

Chatham News + Record

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How enforceable is Pittsboro’s mask mandate? Not very.

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Pittsboro instituted an indoor masking requirement two weeks ago, becoming the only Chatham municipality to pass such ordinance since Governor Roy Cooper’s statewide restriction loosened in July. But enforcing the mandate? It’s proving challenging. “Hopefully, for their health and the health of people around them, people will wear their masks,” Pittsboro Police Chief Shorty Johnson told the News + Record. “But there are just some people

who are not going to wear masks, you know?”

The challenge for Johnson and his staff is the same they faced throughout most of the pandemic when North Carolina’s state of emergency called for masking in most public settings.

“We can’t ask questions as far as health or things like that if someone isn’t wearing a mask,” Johnson said when asked about seeing someone not adhering to the mandate. “It’s hard to know if someone has an exemption or what the circumstances are.”

Without grounds for enforcement, the mandate — issued under Mayor

Jim Nass’ executive authority, per the ongoing state of emergency — is more symbolic than peremptory.

“It’s just more of a message of what we would like citizens, or the people in town, to do,” Johnson said.

But that’s not to say the mandate is totally impotent. It does empower one group of people to take a harder stance on masks: business owners.

“It’s basically up to the store owners or business owners if they have someone come in not wearing a mask,” Johnson said. “If they don’t want either to serve them or do business with them, then they can ask the person to leave.

If the person doesn’t leave and (the business) calls us, the person could be charged with trespassing.”

Many shop owners and managers, such as Mary DeMare of downtown’s New Horizons Trading Co., had maintained mask requirements even before the town’s institution of an official mandate. But they’re grateful to see the town’s official support.

“I appreciate the town taking this step and getting our back on this,” DeMare said. “I mean, otherwise we were sitting out here kind of alone trying to

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‘Tangible accomplishments’ toward Siler City’s revitalization

Wren Farrar nears completion of major development goal

BY D. LARS DOLDER
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Wren Farrar’s vision for Siler City’s renaissance is finally crystallizing after years of planning behind the scenes.

The great-grandson of L.L. Wren — one of Siler City’s pioneering, industry leaders of the early 20th century — Farrar has long vowed to resuscitate his ailing hometown. The first major step toward that goal is nearing completion. His company, Wren Industries, has almost finished renovations of several properties from 114 to 120 West Raleigh Street that will soon house a 16-unit apartment complex, a butcher’s shop and fine-dining brewery.

“This time last year we were still in the planning phase of everything,” Farrar told the News + Record. “We hadn’t started any of our projects — the apartment units, brewery, restaurant — and we were just right at the starting point of starting construction.”

More than a year and a half in pandemic complicated his plans, but development hasn’t wavered.

“We’ve just kind of had to take it on the chin and we’re plowing through,” Farrar said of would-be pandemic setbacks, such as wildly inflated materials costs. “I mean to us it’s more important to just go ahead and get our certificate of occupancy, get everything completed and get them up and renting.”

To populate the multi-million dollar commercial spaces, Farrar partnered with Chris Beal, director of operations at Tribeca Hospital-



Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

‘A lot people have their brew pubs,’ said Chris Beal, who is partnering with Farrar on the Siler Station project. ‘But we’re going to have hand-cut steaks ... shrimp and grits, and probably a pan-seared salmon, using local farmers’ own produce when we’re in season.’



Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

Siler City developer Wren Farrar will open several new downtown establishments in coming months, including a restaurant and brewery.

ty, which owns and operates Cary’s Tribeca Tavern, Fayetteville’s Mash House Brewing Company and WCC Cafe — a restaurant on the Carolina Hurricanes’ training grounds in Morrisville.

Beal, who grew up in Goldston and now lives on a 50-acre farm in Silk Hope, is another born-and-bred Chathamite looking to improve the county he loves.

“We’re just two local guys coming together to try to do something we hope the community is proud of,” he said.

Pending permit approvals, Siler City residents should see the first of the duo’s new projects, a butcher shop called Chatham Meat Company, by the end of December. Sometime in early 2022, an adjacent restaurant and brewery will open: Siler Station, “which comes from the original name of the town,” Beal said.

“A lot of people have their brew pubs,” he added. “But we’re going to have hand-cut steaks,

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IN THIS WEEK’S PAPER

The 2021-22 edition of ‘Chatham Life’ magazine is included in this week’s edition. This 48-page glossy magazine is the News + Record’s annual lifestyles publication focusing on Chatham County. It’s published in partnership with the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.

Climate change is impacting Chatham. What’s the county doing to prepare?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

As the impacts of climate change continue to be felt on a national scale, Chatham County is not immune — particularly with significant development and population growth expected over the next 20 years.

“Chatham doesn’t just exist in a vacuum,” Chatham Environmental Quality Director Kevin Lindley told the News + Record. “As climate change impacts other places, we can expect it to impact us here too.”

The average global temperature has increased about 1.8°F since 1895, with most scientists attributing this warming to increases in carbon dioxide (CO2) and greenhouse gas emissions due to human activities, and it’s projected to rise by as much as 4°–8°F — under current emission rates — by the end of this century.

In North Carolina, the annual average temperature has increased by about 1.0°F since 1895, according to the 2020 North Carolina Climate Science Report (NCCSR), which was led by the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies to support Governor Roy Cooper’s Executive Order 80 on climate change and clean energy. The most recent 10 years in the report (2009-2018) are the warmest 10-year period, the report said, with recent data indicating that 2019 was the warmest year on record for the state.

The News + Record is unaware of any studies which examine Chatham’s climate specifically, but a 2019-20 Chatham greenhouse gas

See **CLIMATE**, page A7

For Chatham immigrants, learning English takes time, commitment and courage

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

When Mexican immigrant Elena Gonzalez speaks English, a sprinkling of Spanish flavors her voice, much like the fruit with which she tops her prize-worthy chocoflan cakes.

Sometimes, a singular “la” might escape when she opens her mouth to speak — but just for a second, until she reels it back in. Other times, she might begin a sentence with “entonces (so),” or “bueno (well).” Perhaps in the heat of the moment, she might throw in “pero,” instead of “but.”

“I try to open my mind — and my tongue, too,” Gonzalez joked. It’s taken her years of formal,

informal English instruction and self-study to arrive at her current grasp of the language. Like many immigrants, when Gonzalez first arrived in Siler City in 1999, she spoke little English — and though she wanted to learn, many barriers stood in her way.

First and foremost among them? Fear.

“In my mind, all (the) time, I say (to) myself, ‘English is not for you. English is not for you. English is not for you,’” Gonzalez, 62, told the News + Record in English. “And when my neighbor is coming by my house, ‘Quiet!’ because I am scared. I cannot say hello. I cannot say good morning. This is very difficult for me.”

See **ENGLISH**, page A6



Staff photo by Peyton Sickle

The Hispanic Liaison’s Elena González, 62, sits with her Chatham Literacy tutor, Patty Poe (right), inside The Alliance in downtown Siler City. González gathers there most Wednesday mornings for about two hours to improve her English with Poe.

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 Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, at the historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.
• The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 11, via Zoom.

OTHER

• **Chatham County Public Libraries** has reinstated its pre-COVID hours of operation at all three branch locations.
• **Chatham Community Library** is offering free online classes on Microsoft Word in October. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found by clicking on class titles below or by visiting www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses.MicrosoftWordBasics, Part 1: October 13, Wednesday, 3:00 pm - Microsoft Word Basics, Part 2: October 20, Wednesday, 3:00 pm and Microsoft Word: Beyond Basics: October 27, Wednesday, 3:00 pm.

• 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/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 or contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at 919-742-2699 or email recreation@silercity.org.

THURSDAY

• **St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

OTHER UPCOMING

• **Siler City Parks and Recreation** announces that on Friday, Oct. 22, the movie "Trolls World

Tour" will be shown at Bray Park. 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. 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 Pittsboro 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.
• **Central Carolina Community College:** The next 8-week class session begins Oct. 15. To register for courses, contact your advisor or the Admissions office at 919-718-7300 (Lee Main Campus), 919-545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus), and 910-814-8827 or 910-814-8867 (Harnett Main Campus). You can also connect with an Advisor virtually by visiting www.cccc.edu/admissions/contacts/ or visit us in person at any Main Campus. See www.cccc.edu/12and8/ for a list of classes.
• **Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy** will host its annual Celebration of Lights drive-through fundraiser on Dec. 4 at St. Julia Catholic Church in Siler City, from 6-7 p.m. Celebrate the season outdoors with a live band playing holiday favorites and a bilingual Christmas message, all from the safety and comfort of your own vehicle. Luminaries will be on display during the service, guiding vehicles along the drive through holiday experience. The parking lot opens at 6 p.m., and visitors can drive through to look at the luminaries, or stop for the brief message. Admission to the event is free, and luminaries can be purchased for \$10 each. 100% of the sale of luminaries will be used for prescription drug purchases, which are then dispensed to patients through Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy. Purchase your luminar-

ies by calling Patricia at 919-663-0177. If you are purchasing luminaries in memory or in honor of someone and would like the name to be included in the program for the service, please do so by November 30.
• 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.
• JMArts hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

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

Scout News

• **Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit www.bstrop93.org for more information.
• **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets on from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
• **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

CORRECTION

An article in the Sept. 30 print edition of the News + Record entitled "Evidence of community COVID spread in Chatham schools still scant" incorrectly

described Chatham's charter schools as private schools. Charter schools are public and free for students to attend. The News + Record regrets the error.

FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

A plate-selling fundraiser to benefit Fred Taylor of Siler City will be held from 11 a.m.

CHURCH NEWS

to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the First Missionary Baptist Church, Siler City. The church is located at 914 MLK Jr. Blvd.

Meal options include fish, barbecue or chicken with sides, drink and a dessert. Taylor was paralyzed in an automobile accident.

Taylor Heeden joins CN+R's newsroom

To replace Lars Dolder, who's joining the News & Observer

CN+R Staff Report

Goldsboro native Taylor Heeden is joining the staff of the News + Record as a reporter, covering Pittsboro and Siler City government and producing other news and feature stories for the newspaper's print and online products. She comes to the CN+R after a stint as a reporter at The Johnstonian News, where she covered government and worked as a general assignment reporter.

News + Record Publisher Bill Horner III said Heeden will replace D. Lars Dolder, who's leaving the News + Record for a position as business reporter at the News & Observer in Raleigh.

"I hope to be able to bring awareness of decisions impacting the Chatham County community, as well as provide a platform for those whose voices historically have been overlooked," said Heeden, whose first day with the News + Record will be Monday, Oct.



Submitted photo

Taylor Heeden

11. "I also want to showcase the amazing things happening in this community by telling the stories of the people who live here."

Heeden, a 2020 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, described herself as "passionate about telling the stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in their community, as well as keeping communities aware of the decisions being

made impacting them."

When not typing furiously on her laptop to make deadlines, Heeden said she can be found watching true crime docuseries while sipping on a cup of coffee or her favorite tea.

Dolder worked as a stringer for the News + Record before joining the staff full-time last October.

"In the year that he's been here, Lars has done remarkable work for us," Horner said. "He came here as an experienced writer but developed into one of the finest reporters I've ever worked with in a very short time. He's been part of this incredible team we're trying to develop here and we'll miss him and his talents greatly. The News & Observer is lucky to have Lars, and he has a great future ahead of him."

Horner said Heeden comes to the News + Record with strong recommendations from journalists he knows in the industry.

"Taylor already knows some of our staff and I'm excited about her enthusiasm and her capacity for producing a lot of compelling stories," he said. "She'll help us continue to meet our objective in being the key source of news and information for and about Chatham County."



Submitted photo

Northwood's Civiletti wins award

Noah Civiletti, a senior at Northwood High School was chosen to participate in the highly selective 2021 Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics (SVSM), a research-based program for academically talented North Carolina students who have demonstrated an interest in and aptitude for pursuing science and mathematics in higher education and careers. SVSM is administered by the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. After completing the summer research and submitting a research paper, his group was chosen as the winner of the 2021 Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics Catalyst Award, presented by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for outstanding performance in research

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SILER

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which are local and pasture-raised. We're offering shrimp and grits, and probably a pan-seared salmon, using local farmers' own produce when we're in season. So having handcrafted and local food that's not just bar food, on top of being able to have the brewery aspect of it, it's going to be pretty unique."

Planning for the complex and other downtown projects began as early as 2015, but little had changed in the public eye before now.

"So finally we're really starting to see some tangible accomplishments," Farrar said, "insofar as getting tenants and the restaurant brewery and hopefully a lot of people living downtown will be enjoying what Siler City has to offer."

'Only the beginning...'

The restaurant-brewery-apartment project, known as Wren Corner Properties, will include streetscape improvements and other area enhancements to elevate downtown's aesthetic. All of it, though, is "only the beginning of hopefully even bigger things to come," Farrar said.

"Our vision is really just to do whatever we can within our means and our existing real estate portfolio to revitalize the historic downtown central

Our vision is really just to do whatever we can within our means and our existing real estate portfolio to revitalize the historic downtown central business district of Siler City.

