, and you and Ruby will get to see it in a Wuhan movie theater soon?”

“Oh boy, Buck, it will take all 10 rings for that to happen.”

*About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, and Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, collaborate on articles to advance cross-cultural understanding. Ryan, who is doing a “participatory case study” of the News + Record, has been a visiting scholar at three universities in China, including Jiao’s WUT. To read prior reviews, go to:*

• <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/love-conquers-slings-and-arrows-aimed-at-new-version,6690>

• <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/raya-meets-camus-so-you-think-its-just-a-kids-movie-eh,8702>

*Editor’s note: Journalism professor Buck Ryan and English lecturer Lei Jiao — based in Wuhan, China — are back with their third film review for the CN+R as they seek the holy grail of cross-cultural understanding in these chaotic times. To catch up on their past lessons in Chinese history and culture, you can read their reviews of “Mulan” and “Raya and the Last Dragon,” the links for which are at the bottom of this story.*

“Hey, Lei, what’s up with all these rings?”

“Well, Buck, you know the leprechaun’s lament: ‘They’re always after me lucky charms!’ The film ‘Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings’ is something like that wuxia-style.”

“Wuxia?”

“Yes, wu (pronounced woo) means ‘martial’ and xia (pronounced shah) means ‘hero.’”

“So, Lei, wuxia is a style of storytelling?”

“Yes, Buck, film producer Peter Shiao says it best: It’s a fantasy genre of romanticism and poeticism from the East, the realm of the outsider, the wandering hero and champion of the common man who is compelled by circumstances to stand against injustice.”

“Awesome. While we’re talking Chinese, what’s up with the hyphen in Shang-Chi?”

“Yeah, Buck, that’s a tip we’re dealing with a hero who is a second-generation bilingual ABC.”

“ABC?”

“American Born Chinese.”

“Oh.”



## ABUNDANCE NC's 14th ANNUAL PEPPERFEST

SEPT. 19, 2021  
3-6 PM

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Scan for Tix!

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Chatham County Cooperative Extension offers free delivery service for state fair contest participants

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Cooperative Extension will offer a free delivery service to Chatham County residents who want to enter their goods and products in N.C. State Fair contests this October. The Pony Express is a convenient service that provides early and quick contest entry for Chatham community members.

Participants may drop off their non-perishable items to the N.C. Cooperative Extension Chatham County Center at 1192 U.S. 64 West Business, Suite 400, Pittsboro, between 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 or 5. Live or perishable exhibits such as flowers, livestock and cakes will not be accepted.

Participants are asked to follow these instructions for their submissions:

- Wrap and pack items securely for transport
  - Label boxes with participant name and phone number
  - Tape a copy of online receipt from N.C. State Fair registration, showing that the items being sent have been entered online. Please be aware of registration deadlines as many are in the month of September.
- Entries will be picked up at the N.C. Cooperative Extension, Chatham County Center, by Kaley Lawing, CRD/ 4-H extension agent, and transported to the N.C. State Fair for judging and display.
- For more information, interested residents may contact Lawing at [kblawing@ncat.edu](mailto:kblawing@ncat.edu) or read more at: <https://chatham.ces.ncsu.edu/2021/08/chatham-county-pony-express-free-fair-entry-delivery-for-chatham-county-residents>.

# Reives announces essay contest for Chatham high schoolers

The office of Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54) is hosting an essay contest to encourage civic engagement in young people across Chatham County. This contest will be open to high school students in Chatham who are interested in state and local government. "This essay contest is a great opportunity for high

schoolers in Chatham County to share what they know about state and local government, and maybe learn something new as well," Reives said. "We all know how important it is to learn about civics and how government operates from a young age. It takes everyone to make our communities work. That's why we want to provide this essay contest, as a chance for young folks to gain a sense of ownership around local

politics. This generation of students will be the leaders of tomorrow. I look forward to reading their essays and learning more about what is important to them."

### To enter the essay contest:

The essay is open to all high school students in Chatham County; the submission deadline is Oct. 22.

The essay is limited to 750 words. Applicants may choose one of these prompts:

- "If you were serving in the North Carolina State House, what issues would you work on and what would you try to accomplish?"

- "What are some important issues that state government tackles that some people may not be aware of?"

- "Why do you think a better understanding of how state government works is important for your generation?"

The winner will be recognized by Rep. Reives and invit-

ed to the General Assembly for a visit.

Submit the finished essay in either a Word Document or PDF with the file named with your name, e.g. RobertReives.doc. When submitting, please include your name, school, grade and an email address for contact at the bottom of the essay.

Applicants may only submit one essay.