WREN FARRAR, *commercial developer*

business district of Siler City," he said.

Farrar's primary focus is the North Chatham Avenue commercial corridor, where his company owns several properties, including the 56,000 square-foot Roland Thomas industrial building, which later housed Dinette World. Farrar would like to see the building reworked into a communal space akin to Raleigh's Morgan Street Food Hall or Transfer Co. Food Hall.

"Maybe putting in something like that and a nice, permanent farmers' market with vendor stands," he said. "Or potentially we're looking at partnering with a group to do a bourbon distillery."

Other options include a Bavarian-styled beer garden, an event venue, a restaurant, a fitness gym and loft apartments on the second floor.

Whatever the final selection, tenants will have to match Farrar's "master plan," which encompasses two, complementary objectives: First, secure



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Farrar's renovations include space for 16 downtown apartments, which are nearly ready to welcome tenants.

"anchor tenants" — strategic businesses such as restaurants, breweries and distilleries — to promote revived interest in Siler City's downtown. And second, develop improved real estate options to accommodate the new residents downtown will attract.

"So that's the sort of two-pronged approach of getting the people here," Farrar said, "giving them a reason to be here and then giving them housing and lodging opportunities to live in."

Siler City has long suffered from stagnancy compounded by the loss of industrial jobs. An infusion of fresh activity and commerce will combat the town's slumping trajectory, Farrar hopes, and encourage

more civic engagement.

"I think with the combination of getting people downtown full-time, 24/7, with more activities and whatnot, and the last year when all the businesses closed down and folks saw what that did," he said, "people are going to want to take care of their neighborhoods. They're going to take care of their downtown. They're going to want to maintain it and for it to be a beautiful place for living and playing and working."

Town representatives agree. For years, Siler City's board of commissioners has sought to reignite the town's once-thriving industrial backbone and resurrect the commercial scene. A central focus of the commissioners' strategy has

been downtown's revitalization, and Farrar's agenda is making their lives easier.

"The town is excited and appreciative of their desire to improve and revitalize the downtown business district, along with other areas of Siler City," Town Manager Roy Lynch said of Farrar and his partners. "It is refreshing for those developers with a vision to give rise to a need and play a role in economic and social development. The mixed-use concept will have an essential, positive impact on the downtown area."

Soon, Farrar hopes, Siler City and its downtown will resemble the bustling town he grew up in. And he's proud to play a role in guaranteeing Siler City's future health, much as his great-grandfather did 100 years ago.

"We're very excited for the future of Siler City and we're excited to be in a position where we can do this redevelopment and contribute to the revitalization efforts," he said. "Siler City has always has been special. Maybe it's been a couple of decades since that has been really quantified or qualified, but I think we're at a point where it's really going to become a neat place to be and a special place to live."

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

MANDATE

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have people wear masks. So, this is really helpful."

About 90% of patrons respected New Horizons' in-shop mask requirement even before the new mandate, DeMare said, and most others would comply after she or another worker asked. DeMare hopes those who may have resisted in the past will feel the weight of a town-wide restriction, but she's disinclined to involved police except in the most extreme circumstances.

"Short of something happening like in one of those stupid viral videos of people yelling at each other because of

masks or whatever, I can't imagine that in Pittsboro we're going to need to use the police for this situation," she said. "That would be the absolute last resort. I'm not even considering it as an option, really."

The town's decision to introduce a renewed mask mandate was in response to worsening proliferation of the COVID-19 Delta variant, which has ravaged North Carolina in recent months, according to Nass.

"The virus is surging through our community and adjoining communities, and it is our responsibility to take appropriate steps to protect public health and safety," he said in a press release announcing the mandate. "Wearing a mask is a simple step

we can all take to protect the health of our loved ones, especially children who are not old enough to receive the vaccine."

Many of Chatham's surrounding communities earlier passed similar ordinances. Orange and Durham counties were the first to require masks back in August, with Wake County soon following suit. Several cities and municipalities have added their own mask mandates, including Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, Cary, Garner and Zebulon.

The town's mask mandate will remain in effect without expiry.

"We hope to be able to rescind this mandatory mask order as soon as possible," Nass said, "and ask that all

of our citizens join together to keep our children and most at risk citizens safe."

As of Tuesday, at least 1,410,902 people in North Carolina had tested positive for the coronavirus, and at least 16,719 had died since March 2020, according to state health officials. On Monday, the most recent data available at press time, the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services reported 2,219 new COVID-19 cases.

Chatham County has seen more than 6,500 cases — including more than 100 COVID diagnoses in the last week — and 91 deaths related to coronavirus.

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

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VIEWPOINTS

Moving on, but not up

Every time anyone my age asks what I do, we step through the same canned interchange.



D. LARS DOLDER
Out of the Dolderums

“I’m a reporter,” I say.
“Oh, no way, you’re on TV?”
“No, a newspaper reporter.”
“Newspaper? People still read those?”

Not nearly as many as ought to, I always think.
There’s a nationwide crisis embodied in my peers’ banal witticism. Local newspapers — torchbearers of truth, accountability and community engagement — are vanishing.

More than one in five newspapers has closed over the past 15 years, according to a 2020 investigation by the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

“Half of the 3,143 counties in the country now have only one newspaper, usually a small weekly, attempting to cover its various communities,” the report said. “Almost 200 counties in the country have no newspaper at all. The people with the least access to local news are often the most vulnerable — the poorest, least educated and most isolated.”

Without papers, social media punditry satiates most people’s

penchant for news, fueling the proliferation of misinformation. And perhaps as disastrous as viral untruth is a woeful lack of coverage. Imagine what important stories aren’t being told without local reporters to unearth them.

A 2018 study by the News Measures Research Project at Duke University found that local newspapers, despite their waning numbers, still contribute a disproportionate share of all original journalism. From a sample of 16,000 stories across 100 randomly selected communities nationwide, the researchers found “that while local newspapers accounted for roughly 25% of the local media outlets in our sample, they accounted for nearly 50% of the original news stories in our database.”

“The results show, fairly convincingly, that despite the economic hardships that local newspapers have endured, they remain, by far, the most significant providers of journalism in their communities,” the report concluded. “And while there is great hope and expectation that newer, online journalism sources will emerge to compensate for the cutbacks and closures affecting local newspapers, our study has shown that this has yet to take place.”

Without community news, countless critical stories may never have come to light. It’s local, “boots-on-the-ground”

reporters who often fell the first domino:

• A.M. Sheehan and Matthew Hongoltz-Hetling of the Advertiser Democrat, a weekly in Norway, Maine, unveiling deplorable living conditions in federally-funded housing. Their tenacity incited a state investigation.

• Ziva Branstetter and Cary Aspinwall of Tulsa World reporting on a bungled execution in Oklahoma. Their exposé launched a national discussion of the execution process and its ethics.

• Sara Ganim of The Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, following a tip and breaking the news of a sex scandal at Penn State. Every major news outlet in the country would eventually pick up the story of Jerry Sandusky molesting dozens of boys on campus. Ganim later won a Pulitzer for her work.

Major outlets recognize their efforts are moot without local news. Six years ago, MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow (not a news source I recommend) offered a rare endorsement for the invaluable local reporters she and other national broadcasters rely on.

“To prep for this show every day, we read a lot of stories from small local newspapers,” she said on her show. “We read a lot of national stuff too, but we really depend on local papers and local news bloggers

and reporters for news that is not yet national.”

A week later, Steve Bouser, longtime columnist at the estimable Southern Pines paper, The Pilot, drew the following conclusion from Maddow’s comments: “All this makes me proud of this business I’ve labored in for so long,” he wrote. “It’s no secret that many newspapers today face daunting challenges. But I wonder (heck, I worry about) who could step in to play the courageous watchdog role so many of them now play if someone were ever to yell ‘Stop the presses!’ for good.”

I’m proud, too — of my tireless peers on the vanguard of our industry’s fight against misinformation, and especially our contributions to the cause at the Chatham News + Record. So it’s with a bevy of emotions that I’ll be leaving the CN+R next week to start a new job at the Raleigh News & Observer.

Even before joining his staff about a year ago, I joked with my editor, Bill Horner III, that I was gunning for Marty Baron’s job (then-executive editor of the Washington Post). But I’ve learned something in my year under Bill’s tutelage: Whatever trajectory my career takes, there’s no occupation more noble than to report for a local newspaper.

News is an ecosystem. It can’t function without all its constituent parts. Some roles

are more humble than others, but none can falter without the whole operation suffering.

So, I’m moving on, but not up. Local papers are not a staging ground for advancement; their work is not inferior. They’re a bastion of truth and the first line of defense against insidious falsehoods. It has been a privilege to work at the Chatham News + Record, one of the finest examples of community journalism in this state. I’m excited to keep up the fine fight in a new capacity at the N&O, and I hope you’ll follow my byline there. But for Chathamites, there’s no supplanting the News + Record.

I’m preaching to the choir here — I doubt you’d be reading this article if not for your commitment to supporting local news. But I hope you’ll spread the mantra: Society has not evolved beyond the need for newspapers. We’ll keep adapting to changes in technology and evanescent attention spans. But the essence of what we do — the fervent dispensation of important truth, with the fullest context and objectivity we can manage — will not change. It cannot change. The vivacity and vigor of our communities are indelibly linked to the vitality of local journalism.

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

A camping trip to remember

Last Friday was the first camping trip my wife and I took with our three young children. As our middle son bounded out of the minivan at the Lake Jordan campsite, he called out, “Remember, Mom’s the leader!”



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Smart boy. My wife is far more experienced in the ways of the woods than me. In fact, marrying yours truly was the only thing that could put a halt to her camping adventures. Until last Friday.

Over the course of my 40 years, I have spent maybe a half-dozen nights in a tent: a handful of times as a boy with my family, then twice when I was wooing a certain young woman. Thankfully, she did not judge my reliability as a future partner by my ability to put up a two-person tent.

For our first camping trip, our family of five borrowed a massive tent that, once spread out on the ground, reminded me of playing with a parachute in elementary school recess. Only this time there were lots of poles and pegs. Good thing I was not the leader!

Following my wife’s expert instructions, we got the tent up and looking fine. She went to work stringing hammocks between trees so our kids could play before supper. I got busy collecting firewood.

Again, I’m no outdoorsman. But even I find something deeply satisfying about building a fire. I started the kindling with my old columns printed in this very newspaper! As my words went up in smoke, the sticks caught fire and soon there was a roaring flame. My kids wandered over in time to watch how I made a pyramid of the biggest logs so that the fire would have air to breathe. Watching the flames lick the wood, I remembered my granddad starting a fire in his fireplace. “Just takes one match,” he’d always say and chuckle with delight.

On the fire that I built, I burnt most of our supper. But my wife had packed plenty of chips and hummus. Of course, we had plenty of fixings for s’mores. Our eldest son eats only chocolate and graham crackers. Our 3-year-old stuffs marshmallows in her mouth like a blonde chipmunk with pigtails.

Only the middle son takes the time to build the classic s’more. His mom taught him how to hold the marshmallow on the end of his stick at just the right distance from the flame and turn it ever so slowly, toasting it to a golden brown. Clearly pleased with his efforts, this son climbed into my lap with his sticky fingers.

Darkness came early to the woods. His siblings were barely visible in the hammocks, but we could hear their giggles. In the campfire glow, I watched my wife settle into her chair with her own perfectly toasted marshmallow. The smoke from the fire curled into the treetops. Through the branches, the moon glowed brightly.

The son in my lap interrupted these observations: “What are you thinking about, Dad?”
“How glad I am that we went camping,” I replied.

He grinned. “You should write that down!”

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.”



Putting new spin on old proverbs can help attitude

One of the advantages of being a pack rat is that when you run across something you haven’t seen in awhile and forgotten you have said item, it’s almost like seeing it for the first time — and then rediscovering why you squirreled it away in the first place.



BOB WACHS
Movin’ Around

That phenomenon has happened to me several times recently as I have moved boxes of this and that from here to there. Everything in those boxes is, of course, stuff of the finest degree and no doubt will come in handy if the Depression of the 1930’s comes back around. My boyhood friend and advisor on all things from the pocketbook to the heart, Bobby Joe High, says the way things are going that sooner or later we’ll be there, but I hope he’s wrong.

But if he is, I will be in good shape. Anyway, the last few days or so I have come across some great stuff — a few dollars I didn’t remember putting away, some notes from the two now 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house, a 1949 UNC-N.C. State football game program, a wad of old sports pages and some really good books that cry out to be read as well as some “Best of Carol Burnett” DVDs, complete with sketches from comic geniuses Harvey Korman and Tim Conway.

There is a bit of a problem with the books, though. It has occurred to me that I don’t think I’ll be around long enough to read all the unread ones in my study. So now the issue becomes setting priorities, a really hard thing for me to do — which is one reason there’s so much

stuff to start with.

But the other day I may have stumbled upon the secret to life among those unread books. As I pawed through a falling-apart cardboard box I came across a little volume by a writer named Richard Eyre with the title, “Don’t Just Do Something, Sit There: New Maxims to Refresh and Enrich Your Life.” No doubt you have figured out that the main idea of the book is to take old sayings and proverbs and things that have been told to us for years as truths and put a modern day spin on them.

There are many such examples in the book. For instance, “Get serious!” becomes, “The reason angels can fly is that they have learned to take themselves lightly,” and “Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today” becomes, “Always put off a ‘put-offable’ in favor of a ‘now or never.’”

It is the one that is the title of the book that has captured my attention and fancy. I heard it from my dear old mom, or at least a variation — “Get off your duff,” or “Don’t let the moss grow under your feet,” or something equally as fatiguing — for most of my tender young life.

And not only did she say it, but she lived it. If she had caught up on everything on her list, for instance, she’d go out and make another round through the garden looking for rocks and so, consequently, many were the nights she went to sleep sitting on the living room couch with the ol’ television blaring the 10 o’clock news.

The book’s author agrees it is better to be up and doing than to be down and drooping. But then he goes on to note very simply that our society has evolved into one where, he says, “There is so much going on that we are always acting and doing,

sometimes at the expense of thinking and feeling.”

In a less urban, less mechanized, less complex and competitive time, there were natural seasons and periods of reflection and repose. There were natural “breaks” after the planting or the harvest and when it got dark at night, work was done.

Not so today! We may have business cycles but none of them involve rest. We have weekends but they’re usually the time to do the work we couldn’t get to during the week. And we have evenings but the night belongs to meetings, homework with the kids or to working overtime, or trying to “play as hard as we work.”

We become fanatic whirlwinds of activity in a world where there are endless things to do, working ourselves to an exhausted frazzle each day — yet we look back over the weeks and months and don’t see much progress. We think any action is preferable to inaction, and that doing anything is better than doing nothing.

The new proposal he puts forth is simply this: Don’t just do something; sit there. Sit each morning to decide what is really important. Sit there long enough during the day to collect your thoughts, to meditate for a moment, to calm your mind and regain perspective. Look at life from a spiritual perspective.

I think I’ll start working on it.

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.

VIEWPOINTS

Biden decline prompts three questions

When President Joe Biden's approval numbers began to plummet in early August, driven by public disgust with the disastrous American withdrawal from Afghanistan, hopeful Democrats suggested that as the news cycle moved on, Biden would recover.

It was a plausible theory. So far, however, there's been no such recovery. As of late September, the RealClearPolitics average of job-approval polls has Biden at 45%, down from 53% as recently as late July.

Here in North Carolina, a swing state with a Republican lean, the president and his party remain in big trouble. A new survey conducted by High Point University's polling unit has Biden's support among registered voters at 41%. The

John Locke Foundation's latest Civitas Poll, taken in mid-August, had Biden at 42%.

We are, of course, a long way from the next election. Other presidential administrations have gotten off to rocky starts only to regain their footing later on. At this moment, then, more than a year before the 2022 midterms, it would be unwise to offer a firm prediction about outcomes. But it's not too early to ponder these three big questions:

First, what best explains Biden's tumble? There are many potential explanations. For example, the delta variant has spurred a new wave of COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. Fairly or not, the Biden administration is taking much of the blame, even as some of its preferred policies, such as vaccine mandates, enjoy majority support. (I oppose the Biden's employer mandate on prudential, legal, and constitutional grounds, but I admit that many fearful Americans support it).

While public confidence in Biden's handling of the pandemic has fallen, it remains one of the president's strongest issues — by which I mean that the public is closely divided on it rather than clearly disaffected. In the High Point University survey, for example, 46% of registered voters approve of Biden's performance on COVID-19 and 46% disapprove.

On other issues, there's no such close call. Only 37% approve of Biden's performance on the economy, with 52% opposing it. He's also upside-down when it comes to shouldering the responsibility of the commander in chief (36% approval to 51% disapproval) and managing the Afghanistan crisis (26% to 59%).

Now for a second question more specific to our state: if Biden remains unpopular a year from now, can North Carolina Democrats avert electoral calamity by avoiding the party's national brand and clinging more tightly to Gov. Roy Cooper? This has long

been a tried-and-true strategy for Democrats in states such as North Carolina. Former Gov. Mike Easley, for example, cruised to reelection in 2004 even as former President George W. Bush won the state by more than 12 percentage points. Down the ballot, Democrats didn't suffer the devastating losses one might have expected that year. Easley served as their "firewall," as more than one Democrat told me after the 2004 elections.

In this respect, at least, Roy Cooper is no Mike Easley. Although he won reelection last year with 51.5% of the vote, Cooper's support has dropped since then. In the High Point poll, he's at 48% approval to 33% disapproval. In the Civitas poll, which screens for likely voters, he's at 44.6% approval to 44.6% disapproval. In other words, the bottom certainly hasn't fallen out for Cooper. But he's not popular enough to wall off the state's Democratic candidates from the Biden brand.

Here's the final question: if the political climate doesn't improve for Biden and the Democrats over the next year, is the GOP fated to achieve smashing victories? Not necessarily. Politics is about comparisons, not just plebiscites. North Carolina Republicans must recruit credible candidates. They must offer substantive ideas for building on past accomplishments and solving problems. And they must eschew conspiracy theories that may discourage their own voters from turning out, as happened in last year's special Senate elections in Georgia.

Biden's decline gives Republicans an opening. That's doesn't mean they can just stumble through it and expect a big gain.

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).

Bland Simpson's North Carolina

The next time somebody asks you to describe North Carolina, pull out and read aloud this quote from the beginning pages of Bland Simpson's new book.

"It is a line of sandbars some nearly 30 miles out into the Atlantic Ocean some less than a mile from the mainland; a set of broad, flat terraces, vast farm lands, and timber stands broken by willow-clad rivers both black water and brown and by their deep gum and cypress swamps, occasional bluffs, and green and golden marshes; a host of hills made of red clay and sand, growing pines called loblolly and longleaf, oaks called white and red and turkey and blackjack, red maples and river birches and hickories with shaggy bark; and then a profusely eruptive land of tall folds upon folds, peaks, ridges and rocky tops, domes, cliffs, grassy balds, and gorges, a host of mile-high mountains, too, with a vast quilt of blue haze laid out over it all."

Then, if you really like this person, guide her to Simpson's new book, "North Carolina: Land of Water, Land of Sky." It is stuffed full of color photographs of sights across North Carolina taken by Simpson's wife, Ann Cary Simpson, professional photographer Scott Taylor, and naturalist Tom Earnhardt.

The lovely photos supplement the book's main attraction, a trip across North Carolina led by a master communicator who is thoroughly familiar with and deeply in love with his subject.

In his first section, "This Wet and Water-Loving Land," Simpson takes readers up and down the coast from "sleepy Plymouth," to the British Cemetery on Ocracoke Island, through the swampy land of the Lumbee along the Lumber River, winding up in Southport and its gravesites "beneath the bending and yearning live oaks, the small sassafras, the unmoving Spanish moss."

In his second section, "Short Hills and Sand Hills," he guides us across the Piedmont including poignant stops from his boyhood in Chapel Hill's Battle Woods, Forest Theatre and Gimghoul Castle.

He shows us other under-appreciated sites all over the region, including, for instance, "The Uwharries stand tall and proud high above the same-named river that flows through them, national forest and a mountain range (one of the oldest on earth) comprising the biggest wilderness in the middle of North Carolina, a great wild country scarcely known, if at all, to most of our citizens. South and west of Asheboro, west of Troy and the state zoo and the state pottery center in Seagrove, this 50,000-acre big empty with its almost 1,000-foot peaks lures wild spirits to it, for the Uwharries are full of streams, trails, and ghosts."

Simpson's third section, "Jump-up Country," demonstrates that, while his prior writings have focused on the eastern part of the state, he has not neglected the awesome treasures of the rivers and high mountains in the west. He takes us to some of his favorites. One of them, Max Patch in Madison County near the Tennessee line, "a-top-of-the-world corner" about which he writes, "With a 360-degree view, we looked down upon a rim of hills all around us and rolling blue hills beyond us in all directions, at crags and haze and clouds already in valleys near and far below, this midafternoon of a summer's day."

The book concludes on a somber note, Simpson's visit with William Friday shortly before he died in 2012. Friday warned that the natural treasures, such as the ones described and illustrated in this book, were in peril. He saw only negative actions from state government regarding the preservation of our rivers and streams.

Simpson concludes, "What Mr. Friday saw — and foresaw — was instead a message of carelessness, recklessness, and even defiance of common sense, and this was what had so clearly driven his concerns about water during the last months of his life."

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.



Conversations on an autumn Sunday afternoon

Sunday afternoon was perfect for sitting outside, enjoying nature in the balmy weather. It reminded me of my younger days. Stores were closed on Sundays, so after church we often gathered outside, took an afternoon drive or visited with family and friends. It was truly a day for rest. Maybe we should return to those good-old days.

Wife Lib and I often engage in deep dialogue when time permits, and some of those discussions get pretty meaty and engaging. This Sunday was no exception. "Do you think we've lived in the best times of our nation?" she asked. So much for starting in the shallow end. "I hate to think America's greatest days are behind us," my normally-optimistic mate added.

During our lifetimes we've witnessed the angst of racial unrest and the civil rights movement, Vietnam, 9/11 and periods of economic boom and bust. Through it all we were an optimistic people, believing our best days were ahead. Currently, we are the least united in our lifetimes. We don't trust much of anyone. We have lost confidence in our systems, especially our election system.

And truth, real facts, don't seem to matter. We can tell any lie we want as often as we want

and there are people who want to believe it. Where once we felt like we were "all in this together," partisan rancor and division is all too prevalent. Issues that should unite us, like public well-being and our collective health have become political battlegrounds and there's no concern for the common good. It isn't hard to get discouraged.

How do we turn this around, we pondered? Where are the peace-makers, the unifiers, the dreamers who can paint a vision for a better North Carolina, a better America? I remembered people like Charles Aycock, who despite racist views, opened a new school almost every day of his administration. Kerr Scott dreamed of getting us out of the mud and paved farm-to-market roads. Terry Sanford demanded improvements in public education for all children. Luther Hodges dreamed the Research Triangle Park would be a major economic engine. Bill Friday crafted state-supported colleges into a world class university system. Jim Hunt dreamed we could become an information and biotech leader and Jim Martin connected one end of our state to the other with I-40.

Can we agree we need to change the current direction? Instead of focusing on things that divide us perhaps a start for turning around our current crisis — yes, I believe we are in a crisis situation — is to concentrate on what can unite us. If we fear a continued decline, we need to act on some common

dreams and goals. Let's dream what we want our community, our state, our nation to be five years from now. Stop focusing on who to blame, what we are against or to which tribe we belong, but on what we collectively desire.

In times past we said we wanted all people to be able to get a good education, a good job and enjoy a good life. We desired to live in a safe, peaceful, clean and healthy place. Is that still true? If so, what must be done to get us there? Can we unite behind some action items to begin positive momentum?

My wife and I had some good dialogue on Sunday, but many more people need to be involved, our best and brightest minds, as well ordinary people who want the best for us. Our challenges will not be resolved with a single Sunday discussion, but it's a good way to begin.

Our history is full of people who faced adversity, who lacked everything needed, who sometimes didn't even know the next step. But they were determined and had a common goal: to make things better for those who followed.

Can we do that, too?

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.

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What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

How can Chatham County immigrants learn English?

Adults have two options — and they're both free.

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

For most immigrants migrating to the Chatham County without English fluency, language presents both a concern and an opportunity.

Yet, while children can learn English in school, many barriers prevent their parents from dedicating themselves to the language — among them time, availability and cost. To address that need, two Chatham nonprofits, Central Carolina Community College and Chatham County Literacy Council, offer English instruction free of charge and at various times throughout the week.

Here's how they do it:

Central Carolina Community College

Free to all, CCCC's ESL classes are one of several offerings under its College & Career Readiness program. As a Title II program, the college's ESL classes receive federal funding via the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

"That's why we only hire well-qualified and trained instructors in ESL/ESOL instruction," CCCC's Tammie Quick told the News + Record. "... While we know we're doing good, we're not do-gooders. This is a very professional educational program and sanctioned at the highest levels."

CCCC offers classes

at the Siler City Center at 400 Progress Blvd. as well as at its Chatham Health Sciences Center in Pittsboro. In Pittsboro, CCCC offers evening ESL classes from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. In Siler City, students can attend morning classes from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on weekdays or from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

Students can also choose to learn online; registration opens weekly. To register, students can call CCCC's lead ESL instructor, Julia Herbón, at 919-545-8667 or email her at jherbon@cccc.edu. At a minimum, students will be asked to provide their basic contact information. The college doesn't ask for documentation status.

"Then we'll talk in that initial interview to see if the student has learned English before, what their goals are, what they want to do, in what area they live, because we want to just make sure we're just recommending the appropriate class," Herbón told the News + Record. "We ask about distance because we have transportation. We have free transportation in the morning."