Submission link: <https://bit.ly/RepReivesEssay>

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 © 2021 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 37, No. 41

## KID SCOOP CAREERS SERIES PLUMBERS

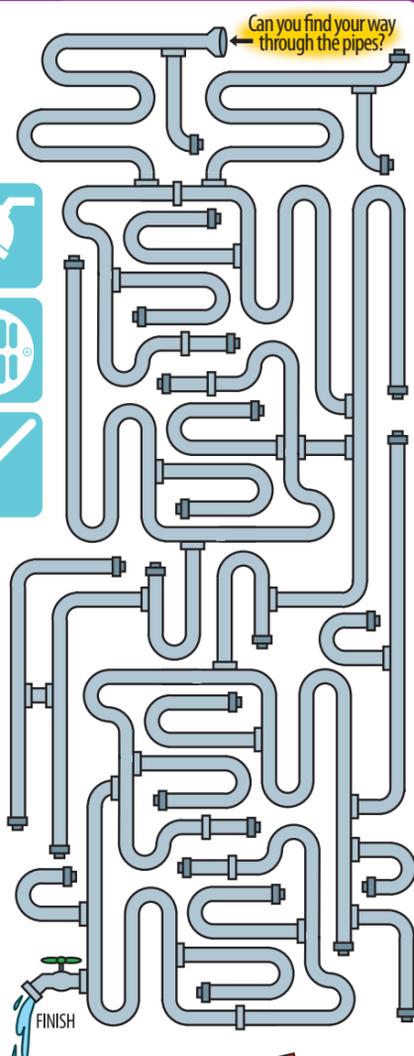
What do you want to be when you grow up? Have you ever thought about being a plumber?

Have you ever turned on a water faucet? Taken a bath in a tub in your house? Flushed a toilet? If so, it's thanks to the skill of a **plumber!**

Plumbers are the people who install and repair the pipes that are needed to bring water in and out of your home, school and other buildings.

You have probably seen pipes under a sink, behind a toilet or even at a school drinking fountain. These pipes carry water to and from sinks, tubs, toilets, washing machines, water heaters, dishwashers, drinking fountains and more within a building.

How many of these things can you find in your home? Go on a plumbing search with a parent!



### How do I get to be a plumber?

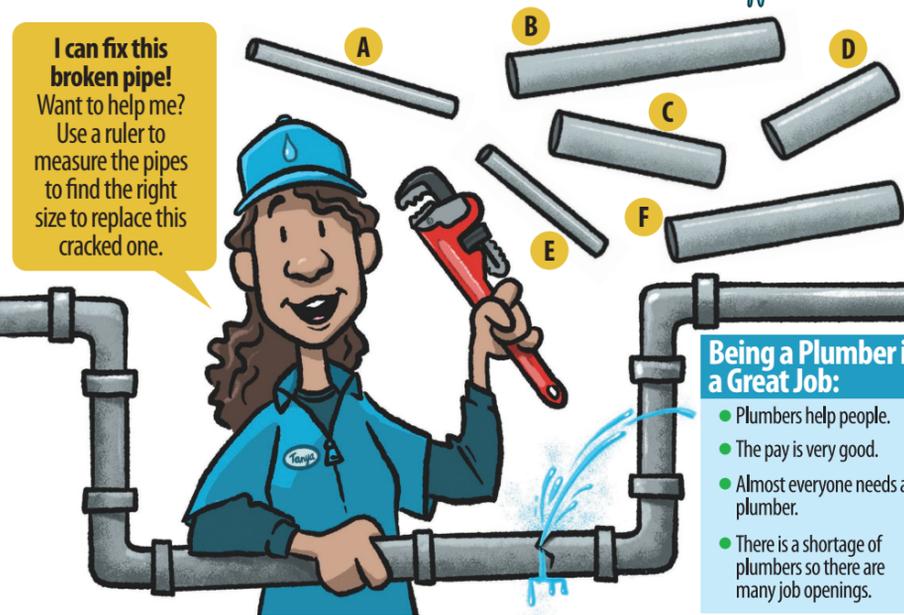
Plumbers earn a special certificate in order to practice their **trade**. A plumber learns the trade and earns a certificate by becoming an **apprentice** to a master plumber.

The master plumber teaches the apprentice plumber skills needed for the job. After learning as an apprentice, plumbers must pass a special exam to become a **journeyman** plumber. A journeyman can work freely as a plumber.

Read the above and match each word to its definition.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. JOURNEYMAN _____                        | 2. TRADE _____  | 3. APPRENTICE _____  |
| A. A job that involves a particular skill. | B. Someone who works for somebody else to learn that person's skill or trade. | C. A worker who has learned a trade and passed an exam to prove their knowledge. |

I can fix this broken pipe! Want to help me? Use a ruler to measure the pipes to find the right size to replace this cracked one.



### Being a Plumber is a Great Job:

- Plumbers help people.
- The pay is very good.
- Almost everyone needs a plumber.
- There is a shortage of plumbers so there are many job openings.

### Trade or Trade?

The word **trade** has more than one meaning. It can be a kind of a job or it can be the act of exchanging or buying and selling goods.

Look through the newspaper for words that are spelled the same, but can have different meanings.

Make a list of the words and write down one or more meanings for each word.

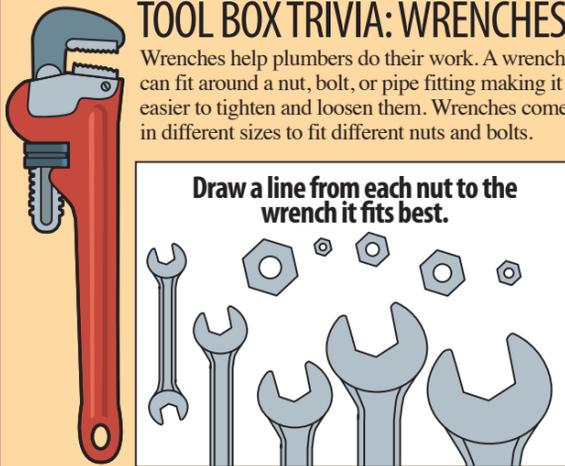
Standards Link: Homophones are words that sound alike but have different meanings and spelling.

### Kid Scoop Puzzler

#### TOOL BOX TRIVIA: WRENCHES

Wrenches help plumbers do their work. A wrench can fit around a nut, bolt, or pipe fitting making it easier to tighten and loosen them. Wrenches come in different sizes to fit different nuts and bolts.

Draw a line from each nut to the wrench it fits best.



### Double Double Word Search

- APPRENTICE  
 SHORTAGE  
 PLUMBER  
 WRENCH  
 TRADES  
 MASTER  
 FAUCET  
 PIPES  
 SINKS  
 WATER  
 BATH  
 EXAM  
 TUBS  
 BOLT  
 NUT

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

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

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.

Standards Link: Reading/Writing: Draw evidence from informational text.

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For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit [kidscoopnews.org](http://kidscoopnews.org)

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# 14th annual PepperFest set for Sunday

Abundance NC's PepperFest is set for 3-6 p.m. Sunday at The Plant, at 220 Lorax Lane in Pittsboro. For a quick preview, we checked in with Ally DeJong, Abundance NC's executive director. For more information, go to <https://pepperfestnc.org>.

## Remind us what Pepperfest is all about...

PepperFest is a celebration of the vibrancy and yield of the abundant and nutrient-dense Carolinian-grown pepper. We support small and regenerative agriculture and highlight our foodshed and all who make eating local possible.

We buy our peppers at market value from farmers, then deliver them to top chefs and beverage artisans who then create mouth-watering dishes showcasing their own unique talents. We have attendees from all over N.C. who complete the full circle nature of this event by tasting, judging and enjoying the day of multi-layered connection.



Courtesy of Abundance NC

## Ally DeJong, the executive director of Abundance NC.

We're excited to be back in person and throwing down at The Plant.

## The event will be different this year after 2020's COVID-limited gathering, right?

We are going to make this event as safe as possible while introducing the samples and tastings back into the Festival. Last year we missed the community weaving that happens when we get connected and join together — business owners, farmers and Fest-go-

ers alike!

We will have volunteers committed to monitoring crowds and congestion, keeping the flow moving, and gently reminding people to wear masks between sampling and staying distant. We have to learn how to gather and protect one another in the process.

## What are the highlights to look forward to?

We will have live music with Colin Cutler and Diali Cissokho & Kaira Ba, an acrobatic Imagine Circus performance, an



## This year's PepperFest will be held Saturday in Pittsboro.

artistic educational and cultural walk-through, a 21+ lounge, a kids' zone with a cooking class and

pepper arts and crafts by Circle City Supper Club, vendors, a small farmers' market and fun for the

entire family.

Those who come will get to partake in all the small businesses at The Plant, including the Chatham Beverage District's distillery, cidery, meadery and local beers, Copeland Spring Farms and Kitchen, Chatham Axes, Carolina Hemp Tours, HempSmith, Oak City Hemp, Tick Warriors, Vortex Brew, Smelt Art Gallery and BMC Brewing.

## What else do folks who are interested in attending need to know?

Several things. Kids under 12 get in free; it'll be held rain or shine. No pets, farm animals or outside alcohol is allowed. And it's an increasingly waste-free event — please do not bring materials to PepperFest that cannot be composted or recycled. If you do, please pack it out with you.

A limited number of general admission tickets are still left; the cost is \$55.

To get tickets, go to <https://pepperfestnc.org>.

## FYI about the pepper

Bell peppers are loaded with various vitamins and minerals; in fact they are a superfood and if you really wanted to, you could avoid scurvy by eating peppers and not importing far away oranges and grapefruits!

- Vitamin C. One medium-sized red bell pepper provides 169% of

the Reference Daily Intake (RDI) for vitamin C, making it one of the richest dietary sources of this essential nutrient.

- Vitamin B6. Pyridoxine is the most common type of vitamin B6, which is a family of nutrients important for the formation of red blood cells.
- Vitamin K1. A form of vitamin

K, also known as phylloquinone, K1 is important for blood clotting and bone health.

- Potassium. This essential mineral may improve heart health.
- Folate. Also known as vitamin B9, folate has a variety of functions in your body. Adequate folate intake is very important during pregnancy.

• Vitamin E. A powerful antioxidant, vitamin E is essential for healthy nerves and muscles. The best dietary sources of this fat-soluble vitamin are oils, nuts, seeds, and vegetables.

• Vitamin A. Red bell peppers are high in pro-vitamin A (beta carotene), which your body converts into vitamin A.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### HHS expands advisory group to include Chatham's Platt

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the appointment of new members to fill vacant positions on the Tick-Borne Disease Working Group, including Dr. Jennifer Platt of Chatham County.

Platt, the co-founder and executive director of Tick Borne Conditions United, and CEO and founder of TickWarriors, was one of seven new Public/Special Government Employee members sworn in by Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Rachel Levine during the August 26 meeting.