Once registered, students will undergo an English-language placement test to help instructors determine which classes would best fit their needs. The college groups students into classes based on their English levels, beginner to advanced.

In class, students par-

ticipate in collaborative activities, conversations, plus reading and writing, according to Herbón. Instructors lead students in playing games, using technology and simulating the language students will use outside of class.

Throughout the program, students will also undergo assessments to test their progress.

"Some of them improve really, really fast, and some others take care of their time," Herbón said. "But like I always tell them, if you come to class and you're committed, you will always move forward. I have never had a student who went down a level. Attendance goes hand in hand with improvement, with progress."

In Chatham County, CCCC's ESL program serves about 100 students. Students come from a variety of backgrounds. Most come from Latin American countries, but others come from other parts of the world, too. Some never went to school or only have some high school education; others have advanced degrees.

According to Quick, CCCC's ESL students routinely go above and beyond the college's required performance measures; many, too, go on to blow their own goals out of the water.

"They improve their speaking skills, their writing skills, so it's no surprise that these students are going to improve at work," Herbón said. "They will get better jobs, or a job salary increase ... Many of

our students take a GED in English. They graduate; they go to college, so they get a certification. That's what we do, and so we see great results with our program."

Chatham Literacy

Chatham Literacy, a Siler City nonprofit, offers a similar bundle of services to CCCC, according to program coordinator Leslie Ocampo, but with a few key differences.

Among them? A different model, more scheduling flexibility and a lower student-to-teacher ratio. Their tutors are all volunteers and instruct up to four students at a time.

"Chatham Literacy's ESOL program is unique in that it offers schedule flexibility and one-on-one and small group tutoring depending on the needs of the adult learners," Ocampo told the News + Record. "Our learners work with their tutors to determine the tutoring schedule and how often they meet."

To sign up, aspiring students can call Chatham Literacy at 919-742-0578 and schedule an appointment to initiate the registration process. During their appointment, students will fill out an application and

take an English-language placement test.

"Our application mainly asks for contact information and background information like educational history and availability," Ocampo said. "We do not ask about documentation status, nor do we require identification unless a person is applying to our citizenship program."

Only adults 18 years and older who live or work in Chatham County are eligible for services. Enrolled students will then have three options: They can tutor in-person, online, or via "a digital app from their phones or computers," per Ocampo.

According to Ocampo, Chatham Literacy's ESOL program typically serves about 150 students. Half are in their 40s to 50s, and 95% of their students are Hispanic.

Upon signing on to receive services from Chatham Literacy, students commit to a year's worth of tutoring and to attend at least one tutoring session every week for two hours. Homework is optional.

"Even if students are busy, they can work their schedules to tutor late evenings or even on weekends," Ocampo said. "It all depends on the compatibil-

ity of their schedule with that of their tutors."

Tutors help students grow in all four components of language acquisition — reading, writing, listening and speaking — and to track their students' progress, Chatham Literacy conducts annual reading assessments.

When do students finish the program? Whenever they'd achieved the goals or level of English fluency they set themselves.

On average, according to Ocampo, a quarter of students go up one grade level in their reading abilities by the time they're assessed in the spring. About 35% go on to check off long-term goals like earning their GEDs, getting new jobs or receiving promotions at work.

"Eighty percent of our ESOL learners will achieve a short-term goal, which is tutor- or self-reported, such as being able to talk with a child's teacher, talking with a doctor without the help of their child, improved conversation skills or increased comprehension," Ocampo said. "... It's never too early, never too late to learn."

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

ENGLISH

Continued from page A1

Learning your adopted country's language may seem like a no-brainer, but for many of Chatham's Spanish-speaking immigrants, like Gonzalez, it's not an easy decision. Learning any language, especially as an adult, requires commitment, consistency and above all, time — and that's something few newly arrived immigrants have to spare.

It's something Gonzalez knows well.

In the last decade, she attended classes "two or three times in different years" at Central Carolina Community College, including CCCC's Natural Chef culinary program. When she could, she also tried to study English herself — all while working at Siler City Elementary School and volunteering with several community organizations, including the Hispanic Liaison, where she now works.

"The problem is I need more time," she said. "I need time. I am pressured."

Since May, Gonzalez has been spending two hours every Wednesday improving her English with Chatham Literacy tutor, Patty Poe — but only because her director, Ilana Dubester, allows her to take that time off of work.

"I know that I need to study more, or maybe all my life, because when I began working in the Hispanic Liaison ... many people call in English," Gonzalez said, "and I think I want no more to say, 'Please, can you answer this call?' Entonces, when I maybe say a little message, I feel good."

'It takes a lot of commitment'

CCCC's lead ESL instructor Julia Herbón has seen all kinds of students pass through the college's English classes. Some have little formal education, others come in with doctorate degrees — and many upon many arrive exhausted after a full day's work.

CCCC offers ESL evening classes to those who can't attend during the workday.

"Many of our students finish working, and they come to class, and they are exhausted, but they just want to make a change," Herbón told the News + Record. "Some of them realize kind of after a few years living in our service areas that, 'You know what? I think I need English.'"

Though everyone learns at a different rate, Herbón said, learning a second language generally consists of a long, involved process.

"Learning a second language takes time," she said. "It's not something that you can do from one year to the other, so if you want to see results right away, you won't. And so another thing is that it takes a lot of commitment to learn a language. So are you going to commit to twice a week, three times?"

It's also harder the older you are.

"Learning a language as an adult is difficult," she said. "You know, if you try to learn a language at the age of 20, well, that's perhaps easier. But if you learn it at the age of 30 and 40, it's hard. And when we are adults, you know, it's difficult to get corrections. We don't want to make mistakes. We want everything to be perfect."

But it won't ever be, Herbón said — something she knows personally as both an ESL veteran and lifelong English learner.

"I don't have native-like fluency. I don't. I have an accent, I still have an accent," she said, adding, "... At the age of 30 (to) 50, you will have an accent, and of course, you will be pretty accurate with the way you express your ideas and the way you write your ideas, but it's not going to be perfect."

So her advice to learners? Be patient.

"It just takes time," she said. "It's just a process, so you have to be very patient and just be ready to have fun and relax a bit. Just have fun with

the language."

Gonzalez, too, has her own advice for her fellow learners: "Just do it," and don't be afraid. The rewards are well worth it.

"In (my trip) to Washington (two weeks ago), another lady didn't speak English," Gonzalez said. "She needed to order the food in the restaurant using me. 'You speak English, Elena?' Le digo (I tell her), 'Yes. What do you need?' 'I want this.' I take the order."

Then Gonzalez smiles. "I say the order," she added, "and I am happy. I feel happy."

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

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

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- Graduate of UNC Asheville
- Reads voraciously & loves talking about books
- Loves cooking & baking, being outside, and chasing after her toddler
- Has never met a dog she didn't like

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LOWER HAW RIVER STATE NATURAL AREA

Friends of Lower Haw ask county to invest in Haw River Trail now

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Haw River is an important natural resource the county should invest in before rapid Pittsboro development ensues, the all-volunteer group Friends of Lower Haw River State Natural Area told county commissioners at the board’s meeting last month.

In addition to wanting to see a Haw River trails corridor/feasibility study completed, the organization’s president, Gretchen Smith, said the group would also like to see the board use money from COVID-19 relief funding, bonds and revenue from the county’s Article 46 sales tax to invest in conservation at the river — namely through the construction of sustainable trails and paddle sites.

“The main thing of concern about focusing on the Haw River is because of its geographic location in relation to population growth,” Smith told the News + Record. “We’re running out of time if we want to try to create this Haw River Trail in Chatham County, because once the land is developed for residential purposes, then it’s harder to go back after the fact.”

The Haw River flows 110 miles from headwater springs in eastern Forsyth County down to Chatham County where it meets the Deep River to become the Cape Fear River in Pittsboro. The watershed encompasses about 1,700 square

miles.

The Lower Haw River State Natural Area was added to N.C.’s State Parks system in 2004 and includes more than 1,025 acres along both sides of the river in Chatham, where it stretches from U.S. Hwy. 15-501 near Bynum to below U.S. Hwy. 64 at Jordan Lake. The land is undeveloped, but heavily used, Smith said, leading to unsustainable informal footpaths and paddle sites.

With large residential growth expected in Chatham over the next decades, the group said the Haw River is subject to major residential development pressures. By using a “conservation through recreation” strategy, Smith said the county could help conserve the resource while also allowing the public to enjoy it.

“As I said in my presentation, it was added to the state park system back in 2004, but not a whole lot has happened with it,” Smith said. “In 2006, this Haw River Trail partnership Memorandum of Understanding was signed and Alamance County got busy fulfilling their part of the partnership by working on their land and paddle trail. But not much else has happened with any of the other local governments who signed on.”

In 2018, county and Pittsboro commissioners separately adopted a resolution in support of the Lower Haw Trails Plan. The county resolution stated that “the Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports the Lower Haw Trails



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Environmental advocates say the Haw River is an important natural resource for Chatham County to invest in. Pictured here is reflection of trees on the river, taken the winter of 2020.

Plan and urges N.C. State Parks to adopt this Plan as a priority implementation project to be funded by the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF).”

This past spring, a Haw River Trail Steering Committee was formed by Friends of Lower Haw and the county government, including partnership with more than two dozen environmental stakeholders.

Still, the work isn’t happening fast enough, Smith said, especially in comparison to Alamance County’s efforts. Since beginning efforts in 2006, Alamance has conserved 475 acres and created 14 sustainable paddle accesses, 40+ miles

of paddle trail and 20+ miles of land trail.

During her September presentation to the board, Smith said developing a Haw River Trail in Chatham will take prioritization by local governments and state parks, voluntary land acquisition and easements and diversified funding that doesn’t depend exclusively on grants.

In its consent agenda for that September meeting, Chatham commissioners approved a grant application to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a Haw River trails corridor/feasibility study. At the time, Smith said she was

glad to see that agenda item.

“I’m hopeful that the county will be awarded this EDA grant. However, partners on our steering committee have made it clear they are not interested in being on yet another ‘all talk, no action’ committee,” Smith told the board. “And we are at risk of becoming just that if visible progress doesn’t start happening soon, or at least by January.”

Board members expressed commitment to the study, but didn’t want to take formal action that might sabotage their grant application.

“I don’t think there’s a member of this board who would oppose funding it,” said Commissioner Jim Crawford, “but I don’t think we should make any kind of a vote or decision that more or less jinxes our potential standing to get the grant.”

Smith stressed that once funding is secured for such a study, it would likely take six months to develop a plan, not including the time it will take to implement it.

“Like I mentioned to the board, Alamance County started 15 years ago,” she said. “So they’ve had the luxury of time to work on theirs, but with the development pressures that are going on in the Chatham County section of our river corridor, we don’t really have that luxury of time”

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

CLIMATE

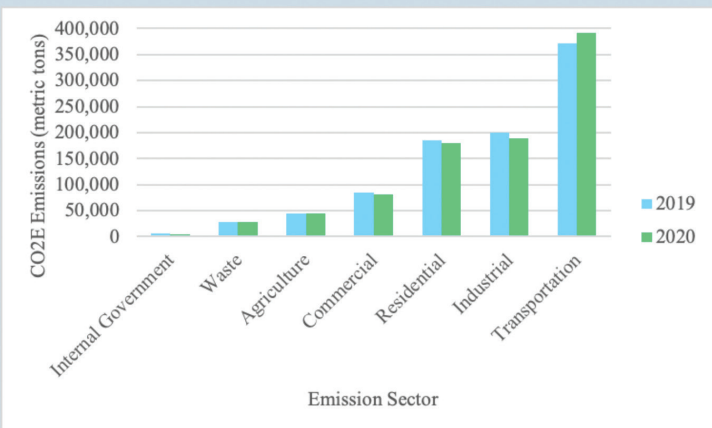
Continued from page A1

inventory carried out by the county showed small decreases in most emission categories from the year prior — likely due to COVID-19.

With an entirely Democratic board, the county is perhaps uniquely positioned to invest in practices and adopt policies that help to stunt CO2 emissions and mitigate negative impacts of climate change, such as flooding and increased storms. (Nationwide, Republicans in elected office generally don’t prioritize climate change; some party leaders publicly refute it.) Chatham County is limited in what it can do because of state jurisdiction as well as low emissions levels from the county itself. Still, local officials and leaders are pushing for creative solutions.

“What’s interesting is that Chatham County’s internal government accounts for the least amount of emissions within the county, it’s actually less than 1% of the total emissions,” Emily Apadula, the county’s environmental sustainability intern, told the board at its July meeting. “Going forward, you might think that it’s not worth

Comparison of Total CO₂E Emissions by Sector



Screenshot from the Chatham County Environmental Quality Dept.’s 2019-20 Chatham greenhouse gas inventory presentation.

it to try to decrease the government’s emissions. However, the government can act as a trendsetter, a leader and role model when implementing new sustainability projects and taking actions that might encourage citizens to follow them.”