The 21st Century Cures Act, enacted in December 2016, authorizes the HHS Secretary to establish a Tick-Borne Disease Working Group to serve as a federal advisory committee. The Working Group is tasked with reviewing federal efforts related to tick-borne diseases, examining research priorities, and identifying and addressing unmet needs.

The Working Group is required to submit a report to the HHS Secretary and Congress on their findings and any recommendations for the federal response to tick-borne disease every two years. The first and second reports can be found on the Working Group's website. The 2022 Report to Congress and HHS will be the third and final report.

"I contracted ehrlichiosis in 2011," Platt said. "It was debilitating. That experience and the experience of thousands who have shared their stories with me is why I strive every day to reach healthcare providers, patients, and the public through education, research, and advocacy at Tick-Borne Conditions United ([www.TBCUnited.org](http://www.TBCUnited.org)). During the Tick-borne Disease

Working Group's first couple of years, I was often the lone voice for the devastating disease and disability caused by the lonestar tick across the southern U.S. That is changing. Our voices are being heard. It is an honor to serve alongside the other experts and advocates on the Working Group."

Platt has nearly three decades of public health leadership practice in policy and program development, implementation, and evaluation; her domestic and international experience spans local, state, and federal levels of government, and both the private and nonprofit sectors. She specializes in using systems thinking approaches to solve complex problems. Platt grew up in the Arkansas Ozarks and has lived in North Carolina's Piedmont region for nearly 30 years. Both of these areas have a high prevalence of the lesser-known tick-borne conditions such as Alpha-gal Syndrome, rickettsial diseases, and ehrlichiosis.

While working on her doctorate in public health from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2011, Platt contracted ehrlichiosis. She was later confirmed to also have Lyme disease and babesia. After finishing her doctorate in 2012, Platt's personal experience with tick-borne illness led her to create TickWarriors in 2016, which provides eco-friendly tick protection for people, pets and property. The pervasive need for education, research, and advocacy led Platt to co-found the nonprofit Tick-borne Conditions United in 2018. TBCU strives to bridge the gap between patients and emerging science and the desperately needed education for healthcare providers and the public.

Platt is also a board member of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation.

— CN+R staff reports

## 'A MINI FIESTA' Hispanic Liaison's health fair vaccinates 200 more people against COVID-19

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Hispanic Liaison, in partnership with Greensboro-based medical provider Better Care, vaccinated more than 200 people during its COVID-19 Health Fair on Saturday, blowing the nonprofit's original expectations out of the water.

"It was crazy. It was way above our expectations," Ilana Dubester, the Liaison's founder and executive director, told the News + Record. She added with a laugh, "When we changed from Fiesta to this, it was like, 'Well, you know, let's hope 50 people show up.'"

From 2 to 6 p.m. in the Chatham Rabbit Cafe courtyard, Better Care providers administered 259 vaccinations and rapid antigen tests, most of them first doses. The health fair replaced the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta, which the Liaison canceled in early August due to the rising threat of the Delta variant.

Beyond free rapid antigen testing and vaccinations, the health fair hosted a variety of vendors, several information booths staffed by various health organizations and Mexican-American artist Antonio Alanis, whose artwork is now on display inside the N.C. Arts Incubator until Oct. 15 in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"We had, I think, six to seven outreach booths from organizations, and they were awesome," Dubester said. "They came really well prepared. They had goodies to give away to the community. We had food boxes from CORA and La Semilla. The group from La Semilla also came with school supplies. We had a whole table of goodies to give away to kids, like soap, sunscreen and books."

The event also offered vaccination incentives to the unvaccinated and vaccinated alike. Once doses were administered, newly vaccinated participants received a \$100 visa gift card from the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services, plus a box of food from CORA. Those already fully or partially vaccinated could receive a box of food as well if they brought others to get vaccinated.

According to Dubester, those incentives, plus extensive community outreach, likely factored into the health fair's unexpectedly large crowd and number of vaccinations. The demand for vaccines far outstripped the event's supply.

"We realized early in the event that (Better Care) had brought extra shots, like they always do bring extra shots, but even the extra shots were not enough," Dubester said. "So Dr. (Phillip) Hobb, who owns Better Care, drove back to Greensboro to pick up more vaccines, so that we could serve everybody because there were so many walk-ins."

In total, she estimated that between 350 and 400 people, including entire families, came to the health fair — a figure she said amounted to a "mini-Fiesta."

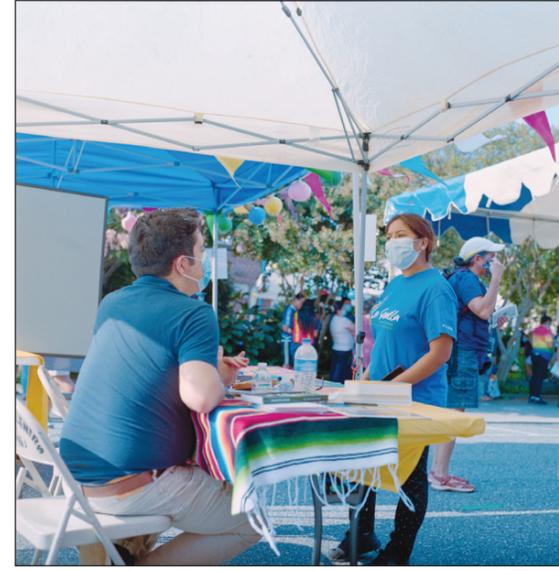
"The majority were Latinos, but there were definitely other community members who came to get vaccinated, which we're very pleased with, because it was for everybody and we certainly wanted them to feel welcome," Dubester said. "Cesar (Merlos), our DJ, also kept us going with announcements and good music. It was good."

The Liaison and its partners will hold a second-dose vaccination clinic from 2 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 9 in the Chatham Rabbit Cafe courtyard. To avoid long lines, staff will



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Noemi Mora (right) and Selina Lopez of the Hispanic Liaison register people for COVID-19 testing or vaccination at the Liaison's COVID-19 Health Fair in downtown Siler City last Saturday.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Fatima Camacho (right), a community health worker with the Durham-based organization La Semilla, speaks to Mexican-American artist Antonio Alanis during the Hispanic Liaison's COVID-19 Health Fair last Saturday in downtown Siler City.

schedule those registered to attend for certain times slots throughout the afternoon.

"We're not planning on having an event like we did this time," Dubester said. "It's just straight-up shots, no information

booths ... We'll communicate with everybody who came via text message to let them know about the October 9 (event)."

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).

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## FOR SALE

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## YARD SALES

**INSIDE SALE - PAPERBACKS PLUS!** 208 E Raleigh St., Siler City - Saturday, September 18, 10:30 to 5 p.m. - Table toppers/runners, jewelry, glassware, lamps, women's XL clothing, coats, new dog leashes and collars. S16,1tp

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## HELP WANTED

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**CHATHAM MONUMENT COMPANY** has an immediate opening for a monument installer. Work involves digging monument foundations, mixing cement and installing monuments. Work is generally Monday through Friday, 8 to 4:30 p.m. but some weekend work is necessary. Please apply in person to: Chatham Monument Co. Inc., 227 N 2nd Avenue, Siler City. Jn24,tfnc

**HOMECARE SEEKING**, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay. CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call 919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

**HELP WANTED - EVENINGS & WEEKENDS**, Please inquire in person: Country Mart, 320 W. Raleigh St., Siler City, NC or Desperados, 602 North Second Avenue, Siler City A29,tfnc

## LEGALS

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** HAVING QUALIFIED, as Administrator CTA, of the Estate of **SANDY L. MOON, a/k/a SANDRA FAYE MOON-BLOX-SOM** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before November 30, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 26th day of August, 2021. Ronald P. Collins, Administrator

tor CTA of the Estate of **Sandy L. Moon a/k/a Sandra Faye Moon-Bloxsom** 117 West Raleigh Street Siler City, N. C. 273444 (919) 663-2533 Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 231** All persons having claims against **EDWARD HERMAN SILER, SR.,** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of August, 2021. Edward Herman Siler II, Executor c/o J. Ray Deal, Attorney Deal Law Firm 3017 South Church Street Burlington, NC 27215 Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 467** All persons having claims against **ANN RIVES ZAPPA**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 26th day of November, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 26th day of August, 2021. Cynthia Cole, Executrix 281 WB Cheek Dr Chapel Hill, NC 27517 Au26,S2,S9,S16,4tp

**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 S2,S9,S16,S23,4tp

**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 S2,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,

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY C. L. PISCITELLO**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons,

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY C. L. PISCITELLO**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons,

Attorney at Carolina Family Estate Planning 201 Commonwealth Court, Suite 100 Cary, NC 27511 S2,S9,S16,S23,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 456** All persons having claims against **TOMMY JOE KEITH**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th 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 2nd day of September, 2021. Carletta Jo Keith, Executor c/o Steve Lackey, Attorney 410 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Chapel Hill, NC 27514 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **MARY C. L. PISCITELLO**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons,

## CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

**Line ad deadline** Tuesday — Noon  
**Display ad deadline** Monday — 5 p.m.  
**Rates and payment** Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.  
**Blind ads** No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.  
**Errors** In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Marcus

## 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.

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

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**Chatham News + Record**

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Remodeled 8/15/21

3.63 Acres of land. 592sqft of heated space. Timber has not been cut.

**336.674.3210**

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## ESTATE AUCTION of the Late Sherry M. Nelle's (LIVE, ON-SITE AUCTION, ALL BIDDING TO TAKE PLACE IN PERSON)

Saturday, September 18th at 9:00am  
Preview, Friday, September 17th, Noon to 6:00pm  
112 Cedar Run, Pittsboro NC 27312



There are 500+ Quality Item Box Lots at this sale! 50+ Pieces Janet Resnik Pottery, Antiques, Furniture, Craft Supplies, Yarn, Fabric, Over 100 New Fleece Blankets, Books, China, Glassware, Jewelry, Christmas Décor, Morgan and Peace Silver Dollars, Husq. Mower, Stihl Chainsaw, Craftsman Pressure Washer, Plus More!