‘Climate change is real’

Lindley, who directs the county’s solid waste & recycling and sustainability divisions, said the county is looking toward adding solar panels to its buildings, as well as buying electric or hybrid electric cars as old ones

need replacement. The county is also working to install two electrical vehicle stations, one in Pittsboro and one in Siler City, he said.

In addition to looking for more renewable energy resources, local leaders are looking toward more sustainable practices such as modified development ordinances, stormwater runoff mechanisms and clean drinking water.

“Climate change is real,” Commissioner Diana Hales told the News + Record. “And I would like our county to do what it can to help, at least, our situation with

in the county.

“For me, that means better developments that are including more stormwater runoff mechanisms,” Hales added. “I also think there are certain things we can do with buildings, to add solar capability and geothermal heating. The new high school (Seaforth) and Chatham Grove have geothermal capability — that will make a huge difference over time in terms of energy efficiency, so we can do that.”

The county is also developing a Unified Development Ordinance, a document which outlines traditional zoning and subdivision regulations along with other desired city regulations such as design guidelines and water management. That UDO will update, modernize and integrate existing county regulations into a single document, and implement the future vision of the county laid out in the 2017 Plan Chatham document — including any more sustainable regulations for high density development in particular.

Following the presentation on county greenhouse emissions, County Commissioner Karen Howard expressed support for more creative solutions, such as the encouragement of walkable communities. Transportation is the largest emissions sector by far, nearly double the next-highest sector, industrial.

“One thing we know is developed land never becomes undeveloped,” Howard said at that meeting. “And if we can look at ways of encouraging or incentivizing the preservation of trees, in development, that might go some way.”

‘Focus locally on what you can change’

The greenhouse study showed an increase in CO2 equivalent emissions from 2019 to 2020 in transportation (40.4% to 42.7%) and decreases in the following categories: commercial (9.2% to 8.8%), residential (20.2% to 19.5%) and industrial (21.7% to 20.5%).

Apadula, the environmental sustainability intern, said greenhouse gas inventories are important tools in the fight against climate change, as they can help keep track of progress.

“I would focus locally, because as much as Chatham County is amazing, the state is usually what determines the larger energy grid,” Apadula said, “And so I would focus locally on what you can change, like the carbon sinks,” which are natural environments that absorb more carbon than they release.

Approximately 65% of the county (456 square miles) contained some form of carbon sink, the presentation said, most commonly forest areas.

The commissioners proposed meeting again to further discuss potential policies the local government could enact to reduce emissions, but it’s unclear when such a meeting will occur.

“Obviously the internal government is not this giant contributor to it, but I think on issues like this, it’s very easy to kind of put everything to the state and to the feds and to the UN and everybody else,” board Chairperson Mike Dasher said, “and that there’s not anything we can do. I think we can set a really good example, and I guess I just I’d like to see us doing as much as we could internally.”

The Chatham County Climate Change Advisory Committee will present

its annual report to the board of commissioners at its Nov. 1 meeting, which will include suggestions for a 2021 climate action plan. One such suggestion is for the county to become a “carbon negative” county, rather than a “carbon neutral” one.

The county’s greenhouse inventory showed emissions exceeded 900,000 CO2E, with an estimated 1.1 CO2E removed by carbon sinks. (The committee’s estimate was made “with significant uncertainty,” the draft presentation said.)

“The County is currently roughly carbon neutral,” that draft presentation says, “but emissions may increase over time with population growth, (and) carbon sinks may be reduced due to development.”

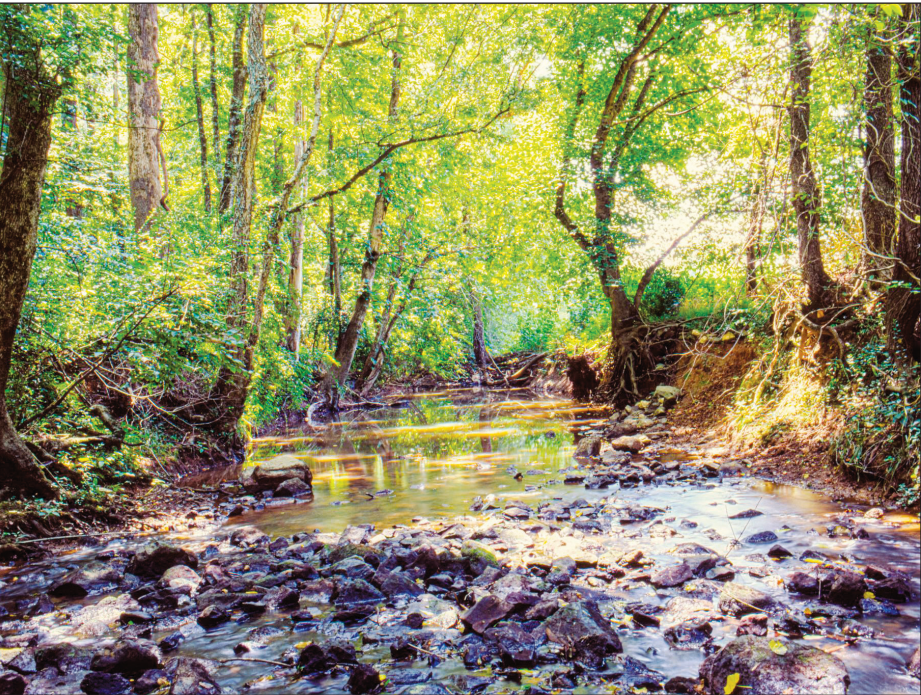
The committee also recommends the county conserve lands — such as the Haw River Trail (see sidebar story) — develop a tree protection ordinance and promote sustainable agriculture, among other things.

Earlier this year, the board passed a priority for Article 46 sales tax revenues to go toward farmland preservation, in recognition of the impact of land preservation on things like water quality.

Commissioner Hales said planning ahead for future problems is important, even when it might feel like such efforts aren’t making an impact. County operations such as building processes, subdivision watershed protections and managing Jordan Lake could have a huge impact in 10 years, she said.

“Climate change is real, and it is having an impact,” Hales said. “If we can start the conversation, then that will be less impactful. Yes, it’s going to have an impact. But if we can mitigate, by our practices, some of the consequences, then that’s important to do.”

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



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

As the impacts of climate change continue to be felt on a national scale, Chatham County is not excluded. Local officials are planning ahead by looking for more sustainable wasterwater practices, development and energy. Pictured here is the Hickory Mountain Township in Chatham.

OBITUARIES

MARY LOUISE WHITE BURKE



Mary Louise White Burke, 91, formerly of Siler City, passed away Sunday, February 14, 2021, at Belmont Village Assisting Living Center, Carol Stream, Illinois.

Mrs. Burke was born in Chatham County on October 3, 1929, the daughter of John W. and Eva Scott White. Louise was a member of First Baptist Church, where she attended the Rachel Allred Sunday School Class, and was a member of the Highfield Mission Group. She spent

her working years as a teller at Centura Bank. In addition to her parents, Louise is preceded in death by her husband, Clyde Houston Burke, and sister, Kathleen W. Petty.

She is survived by her daughter, Deborah Burke Buff, and husband Mylan M. of Carol Stream, Illinois; niece, Judy P. Turner of Elon College; sister-in-law, Becky Parker of Pfafftown, N.C., and great nephew, Kirk Everett.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, October 17, 2021, from 3 to 4 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Avenue, Siler City. A celebration of life will follow at 4 p.m. in the Smith & Buckner Chapel with Rev. Tony Capehart officiating.

Smith & Buckner is assisting the Burke family.

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

NADINE ANN DISTASIO

Nadine Ann Distasio, 49, formerly of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, passed away on September 30, 2021.

Nadine was born on August 1, 1972. She worked for United Healthcare for 26 years and was very dedicated to her family. Nadine is survived by her father, Richard Distasio; sister, Gina Beau; brother, Richard Distasio; a son, Tyler Distasio; “fur babies” Riley and Titan; along with extended family.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations in her name to the Duke Transplant Foundation or any Cancer Research or Awareness Foundation.

BOBBY LEE ARRINGTON

Bobby Lee Arrington, 82, of Pittsboro, died Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice Home of UNC.

Bobby was born in Pamplin, Virginia, on April 26, 1939, to the late Stencil L. Arrington and Amy Hendren Arrington. He was also preceded in death by one sister, Gaynell Fields, and three brothers, David Arrington, Lewis Arrington, and Jack Arrington.

Surviving relatives include his wife Vergie Hackney Arrington; two daughters, Lee Ann Churchill, and husband Robin of Carrboro, Amy Williams, and husband Todd of Pittsboro; one brother, Herbert Arrington of Chapel Hill; one sister, Becky West of Spring Lake; six grandchildren, Tori Churchill, Tyler Churchill and wife Catherine, Josh Womble and partner Leslie Eades, Jeremy Womble, Blake Schemmer, and Blair Schemmer; and one great-grandchild, Serene Womble.

A graveside service was held Saturday, September 25, 2021, at 12 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church Cemetery with Pastor Mark Hall presiding.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Bobby’s memory to Lighthouse Baptist Church, 12063 15-501 Hwy. North, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27517.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

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

MARGARET ‘PEGGY’ FISHER

Margaret “Peggy” Brooks Fisher, 84, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died peacefully on June 30, 2021.

A childhood resident of Siler City, she was the granddaughter of Brock and Maggie Sanford Brooks. Peggy is survived by three sons: Daniel, Andrew and Mark Fisher.

Born in Washington, D.C., she grew up in Durham, subsequently graduating from Duke University with a BA degree. She married her high school sweetheart, Arnold Fisher, who predeceased her. She lived in Virginia Beach, Venezuela, Plymouth and Ann Arbor.

Peggy received her master’s degree from the University of Michigan and became a lifelong Wolverine fan. Later employed by the University of Michigan, she performed multiple administrative roles involving development and alumni relations in Central Administration and the School of Engineering. Peggy loved all things “Go Blue”!

A lifelong member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Peggy served a president of the Ann Arbor chapter in 2011. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church where she was a Deacon and active participant on various committees. As a volunteer, she worked on several political campaigns as a champion for social justice issues.

Peggy had many interests. She was known for her Southern hospitality and loved entertaining. She especially welcomed two graduate students from China to her home for special celebrations. Peggy also traveled extensively around the world. Peggy loved jazz, books, movies, concerts and football games. She liked sweets, cats, clothes, learning and cooking.

Above all, Peggy loved her family and friends. She was a connector between people. An extrovert, she was a gifted conversationalist and storyteller. She will be missed and remembered by many who were graced to know her.

A service was held at the First Presbyterian Church on July 11, 2021. Peggy requested her ashes be interred in the Memorial Garden at the church. Memorial contributions can be made to First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

RALPH JEROME SIGLER SR.

Ralph Jerome Joseph Sigler Sr. born July 31, 1930, passed Friday, September 10, 2021.

A service and burial was held on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at 1 p.m. at Christ Church, Maryland.

Ralph was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He graduated from the University of Maryland. Ralph had a very career leading companies at AG Spalding, FNT Industries & RJ Sigler & Company. He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Doloes Muelbe.

Survivors include sons, Ralph Jr., Christopher, John, Dean, David and Justin; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Please consider making a contribution in Ralph’s name to The Rotary Foundation - PolioPlus Fund. Please send your check to the Stuart Rotary Club, P.O. Box 81, Stuart, Florida 34995.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

BILLY CURTIS BAKER

Billy Curtis Baker, 76, of Cameron, passed away on Saturday, October 2, 2021, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Lemon Springs Baptist Church Cemetery with Travis Corley officiating.

He was born in Lee County on September 14, 1945, to the late Nathan and Lois Cooper Baker. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister Barbara Reid. Billy worked for the Lee County Sheriff’s Department where he retired as Captain of the Detective Division.

Billy is survived by his wife, Tammy Donathan Baker; daughters Cheryl Baker Griffin of Broadway and Tonya Keith of Vass; step-daughter Ashley Boles of Lillington; step-son, Jeremy Conken of Broadway; sister, Ann Cook of Sanford; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

TROY L. WHITE

Troy L. White, 88, of Siler City, passed away Friday, October 01, 2021, at Chatham Hospital.

Knotts and Son, Siler City, is serving the family.

JENNIE B. CHAVIS

Jennie Myrtle Burnette Chavis, 93, passed away on September 28, 2021, at her home.

Graveside service was held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at Haw River Missionary Baptist Church.

ASHLEY LAUREN WILLIAMS

Ashley Lauren Williams, 34, of Cameron, passed away on Thursday, September 23, 2021, at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 3, 2021, at Works for Christ Christian Center, with burial in Lee Memory Garden.

CONSTANCE PATRICIA (DARK) CRAVEN

Ms. Constance Patricia Craven, 80, of Pittsboro, passed away Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at her residence.

Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, September 26, 2021, at Pittsboro Fairground Road with burial at Pittsboro Community Cemetery.

CHANDLER TYREE COTTON

Chandler Tyree Cotton, 19, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, September 23, 2021.

Funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Friday, October 1, 2021, at Works for Christ Christian Center and burial at Lee Memory Garden.

NELLIE MAE GLOVER

Nellie Mae Glover, 95 of Siler City, passed away on Thursday, September 30, 2021, at Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

Knotts and Son, Siler City, is serving the family.

GEORGE EDWARD STALEY JR.

George Edward Staley, 73, of Siler City, passed away Friday, October 1, 2021, at his home in Siler City.

Knotts and Son, Siler City, is serving the family.

LINDSAY FITZGERALD PATTERSON

Lindsay Fitzgerald Patterson, 57, passed away on September 23, 2021.

A graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 3, 2021, at Averys Chapel FBC.

GERALD WAYNE MICKLE

Gerald Wayne Mickle, 56, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, September 27, 2021, at his residence.

Knotts Funeral is serving the family.

GLADYS FAYE MCDOUGALD

Gladys Faye McDougald, 79, of Sanford, transitioned into eternal rest on Monday, September 27, 2021, at UNC Hospital, Chapel Hill.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Monday, October 4, 2021, at Paradise AME Zion Church with burial following in their cemetery.

GERTRUDE ELEANOR RAMOS

Gertrude Eleanor Ramos, 66, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, October 1, 2021, at Wake Med, Raleigh.

The Celebration of Life was held Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at the Firs Apostolic Church.

RICKEY WESLEY PERRY

Rickey Wesley Perry, 65, passed away Sunday, September 26, 2021, at The Brian Center Southpoint, in Durham.

Funeral service was held at 12 noon Friday, October 1, 2021, at Hamlet Chapel CME Church.

TREVOR LLOYD WRIGHT

Trevor Wright, 71, passed away on Sunday, September 19, 2021, at Highsmith-Rainey Specialty Hospital in Fayetteville.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 2, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial in Lee Memory Garden.

SELEEMIAH STARSHEANNA PATTERSON

Seleemiah (Star-she-anna) Patterson, 34, passed away on September 23, 2021.

Graveside service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, at Averys Chapel FWB Church.

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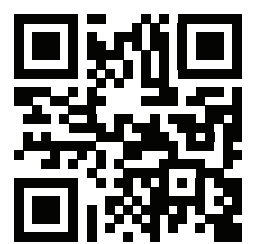
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Submitted photo

Carson Cashion, on behalf of participants of Pittsboro Baptist Church vacation Bible school, presents a check to Chatham Habitat for Humanity Business Manager Roderick Parker and Development Director Anna Spears.

Pittsboro Baptist Church's VBS kids raise \$1,007 for Habitat

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — On a Tuesday morning this past June, the second day of Pittsboro Baptist Church's vacation Bible school, participating children walked down the aisle to the front of the sanctuary to give their gift. Some carried plastic bags filled with quarters, nickels and dimes. Others carried all the coins their palms could hold, while others had folded bills or even a Lowe's gift card handed to them by their parents. The boys emptied their money in the large water bottle on the left and the girls placed their coins in the bottle on the right. The day before, the children had learned that they could show Jesus' love by giving to others. During their mission class, they learned about Chatham Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps people without homes build houses. They also learned that it takes a lot of money to build a house, but every penny would be a help. Help, the children did: their quarters, dimes, and nickels added up to \$1,007. "I was surprised by the amount," said PBC Children's Minister Jenni-

fer Cashion, "but then again I wasn't. Every year, our VBS children and their parents give generously to our mission projects." Last year, the church's VBS program was held virtually due to COVID. "This year, we intentionally limited our registration numbers, again due to COVID," Cashion said. "We usually have 175-200 kids filling our sanctuary, but this year we had 138 kids registered. My expectations for the missions donations were lowered because it has been such a challenging year, but the children, as they usually do, exceeded all expectations." According to Cashion, the annual mission projects usually reflect the VBS theme, which for this year was "Concrete and Cranes." "We focused our week on building on Jesus' love as the foundation of our lives," she said. "Habitat for Humanity fit perfectly into that theme." In addition, to Habitat for Humanity, the VBS participants also made donations of work gloves to Baptist on Mission Disaster Recovery and food items to CORA. Pittsboro Baptist Church is located at 121 West Salisbury St.

As flu season begins, CCPHD shares health and safety tips

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The flu season is under way, which means Chatham County residents need to take precautions against two viral infections that are making their way around the population. Thankfully, there are things residents can do to protect themselves against both the seasonal flu and COVID-19. "Remember: The flu ends with you," said Mike Zelek, Chatham County Public Health Director. "Anyone can get flu, even healthy people, and serious problems related to flu can happen at any age. The best way to prevent flu is getting a flu vaccine each year." Here's some things to know:

The flu
Flu is a contagious illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, with symptoms appearing suddenly. Common symptoms include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue, and vomiting/diarrhea. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reduced population immunity due to the lack of flu virus activity since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic could result in an early and possibly severe flu season. The same protective

measures that slow the spread of COVID-19 could slow the spread of the seasonal flu also. That includes properly wearing a mask in public indoor places, practicing social distancing and washing your hands with warm soap and water for 20 seconds frequently. Although anyone can get flu and serious problems related to flu can happen at any age, some people are at high risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant women, and children younger than 5 years. You can get sick from the flu and COVID-19 at the same time, as they come from two different viruses.

The flu vaccine
The best way to prevent flu is getting a flu vaccine each year. Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, with a few exceptions.

Flu vaccination reduces the risk of flu illness, hospitalization and death. It does not provide protection against COVID-19. The flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine can be administered at the same time. This season, all flu vaccines will be designed to protect against the four viruses that research indicates will be most common. Ideally, everyone should be vaccinated by the end of October. Flu vaccines are now available at Chatham County Public Health Department as well as many other locations across the county, including local pharmacies, doctor's offices and more. The CCPHD offers the flu vaccine at its Siler City location, 1000 S. Tenth Ave., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To learn more about the seasonal flu, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/flu. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

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ACROSS

1 Quick heartbeat sound

8 Jordanian's language

14 Do over again

20 Exercise caution

21 Baseballer Minnie

22 Come about over time

23 Oscar-nominated actress for "Georgia"

25 The X's of XOXO

26 Even, in golf

27 Was in a pew

28 "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" host

30 "Morning Has Broken" singer

36 Eggy holiday drink

37 Building floor

38 Noted Dodge City sheriff

46 Watch via Hulu, e.g.

49 "A Christmas Carol" miser

50 Too trusting

51 "Got ya!"

52 Jesting sort

55 Opening in a schedule

56 Cove, e.g.

57 2013-14 co-host of "The View"

61 Foldable beds

62 100-eyed mythical giant

63 Boat's load

64 NFL Hall of Famer Carter

66 Well-honed

67 "The Situation" Room" host

70 Middle East's — Strip

74 Diving venue

75 Made a typo, e.g.

76 Got along

77 "GLOW" star

81 Longtime panelist on "To Tell the Truth"

84 Funny stuff

85 Hooplas

87 "Hey, I was thinking ..."

88 Crude liquid

89 Partner of alas

90 Nine-sided figure

93 Sharp pang

95 Defensive tackle whose #86 was retired by the Chiefs

97 Best athletes

99 Gray color

100 1958-82 Crimson Tide football coach

104 Champion of 15 golf majors

111 Corp. kahuna

112 Parseghian of Notre Dame

114 Like a day in June, in a Lowell poem

115 People ... or an alternate title for this puzzle

121 Flavorings for absinthes

122 Tell, as a tale

123 Outstanding

124 Liquefy anew

125 Old truisms

126 No-goodnik

12 Gopher Aoki

13 Barber's tool

14 Tie again, as a necktie

15 Supersmart supervillain

16 Emulate a supermodel

17 Snow queen in "Frozen"

18 With, to Fifi

19 "Concetta" pianist John

24 SEAL's group

29 Map of Hawaii, often

31 Lao- —

32 Actor Keach and singer

33 Greeting on a May greeting card

34 "Chicago Med" aier

35 Fraternal patriotic org.

39 Reggae singer Peter

40 "Holy —!"

41 In the past

42 Throw a fit

43 Fodder tower

44 Cooking appliance

45 Clears, as profit

46 Pat of "Wheel of Fortune"

47 At that place

48 Cooking appliance

49 Neck warmer

53 Singer Marilyn

54 Bluff-busting poker words

58 Priores, e.g.

59 Abbr. for three primary colors

60 Words on a flat rental sign

61 Yule tree

64 Prague native

65 — a beet

67 Prevalled

68 NYC subway inits.

69 Test in a fitting room

70 Moo goo — pan

71 Fire felony

72 1983 Woody Allen movie

73 "Hello" singer

74 Political patronage, informally

76 Migrating birds' regular route

77 "Moby-Dick" helmsman

78 Real doozie

79 Apple option since 1998

80 Ankle coverer

81 Coffee from Hawaii

82 "This — emergency!"

83 Star-giving critic, e.g.

85 — chili (pepper type)

86 Cry of Homer Simpson

91 Chin-wag

92 Nearly zero

94 "— Little Teapot"

96 A "Baby Bell" phone co.

97 Environs

98 Choice loin steaks

101 Tiptops

102 Dubbed

103 The "T" of LGBT, in brief

104 Old overlord

105 "XOXO" actress Skye

106 Ghastly

107 Loosen up

108 Other, in Oaxaca

109 Batted without playing the field, for short

110 "CSI: NY" actress Ward

113 Choral voice

116 Ugly witch

117 Pickup's kin

118 "I love," to Luisa

119 "I Hate Valentine's Day" actress

120 Quaint hotel

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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COVID-19: The latest at Chatham's schools

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

There have been 205 cumulative cases of COVID-19 reported to Chatham County Schools since Aug. 23, according to the district's case dashboard, making up under 2% of the district's total population. There are 11 active cases.

CCS has only had one cluster — defined as five or more cases that are epidemiologically related within a 14-day window — at Chatham Central High School, reported

during the second week of classes. A second cluster at Northwood was included in the state health department's child care and school settings report two weeks ago, but it was later deemed to be erroneous and removed.

After a few months of rising cases of COVID-19 among young people in the state and county, the low number of clusters — and of associated cases — at CCS during that time suggests the safety mitigation strategies in place at the district are preventing community spread. The CCS Board of Education

again voted to require universal masking on all its campuses at its Sept. 13 meeting, in accordance with state legislation requiring school boards to vote monthly on face mask requirements.

The board meets next Monday, Oct. 11, when it will presumably vote on the mandate again.

Most of North Carolina's 115 school districts require face masks to be worn indoors, but as of Oct. 5, five have made masking optional. On Monday, the Harnett County school board affirmed their decision from last month

to make masks optional, effective Tuesday.

"Masking is slowing the spread of COVID," Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek, who has repeatedly supported the district's mask mandate, said at that meeting. "They not only slow the spread of COVID, they keep kids in the classroom."

There haven't been any clusters reported among the county's public charter schools — Willow Oak Montessori, Woods Charter School and Chatham Charter School — in the state report. Each school also has an indoor mask mandate, and Woods and Chatham Charter have COVID-19 trackers on their websites.

At CCS, officials have stressed since before the start of the school year that universal indoor masking — done properly, with the right type of mask covering both a person's mouth and nose — would play a huge role in allowing in-person classes and activities to continue.

"We're confident that we can at least get school started — support our staff, give our teachers a safe place, give our kids as normal a place as possible," Superintendent Anthony Jackson said of the district's universal mask recommendation on Aug. 5, "with the exception of one thing: they will have to wear a face covering."

Where can I find data on district cases?

The district updates

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

CCS's reports will be posted at <https://www.chatham.k12.nc.us/Page/23355>. Here are the active case counts each week from the archived reports:

- Aug. 16-27: 56 cases
- Aug. 30-Sept. 5: 38 cases, 1 cluster
- Sept. 6-12: 31 cases
- Sept. 13-17: 28 cases
- Sept. 20-26: 26 cases
- Sept. 27-Oct. 3: 27 cases

More on COVID-19 protocol

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

Under new state guidance introduced this fall, schools no longer need to do symptom screenings for students and staff at the beginning of a school day. Disinfecting and cleaning

processes — formed in conjunction with the Chatham County Public Health Department and the district's supplier of custodial supplies — include daily cleaning of touch surfaces, cleaning of buses after morning and afternoon routes and frequent cleaning of main offices, reception areas and restrooms in schools.

State guidelines for quarantines say that if a student tests positive for COVID-19 but was masked, CCS will not enforce a two-week quarantine period for students potentially exposed to that student — so long as those students were also masked. If a student is determined to be a close contact, the quarantine period is 10 days. Vaccinated teachers don't have to quarantine.

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

What guidance is the district using to make COVID-19 decisions?

District officials have previously cited the state's K-12 Strong-SchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit as its primary guidance. Officials also consider recommendations from the CDC, Chatham County Public Health Department and Duke University's ABC Science Collaborative in making decisions. So far, policies have followed such recommendations.