**SCOTT L. HARRIS, AUCTIONEER - BROKER, NCAL #8420**  
Cell (919) 498-4077 • www.JerryHarrisAuction.com • Firm #8086

Hudson, Attorney at Law, 641 Rock Creek Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, on or before the 10th day of December, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This 9th day of September,

2021. WILLIAM M. PISCITELLO, EXECUTOR ESTATE OF MARY C. L. PISCITELLO C/O Marcus Hudson, Attorney at Law 641 Rock Creek Road Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

S9,S16,S23,S30,4tc  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **EDITH HAMMOND**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 29th day of August, 2019, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 9th day of December, 2021, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 9th day of September, 2021. Edith Hammond Holloman, Personal Representative c/o Catherine L. Wilson, Attorney for the Estate McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC, 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tc

made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions. Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312. S9,S16,2tc

**NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** All persons having claims against **PATSY H. THOMPSON** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 11th day of May, 2021, are notified to present them to Trust Bank, Executor of the Estate of Patsy H. Thompson in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before December 9, 2021. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Patsy H. Thompson. Those indebted to Patsy H. Thompson are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate. David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tp

on an absentee request form (available on the State Board of Elections website and at the county board of elections office) and must be received in the Chatham County Board of Elections office by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday prior to the date of the election. Absentee voting requires the voter to complete an application on the return envelope that must be witnessed by two qualified persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Chatham County Board of Elections by Tuesday, November 2, 2021, 5:00 p.m. on Election Day (ballots received by mail after this time will be timely if received within three business days and postmarked by Election Day). Voters may receive assistance voting a mail-in absentee ballot from a qualified person of their choice. If the voter lives in a facility such as a nursing home, and the voter near relative or legal guardian is not available, the voter or the facility can arrange to have the county board of elections schedule a visit by a Multipartisan Assistance Team to provide assistance and witnesses. Voters voting in person are entitled to assistance by an election official, or, if assistance is needed due to disability or illiteracy, by a qualified person of their choice. Voting sites are accessible to all voters. Curbside voting is available for voters who are not able to enter voting sites. All persons who live in eligible municipal districts and who are registered to vote with the Chatham County Board of Elections may vote in this election. Persons who are not already registered to vote in the county must register by Friday, October 8, 2021 5:00 p.m. to be eligible to vote in this election. Voters who are not registered in the county by that deadline may register and vote during one stop early voting only and will be required to provide documentation of their residence. Voters who wish to change party affiliation or who have changed name or address must do so by the registration deadline. Voters who fail to timely make a change in name or address in the county must update the information when presenting to vote and may be required to vote a provisional ballot. Persons with questions about registration, polling places, early voting, absentee ballots, a Multipartisan Assistance Team visit to a facility, or other election matters may call the Chatham County Board of Elections Office at 919-545-8500. Laura Heise, Chairman Chatham County Board of Elections S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

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**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE** A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, September 20, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chathamcountync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below: Legislative Request: 1. A second legislative public hearing for a Conditional District Compact Community rezoning request by Herndon Farms One, LLC for an active-adult (55 and older) compact community with 161 residential units, congregate care facility, one-story office/daycare, community gardens, and barn for events on approximately 97.86 (previously 96.86 acres) acres being Parcels 93852, 2752, 18750, 18897, 18896, and 18909, located on US 15-501 N split by Williams and Baldwin townships. Substantial changes may be

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** 21 E 359 All persons having claims against **LEXTON JACKSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th 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 2nd day of September, 2021. Carlos Jackson, Administrator 500 Smith Level Rd, Apt S-6 Carrboro, NC 27510 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** 21 E 359 All persons having claims against **LEXTON JACKSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th 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 2nd day of September, 2021. Carlos Jackson, Administrator 500 Smith Level Rd, Apt S-6 Carrboro, NC 27510 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** 21 E 359 All persons having claims against **LEXTON JACKSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 9th 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 2nd day of September, 2021. Carlos Jackson, Administrator 500 Smith Level Rd, Apt S-6 Carrboro, NC 27510 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tp

**Career Opportunities Available**  
Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.

**HIRING CNA's 2ND & 3RD SHIFT**  
CALL: 919-542-3151  
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview.  
Pittsboro Christian Village  
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

**PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS**  
Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.  
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919-542-5410  
TDD 1-800-735-2962  
Email: [pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com)  
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of **JOHN WALTER ETCHISON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of December, 2021, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 3rd day of September, 2021. Rachel E. Etchison, Executrix of The Estate of John Walter Etchison 60 Mt. Vernon Hickory Mountain Rd Siler City, North Carolina 27344 Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee, Attorneys at Law PO Box 1806 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312 (919) 542-5605 S9,S16,S23,S30,4tp

**NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA** A municipal general election will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, Chatham County to vote in the following contest: Municipal Offices. Town of Pittsboro: Mayor, Town of Commissioner (2 seats), Town of Goldston: Mayor, Town Commissioner At-Large, and Town Commissioner Ward 1, and Ward 3. and Goldston Gulf Sanitary District Board (2 seats). Photo ID is not required in any election in 2021. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the day of the election, Tuesday, November 2, 2021. One-stop early voting will be held at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in lieu of the Chatham County Board of Elections Office. One-stop early voting will be open from Thursday, October 14, 2021, and ends Saturday, October 30, 2021. DAY

**DATE HOURS**  
THURSDAY October 14, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY October 15, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
MONDAY October 18, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
TUESDAY October 19, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY October 20, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
THURSDAY October 21, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY October 22, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY October 23, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
MONDAY October 25, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
TUESDAY October 26, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
WEDNESDAY October 27, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
THURSDAY October 28, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY October 29, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
SATURDAY October 30, 2021 8:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
Canvass will be held in the Chatham County Board of Elections office at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Absentee voting by-mail available on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Requests for an absentee ballot must be made