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

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

NEWS BRIEF

JMArts' season opens with Fall Showcase

SILER CITY — The 2021-22 arts season at Jordan-Matthews High School kicks off Oct. 21 with a free preview featuring performances by the JM Chorus and JM Jazz Ensemble, followed by a short reception with light refreshments provided by JMArts.

The one-hour concert, which begins at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium, will include a preview from Band Director J.C. Harper, Chorus Director Elliott Peterson and JMArts President Rose Pate at some exciting events ahead.

The evening also features the presentation of a \$100 award to the JM artist whose work was selected for the 2021 JMArts Holiday Cards, plus a chance to purchase cards, as well as JMArts greeting cards and to join JMArts to get free admission to major events this season and help our student artists excel.

As part of their broad examination of how musical theater operates, Music Specialization students will be working "front of house" at the 2021 Fall Showcase, serving as event staff, ushers and introducing musical numbers.

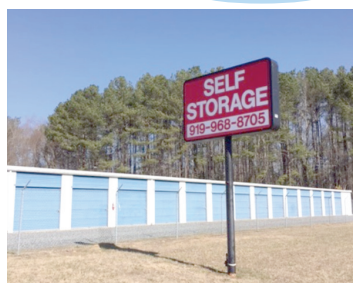
To keep performers and the audience safe, masks are required, vaccinations are strongly encouraged and seating in the auditorium will be socially distanced.

Jordan-Matthews is located at 910 East Cardinal St. in Siler City.

— CN+R staff reports

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As fall settles in, a sense of normalcy returns to Chatham County Parks and Rec

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — For the first time in nearly two years, Chatham residents will be able to celebrate fall outside of their homes — and cars — this season.

Last fall, Chatham County Parks and Recreation adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering both virtual- and drive-thru-only programming, modifying some of its usual seasonal programs, such as Trunk or Treat — which became the “Trunk or Treat Boo-Thru” — to give residents the opportunity to participate during troubling times.

A year later, however, the

department’s fall celebrations will look much more normal.

“Following the guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, we are thrilled to be able to offer in-person, outdoor events this fall,” Mallory Peterson, program supervisor for Chatham County Parks and Rec, wrote in an email to the News + Record on Monday. “We are very excited to connect with our community in person this year!”

Peterson said the department is urging individuals to spread out as much as possible while attending programs and to wear face coverings when maintaining a 6-foot distance with others isn’t possible.

Taking the challenge

In 2020, one of the department’s most popular programs was the Chatham County Challenge, a month-long virtual event that tasks participants to complete three activities over the course of October:

- Walk 50 kilometers (or 31 miles)
- Run 50 kilometers (or 31 miles)
- Bike 100 kilometers (or 62 miles)

The 2020 Challenge was met with plenty of positive reception, amassing 90 participants, which inspired the department to restart it this fall. Sign-ups ended on Sept. 30.

See **PARKS**, page B3



Submitted photo

A family competes in the ‘running’ portion of the 2020 Chatham County Challenge last October. This year marks the second annual version of the virtual event.

I’m all-in on Cincinnati

As I passed through the hot sun to get to my car last Saturday afternoon, I picked up my phone and dialed my dad’s number.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

pregnant pause.

After what seemed like minutes, I spoke up again.

“So ... uh ... what happened, man?” I asked with a half-joking spirit.

He knew exactly what I was referring to.

And so came the rant.

My dad is the biggest Notre Dame football fan I know.

In fact, he’s the only Notre Dame fan I’ve met in my two-plus decades of life.

His blood isn’t dark blue on the inside or red on the outside. It’s green — with a tinge of Carolina blue — through-and-through.

Over the years, my dad’s disappointment-filled rants have become commonplace during the fall months, all thanks to Notre Dame failing to show up in big moments, namely the College Football Playoff — where the Fighting Irish have made two appearances, both losses by a combined score of 61-17 — and 2013 BCS title game, which ended in a 42-14

See **FOOTBALL**, page B2

“Hello?” he answered with a not-so-enthusiastic tone. “Hey,” I responded, followed by a nine-month-

EAST WAKE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

‘The gold standard’: Pittsboro’s East Chatham Chargers sweep competition in youth football homecoming

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — As kickoff approaches, green smoke fills the air near the eastern end zone.

A large, forest-green banner is erected behind it as music blares off in the distance.

After a few moments, a group of 7- and 8-year-old players burst through the banner and slice through the smoke, emerging on the other side with their jerseys, cleats and game faces on.

This was the scene at Northwood High School last Saturday afternoon, but despite the theatrics and fanfare, the school’s varsity team wasn’t the one taking the field.

As is evident by the pregame festivities, the East Chatham Chargers aren’t trying to cultivate your typical youth football experience.

“The cheer director really wanted to get something more flashy and something that could be reused, so the banner’s new, the smoke is definitely new, anything to pump up the kids,” Chasidy Parker, president of the East Chatham Chargers organization, said on Saturday. “Everything we do is for the kids. We don’t always make every parent happy, but our goal is to make every kid happy.”

Along with the pregame excitement, the Chargers also have an announcer in the stadium’s press box that tries to keep the crowd engaged, excited and up to speed on everything that’s going on.

“I don’t think we’ve seen (any of this) when we’ve traveled this year,” Parker said.

The Chargers are one of Chatham County’s only youth football programs,



Staff photo by James Kiefer

East Chatham’s Nicholas Gregory (15) bursts through the banner donning the Chargers’ logo ahead of his 14U team’s 13-12 win over the Durham Firebirds last Saturday in Pittsboro. The win marked the first of the season for the 14U Chargers.

consisting of five football teams — a 6U flag football team, along with 8U, 10U, 12U and 14U tackle football teams — and four cheerleading squads.

For the 2021 season, the Chargers joined the East Wake Football League — the same league the 14U squad had been a part of for a couple of seasons — which has the team traveling for four road games throughout the season to surrounding areas like Durham, Louisburg, Knightdale, Bunn, among others.

Previously a member of the Quad County Recreational Football League — which is also home to Siler City’s youth football program, the Siler City Jets — East Chatham chose to make the switch to the EWFL based on numbers and competition.

“We contacted (the East Wake Football League) and expressed interest in coming and they were interested in

See **PITTSBORO**, page B3

What to expect during the MLB postseason

After 2,430 games, we’ve finally made it to baseball’s postseason. We witnessed Shohei Ohtani, a rising Angels superstar and future Most Valuable Player award winner, throw 100 mph pitches from the mound and smack homers from the left side of the plate. We saw the San Francisco Giants prove that the NL West is not owned by the Dodgers, despite L.A.’s payroll. And we watched the New York Mets implode just like, well, the Mets would do.

But now it’s time for the games that matter. Here’s my take on what will happen in this season’s playoffs:

The Rays will win their first title

Right now, you might be wondering: Who even plays for the Rays? That’s a great question. They don’t have the stardom in their rotation with Tyler Glasnow or Blake Snell from 2020, but the Rays can hit. Heading into the final day of the regular season, the Rays tallied the most

runs in baseball, before being passed by the Houston Astros. Prior to the trade deadline, they acquired slugger Nelson Cruz, a player with deep postseason experience on the Texas Rangers and other teams throughout his career.

Despite their No. 14-ranked batting average, they found ways to score runs via the long ball and tallied the second most triples in baseball. If the Rays do win, Brandon Lowe is a name to watch. The versatile player hit .410 with five home runs and 14 RBI in the final two weeks of the season. Their pitching staff may not go deep into games, but they get outs and manager Kevin Cash is not afraid to use a plethora of arms out of the bullpen in a single game.

In the American League Division Series, they will match up against a familiar division foe in either the New York Yankees or Boston Red Sox, depending on which of those teams makes it out of Tuesday’s AL Wild Card Game (results came after the News + Record’s print deadline). The Rays won the season-series against both in the regular season and there’s no reason to think they won’t outmatch them again in the playoffs.

The White Sox still seem like they are a year away and the Astros rotation isn’t scaring anyone at the moment, despite their playoff experience throughout their lineup. The Rays looked outmatched by the Dodgers in 2020. Don’t expect that to be the case this October.

Expect Max Fried to deliver

In 2020’s wild 60-game season, Fried was superb for the Atlanta Braves. In his 11 starts, he didn’t record a loss and finished with a 2.25 earned run average. While he did not have that same success at the start of 2021, he’s been rolling the past month. In the last 30 days, he’s posted a 1.29 ERA and 0.74 WHIP, including a complete-game shutout on 98 pitches against the San Diego Padres. After three postseason starts last year, Fried proved he could pitch on the biggest stage. Look for him to deliver a nice outing against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Don’t sleep on the Giants

Throughout the season, most people wondered when the San Francisco Giants would finally give in. Their talent and budget are nowhere near the likes of their

division rivals. But the Giants just kept winning and won the NL West on the final day of the regular season, despite the Dodgers having lost just 13 games since acquiring Trea Turner and Max Scherzer on July 30. Even a matchup against the Dodgers or Cardinals in the first round seems like a giant test, but count out the Giants at your own risk. They’ve been proving the doubters wrong all year.

Pitch to Robert at your own risk

The Chicago White Sox 24-year-old rising star has pop. But for much of the season, he was out with a hip injury. Now, fully healthy, he’s back and in the final game of the regular season, he blasted a home run. He finished the season by posting a .338 batting average with 13 homers. The one issue is that he only walked 14 times all season. The White Sox have dangerous hitters up and down their lineup, but Robert is a candidate to be a breakout star in the first round against the Astros.

CN+R Intern Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at [@Maxbaker_15](https://twitter.com/Maxbaker_15).

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week’s schedule and last week’s results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Now that we’ve made it to October, we’re in the final month of the fall sports season. Teams across the county — namely in volleyball, where Chatham has three teams (Chatham Charter, Northwood, Woods Charter) with superb records, and women’s tennis — are making their final post-season push before bracketing and seeding begins in just a couple of weeks. If you haven’t gotten an opportunity to catch some of these teams in action, there hasn’t been a better time than now. Here are this week’s schedules and last week’s results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, October 6

Tennis: Northwood women at Orange, 4 p.m.
Cross Country: Northwood at Eastern Alamance, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Central women at North Moore, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Seaforth women at Bartlett Yancey, 4:30 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter men vs. Southern Wake, 5 p.m.
Soccer: Seaforth men at Cummings, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Charter women vs. Uwharrie Charter, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Jordan-Matthews women at Southern Lee, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Northwood women vs. Chatham Central, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews men vs. Thomasville, 6:30 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood men at Cedar Ridge, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 7

Golf: Chatham Central women vs. Seaforth and Southern Alamance, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Charter women at Raleigh Charter, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Northwood women vs. Chapel Hill, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews women vs. North Moore, 4:30 p.m.
Volleyball: Chatham Central women vs. Cummings, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Jordan-Matthews women at Graham, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Northwood women at Orange, 6 p.m.
Volleyball: Seaforth women at North Moore, 6 p.m.

Friday, October 8

Soccer: Woods Charter men at Triangle Math and Science Academy, 4 p.m.
Volleyball: Woods Charter women vs. North Moore, 6 p.m.
Football: Chatham Central at Graham, 7:30 p.m.
Football: Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 9

Cross Country: Northwood at NC Runners Elite Meet in Kernersville, 9 a.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, September 27

Golf: The Nothwood women placed second (144) in a Central 3A conference match against Western Alamance (first, 137), Eastern Alamance (third, 150), Person (fourth, 164) and Orange (fifth, 175) at Caswell Pines.
Golf: The Chatham Central women (208) won a Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference match against Seaforth (second, 235) and North Moore (third, 236) at Siler City Country Club. The Bears’ top golfers on the day were junior Reagan Mize (50, +14), junior Jaylee Williams (50, +14) and junior Ashton Wilkes (53, +17).
Tennis: The Northwood women fell in a narrow loss to the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 5-4. Winning their singles matches for the Chargers were sophomore Ryan Tinervin (6-4, 6-2) and senior Erin Lippers (6-4, 6-1), while the duos of senior Evelyn Lippers & senior Julia Earnshaw (8-5) and Erin Lippers & sophomore Kaylee Fisher (8-0) won their doubles matches.
Cross Country: Northwood competed in a meet against Central 3A opponents Cedar Ridge, Eastern Alamance, Orange, Person, Western Alamance and Williams, placing first in the men’s race (27 points) and second in the women’s race (33 points). Finishing in the top 10 in the men’s race for the Chargers were senior Colin Henry (second, 17:48.10), junior Jackson Adams (fourth, 17:56.09), junior Christian Glick (sixth, 18:12.80), junior Matthew Sullivan (seventh, 18:13.81), senior Andrew Kimbrel (eighth, 18:59.95) and sophomore Noah Nielson (10th, 19:51.64). Placing in the top 10 in the women’s race for the Chargers were senior Caroline Murrell (first, 20:35.90), senior Emma Serrano (21:50.38), senior Ella Hennessey (ninth, 24:13.66) and senior Emma Iacono (10th, 24:23.90).
Soccer: The Chatham Charter men lost to the Triangle Math and Science Academy Tigers, 5-2, to remain winless on the season. Scoring for the Knights was freshman Will Burris (2 goals), with sophomores Aaron Kreiss and Lucas Smith tallying one assist apiece.
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men shut out the Seaforth Hawks, 6-0, to remain unbeaten on the season.
Soccer: The Woods Charter men defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 4-3, in a narrow win.
Volleyball: The Chatham Central women defeated the Salisbury Hornets, 3-1, on the road. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (12 kills, 37.5 kill %)

and senior Taylor Poe (5 kills, 41.7 kill %, 3 blocks).
Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women swept the Research Triangle Raptors, 3-0, on the road.
Volleyball: The Jordan-Matthews women were swept by the Providence Grove Patriots, 3-0, at home.
Soccer: The Northwood men shut out the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 3-0, on the road.