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** 21 E 471 All persons having claims against **PATRICIA STAFFEN YELL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of September, 2021. David Yell, Executor 100 Bill Ash Rd. Moncure, NC 27559 S16,S23,S30,07,4tp

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY** Having qualified on the 20th day of August 2021, as Administrator of the Estate of **MELICENT HUNEYCUTT-VERGEER**, 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 18th 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 13th day of September, 2021 W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Melicent Huneycutt-Vergeer S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

178 Windstone Pittsboro, NC 27312 c/o Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO** The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, September 27th, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock via Zoom to consider the following items: 1. Proposed Rezoning: 1911 NC Highway 902 (REZ-2021-06) Rezoning request for parcel 7037, totaling 2.82 acres, located approximately 1.1 miles west of the NC Highway 902 and NC Highway 87 intersection, to change from R-A2 (Residential Agricultural - 2 acres) to C-M1 (Light Industrial Conditional Zoning). The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendment may be made

Estate of Melicent Huneycutt-Vergeer  
178 Windstone Pittsboro, NC 27312 c/o Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO** The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, September 27th, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock via Zoom to consider the following items: 1. Proposed Rezoning: 1911 NC Highway 902 (REZ-2021-06) Rezoning request for parcel 7037, totaling 2.82 acres, located approximately 1.1 miles west of the NC Highway 902 and NC Highway 87 intersection, to change from R-A2 (Residential Agricultural - 2 acres) to C-M1 (Light Industrial Conditional Zoning). The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendment may be made

following the public hearing. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. The Zoom link can be found on the Town's website under Agendas & Minutes, then by selecting the Meeting Materials for the September 27th meeting. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at [Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov](mailto:Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov) by 4 p.m. on September 27th, 2021.

S16,S23,2tc

**CHATHAM SELF-STORAGE**  
Pursuant to N.C. Statute 44A shall conduct a public sale of storage units #16, and #38, located at 222 Old Lystra Rd., Chapel Hill, NC in Chatham Co. Sale will be conducted at 10:00 AM on the 10th day of October, 2021. All successful bidders shall take possession and remove contents of space immediately. For information on summing a bid, call 919 932-6208. Contents of units: miscellaneous and household items.

S16,S23,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 462**  
All persons having claims against **SHIRLEY ANN LUCAS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are

notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of September, 2021.  
Joseph Lee Perry, Executor  
4107 Bullhead Road  
Apex, N.C. 27502

S16,S23,S30,07,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
All persons having claims against **RICK IAN SUBERMAN** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on June 25, 2021, are notified to present them to Karen Suberman, Executor of the Estate of Rick Ian Suberman, in c/o Michael S. Munson, Attorney for the Estate, at Munson Law Firm, PLLC, P.O. Box 4312, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27515, on or before October 14, 2021. Failure to present a claim in a timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Rick Ian Suberman. Those indebted to the deceased are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

Michael S. Munson  
Munson Law Firm, PLLC  
P.O. Box 4312  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

**NOTICE OF CO-EXECUTORS TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
James H. Bryan, Jr., and William R. Bryan, having qualified as Co-Executors for the Estate of **AUBIN REDFIELD SANDER**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, at the address indicated below, on or before December 16, 2021, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said estate should please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 16th day of September, 2021.

James H. Bryan, Jr., and William R. Bryan  
Co-Executors of the Aubin Redfield Sander Estate  
Schell Bray PLLC  
P. O. Box 21847  
Greensboro, NC 27420  
C/O Amy H. Kincaid  
SCHELL BRAY PLLC  
230 North Elm Street, Suite 1500  
Greensboro, NC 27401

S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO**  
The Pittsboro Town Board of

Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, September 27th, 2021 at 7:00 pm. The Public Hearing will be conducted remotely via Zoom, a teleconference software, for the following item: Town Staff is requesting a text amendment to the Pittsboro Unified Development Ordinance:  
1. Proposed Text Amendment: Affordable Housing (ZTA-2021-05) The proposed amendment seeks to organize and define the Affordable Housing incentives the Town of Pittsboro wishes to implement. The latest draft includes an increased density bonus and the creation of a table depicting available incentives to developers. The purpose of the legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendment may be made following the public hearing. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. The Zoom link can be found on the Town's website under Agendas & Minutes, then by selecting the Meeting Materials for the September 27th meeting. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town

Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at [Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov](mailto:Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov) by 4 p.m. on September 27th, 2021.

S16,S23,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 527**  
All persons having claims against **SHIRLEY E. CARAWAY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 16th 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 16th day of September, 2021.  
MARY O. WOODALL, Administrator  
111 Sierra Ct.  
Durham, NC 27704

S16,S23,S30,07,4tp

**BONLEE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL MEETING**  
The annual meeting of all property owners in the Bonlee Volunteer Fire Department will be held on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bonlee Fire Department. The purpose of this meeting is to elect two new members to the Board and conduct the general business of the Bonlee Fire Department. All property own-

ers in the Bonlee Volunteer Fire Department District are urged to attend this important meeting. Bonlee Volunteer Fire Department  
185 Bonlee-Bennett Road  
Bonlee, NC 27313

S16,S23,2tc

**INVITATION TO BID**  
S.J. Louis Const., Inc. is soliciting subcontract and material bids for the Wastewater Transmission System Improvements Contract 2 Project - Pittsboro, North Carolina. Bid Date/Time: 2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 21, 2021. Qualified DBE/MBE, Approved SLBE, and small business firms are encouraged to submit bids. We are seeking subcontractor and vendor quotes for Hauling/Trucking, Asphalt Milling/Paving, Traffic Control Aggregates, Concrete Material, Clearing/Grubbing, Erosion Control. Please contact us if you need any assistance in obtaining bonding, financing, insurance, equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services. All qualified bidders will not be discriminated against due to race, age, religion, color, sex or country of origin. Specifications and Plans available at [www.sjlouis.com](http://www.sjlouis.com). Fax bids to (320) 253-3533. Please contact us at (320) 253-9291 ext. 361 for additional information.

S16,1t

# Mountaire Farms to become sponsor of Jordan-Matthews FFA

From Jordan-Matthews High School

**SILER CITY** — As the oldest high school in Siler City, Jordan-Matthews has a prominent FFA organization on campus that has nearly 70 members. Future Farmers of America is a youth organization that prepares its members for leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Over the years, FFA at Jordan-Matthews has won several awards on the local, state, and national level.

The poultry industry has been the anchor industry in Siler City for generations and that has only continued with the arrival of Mountaire Farms in Spring of 2018, the world's fourth-largest poultry processing plant that calls Siler City home. Mountaire Farms was one of the first sponsors of the Jordan-Matthews

High School FFA Club for the 2021 school year.

"We sent letters home with each of our members hoping to gain support from the community," Jordan-Matthews' FFA Advisor Marguerite Fields said. "We offered different sponsorship levels and were hopeful when we added a disclaimer to contact us if you wanted to donate more than what was on the form. Shortly after, I received an email from Mountaire Farms saying that they were happy to help."

After announcing that they were the Premier Athletic Sponsor for Jordan-Matthews High School and wanted to continue to build that partnership, Mountaire has continued to support students in any way that they can.

"Mountaire wants to support our employees and the community," said Sasha Duncan, Mountaire Farms' communi-

ty relations manager. "I received multiple sponsorship letters from employees who have kids who are students at Jordan-Matthews and in FFA. We're excited that we can continue to give back to this high school and Siler City."

Jordan-Matthews FFA sponsorships help the chapter cover costs for local, regional, and national dues, competitions and events, feed and supplies for their hands-on learning experience in the Animal Science class, field trips to the North Carolina State Fair and Farm Show, and an end-of-year banquet.

Looking forward, the partnership between Jordan-Matthews and Mountaire Farms will continue to grow. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor of the Jordan-Matthews High School FFA Club, reach out to [mfields@chatham.k12.nc.us](mailto:mfields@chatham.k12.nc.us).

**Jordan-Matthews FFA Advisor Marguerite Fields, along with FFA President Auburn Campbell and members Anthony Byrd and Miller Barnes, receive a sponsorship check from Mountaire Farms Community Relations Manager Sasha Duncan and Carl Barnes, the company's director of operations.**

Courtesy of Jordan-Matthews



# Siler City's 5th annual 'Fall-O-Ween' set for Oct. 29

CN+R Staff Report

**SILER CITY** — Siler City Parks and Recreation will treat the community with its 5th annual Fall-O-Ween event from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 29, at the Bray Park Sports Complex. This family-friendly event will be sure to get the whole family in the fall spirit with lots of candy, trunk r' treating, inflatable attractions, music, food trucks, games, and more. Event admission is free.

Trunk r' treating activities will offer a free and safe trick or treating experience where children can stroll trunk to trunk and booth to booth, visiting various community organizations and businesses for free candy, and learn more about their amazing community services. Free games, inflatable attractions, and hayrides will also be available. Delicious food from food trucks and concessions will be available for purchase. Remember to wear your Halloween costumes!

Siler City Parks and Recreation is seeking businesses, organizations, agencies, churches, non-profits, and civic groups to register as trunk r' treat vendors. Greet attendees with candy, treats, and any free promotional information regarding your services. Registration is free and available online at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org), in City Hall (311 N. 2nd Ave.) or by emailing [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org).

Daniel Spivey

Vendors must pre-register to participate. The deadline to register your trunk is 5 p.m. on Oct. 28. The safety of all participants and park patrons remains a top priority for the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department. Please be advised, operations are subject to modifications to adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

In the event of inclement weather, the event rain date is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 30.

In addition to the event, Siler City Parks and Recreation will also host the 2021 Halloween Costume Contest where all ages are encouraged to submit your Halloween Costume photos for

a chance to win prizes! Submissions must be emailed to [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org) by midnight on Saturday, Oct. 31. Submissions will be automatically entered into the contest and a winner will be randomly drawn on Nov. 1. Prizes will be given to the first-place participant(s) in the following categories: ages 0-4, ages 5-10, ages 11-15, ages 16+, and family/group (all participants must be in costume).

For more information, follow the event on social media, contact Daniel Spivey with the Town of Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, by email at [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org), or visit the town website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org).