Tuesday, September 28

Golf: The Woods Charter women (154) won a Central Tar Heel 1A match against Chatham Charter, Southern Wake and River Mill at The Preserve at Jordan Lake. The top three golfers on the day were Knights sophomore Mackenzie Crossman (42, +6) and Wolves sophomore Elise Taylor (49, +13) and senior Sophie Taylor (51, +15).
Golf: The Chatham Central women placed second (165) in a match against Southern Alamance (first, 148) and Grimsley (third, 170) in Graham.
Tennis: The Chatham Central women defeated the Seaforth Hawks, 6-3. Winning their singles matches for the Bears were junior Olivia Brooks (6-3, 6-0), junior Ellie Phillips (6-3, 6-3) and junior Jaylee Williams (6-2, 6-3), while the duos of Phillips & Brooks (8-6), sophomore Samantha Scott & sophomore Lauren Caviness (8-1) and Williams & sophomore Hallie Webster (9-7) won their doubles matches. For the Hawks, freshman Bailey Shadoan (6-0, 6-0), freshman Jenna RobINETTE (6-3, 6-2) and freshman Lillian McFall (6-0, 6-2) won their singles matches.
Volleyball: The Chatham Central women swept the Graham Red Devils, 3-0. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (8 kills, 42.1 kill %) and Taylor Poe (6 kills, 46.2 kill %, 2 aces, 1 dig).
Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women swept the Triangle Math and Science Academy Tigers, 3-0, to extend their winning streak to six games.
Volleyball: The Northwood women lost a road match to the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 3-1.
Volleyball: The Seaforth women defeated the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 3-1, at home. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Bella Chang (9 kills, 42.9 kill %, 3 digs), sophomore Lilian Dulin (9 kills, 42.9 kill %, 1 ace, 1 block, 1 dig) and freshman Mia Kellum (2 kills, 2 aces, 12 digs).
Soccer: The Northwood men won a home game against the Orange Panthers, 4-2, in overtime.

Wedsnesday, September 29
Tennis: The Chatham

Charter women won a lopsided match over the Southern Wake Academy Tigers, 8-1. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were sophomore Elphie Spillman (6-0, 6-0), senior Emery Eldridge (6-0, 6-1), senior Ashlyn Hart (6-0, 6-0), senior Lorelei Byrd (6-0, 6-0), junior Rebecca Brookshire (6-1, 6-0) and senior Emily Stecher (6-0, 6-0), while the duos of Spillman & Eldridge (8-0) and Stecher & senior Dana Szpunar (8-2) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Northwood women swept the Person Rockets, 9-0.
Tennis: The Chatham Central women earned a strong win over the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 8-1, to improve to 7-0 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference this season. Winning their singles matches for the Bears were junior Olivia Brooks (6-2, 6-0), junior Ellie Phillips (6-0, 6-0), junior Jaylee Williams (6-1, 6-1), sophomore Samantha Scott (6-0, 6-0), sophomore Lauren Caviness (6-0, 6-0) and sophomore Ashlyn Humphries (6-3, 6-1), while the duos of Phillips & Brooks (8-0) and Williams & sophomore Hallie Webster (8-1) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Seaforth women earned a convincing win over the North Moore Mustangs, 6-3. Winning their singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Evelyn Atkins (6-1, 6-1), freshman Bailey Shadoan (6-0, 6-0), freshman Lillian McFall (6-3, 6-0), freshman Charlie Ann George (6-2, 6-1) and sophomore Sophia Serrano (6-1, 6-3), while the duo of freshman Jenna RobINETTE & sophomore MaKenzy LeHew (6-0) won its doubles match.
Soccer: The Woods Charter men shut out the Chatham Charter Knights, 2-0, to extend its winning streak to three games, while the Knights remain winless at 0-10 on the season.
Soccer: The Northwood men tied with the Western Alamance Warriors, 1-1, in double overtime. Scoring for the Chargers in their first tie of the season was junior Noah Hyman (1 goal).
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews men dominated the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 7-0, for the Jets’ third shut-out win in a row to keep them undefeated at 11-0-1.

Thursday, September 30
Tennis: The Chatham Charter women fell in a lopsided match to the Research Triangle Raptors, 7-2. Winning their singles matches for the Knights were senior Ashlyn Hart (8-4) and junior Rebecca Brookshire (9-7).
Tennis: The Chatham

Central women swept the Southern Lee Cavaliers, 9-0, to extend their winning streak to four games. Winning their singles matches for the Bears were junior Olivia Brooks (10-3), junior Ellie Phillips (10-0), junior Jaylee Williams (10-4), sophomore Samantha Scott (10-2) and sophomore Lauren Caviness (10-8), while the duos of Phillips & Brooks (8-2) and Williams & sophomore Hallie Webster (8-3) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Northwood women swept the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 9-0.
Volleyball: The Chatham Central women lost to Bartlett Yancey, 3-1, at home. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (9 kills, 1 dig), senior Lindsey Johnson (6 kills, 1 ace) and senior Ivey Tillman (6 kills, 2 blocks).
Volleyball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Woods Charter Wolves in a five-set match, 3-2, to end the Wolves’ 11-match winning streak. The Knights extended their winning streak to 7 matches.
Volleyball: The Northwood women swept the Person Rockets, 3-0, at home.

Friday, October 1
Football: Northwood won a road game against the Person Rockets, 21-7, to improve to 3-3 on the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior running back Dashaun Vines-McSwain (26 carries, 173 yards, 2 TDs; 1 reception, 9 yards) and senior running back Jalen Paige (21 carries, 128 yards).

Saturday, October 2
Cross Country: Woods Charter at Dorothea Dix Park Invitational (Dorothea Dix Park in Raleigh), 8 a.m.
Cross Country: Northwood competed in the Great American XC Festival at WakeMed Soccer Complex, where the Chargers placed 7th (211 points) in the Boys Red race and 22nd (555 points) in the Girls Red race, while senior Caroline Murrell (17:52.90) finished 10th in the Girls Race of Champions. The top three finishers for the Chargers in the Boys Red race were senior Colin Henry (third, 16:08.60), junior Christian Glick (31st, 17:04.90) and junior Jackson Adams (37th, 17:10.90), while the Chargers’ top three finishers in the Girls Red race were senior Emma Serrano (39th, 21:04.20), senior Ella Hennessey (120th, 22:59.70) and senior Emma Iacono (141st, 23:40.40).

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

FOOTBALL

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shellacking by Alabama. And on Saturday, with the 9th-ranked Fighting Irish suffering their first loss of the season against the 7th-ranked Cincinnati Bearcats, 24-13, another vent session was inevitable. And I was there to listen. Personally, I’m not a Notre Dame guy. I’ve never cared for the Fighting Irish aside from their ability to churn out high-ceiling NFL tight ends and wide receivers and their gorgeous, solid-gold helmets. Oh, and my dad. I’ve always wanted to see Notre Dame win, just so I could see him happy. (His NFL team is the Miami Dolphins, so they aren’t really helping anything, either). I’ve rooted for them during their CFP appearances and high-stakes primetime games, only to be disappointed when they come up short (or way short). For years, I’ve waited for the moment that Notre Dame finally broke through and won the big

one to see my dad — who can be seen wearing a Notre Dame jacket, hoodie or hat about 75% of the time — over the moon. But for the first time that I can remember (aside from when the Irish are playing the Tar Heels), I rooted against Notre Dame on Saturday. Not because I have anything against this year’s Fighting Irish team, but because I’m in love with the Bearcats. No, I wasn’t able to watch the game on Saturday — the “what happened?” I posed to my dad was legitimate, because I truly didn’t know aside from the final score — and I’ve seen minimal Cincinnati games so far this year aside from highlights, but believe me when I say that I’m in love. A month or so ago, I wrote about how the 2017 and 2018 UCF Knights teams ruined college football for me. But the 2021 Cincinnati Bearcats might be able to restore my faith in the sport. Through four games this season, the Bearcats are a perfect 4-0 with all four coming in the form

of double-digit wins. And after college football’s chaotic Week 5 in which four of the AP Top 10 teams lost, they’re officially ranked 5th in the nation, passing the one-loss Oregon Ducks (No. 8) and leap-frogging the struggling Oklahoma Sooners (No. 6). They’ve got an awesome Heisman-contending quarterback in Desmond Ridder, who sealed the win against Notre Dame with a TD on the ground late in the fourth quarter to capture what’s arguably the biggest win in program history. They’ve got it all. There’s just so much to be infatuated with. And I’m all the way there. The Bearcats’ win over the Fighting Irish on Saturday was special, there’s no way around it. It was Cincinnati’s first-ever win against a top-10 team on the road. And this wasn’t just any top-10 team. Facing their former head coach in Brian Kelly — now the winningest head coach in Notre Dame history, no small feat for such a storied program — the Bearcats went into a hostile envi-

ronment, stared down the Fighting Irish’s legacy and crushed it with their own bare hands. History, pressure-filled expectations and their opponent’s talent be damned. Despite the close-ish final score, this was Cincinnati’s game to lose after taking a 17-0 halftime lead and running off two of Notre Dame’s quarterbacks after forcing a slew of incompletions and mistakes. And then, just as the Fighting Irish’s third-stringer Drew Pyne brought them back into the game, Ridder happened, scoring his program-defining TD to cement it. Now, sitting at No. 5 in the nation with a perfect record and a top-10 win on its resume, Cincinnati has a legitimate opportunity to be the first Group of Five team to make it into the CFP, completing the journey that AAC conference-mate UCF set off on four years ago. By 2024, the Bearcats, along with UCF, BYU and Houston, will join the Big 12 to fill the holes being left by Oklahoma’s and Texas’ move to the SEC.

So, while Cincinnati is a soon-to-be Power 5 school, there’s no better way to cap off its journey as a scrappy program than by fighting its way to college football glory. As long as it doesn’t stumble along its remaining schedule or get passed over by the CFP Selection Committee, which notoriously looks

down upon Group of Five schools, it should be there in January, though I still have my doubts. I just hope rooting for my dad’s early-season disappointment was worth it. Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at vhensley@chathamnr.com or on Twitter at @Frezeal33.

Household Hazardous Waste Events 2021

Saturday, October 16

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

28 County Services Road

(6 miles west of Pittsboro, off Hwy 64)

Chatham County residents can bring household hazardous items such as

- chemicals • cleaners • solvents • paint
- pesticides • gasoline • antifreeze • electronics

For a complete list of items visit www.chathamnc.org/hhw

Future HHW events will be held the third Saturday of each month, through November.

No trash or empty containers.
No business waste.
No decal required.
Must show proof of address.

Questions? Call (919) 542-5516



PITTSBORO

Continued from page B1

having us and it all happened within a matter of about four days,” Parker said with a laugh. “We felt like going to a bigger organization, where it’s pretty comparable to what we have as far as numbers go, was a safer bet and the kids would have a better experience overall.”

Last summer, the Quad County league went along with plenty of youth sports leagues across the country and voted to cancel all operations for the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luckily for the Chargers, the non-profit organization had already prepared for a possible cancelation and while it allowed participants to register for the 2020 season, it decided not to collect funds beforehand, meaning it didn’t need to issue refunds once the decision to cancel was made.

And despite losing an entire season last year, East Chatham — running off of funds from the 2019 season — is having one of its most successful seasons yet.

“We have about 195 kids in total this year,” Parker said. “It’s been a lot of work, but the kids and parents were ready for football. Registration numbers were through the roof. We had a waitlist, we had full teams and everybody was just really excited to get back into football. The energy level is high across the board.”

Saturday was a chance for the Chargers, who are halfway through their season, to put that energy to work as they



Staff photo by James Kiefer

East Chatham’s Davis Parker (2) runs around the left side untouched during the 8U Chargers’ 34-0 trouncing of the Clayton Comets last Saturday in Pittsboro. Parker was one of two players to score two touchdowns on the day for the Chargers.

hosted their homecoming event, where all five teams were scheduled to play in Pittsboro on the same day for the first time this season.

All of them except for the 10U team — which had its game against the Clayton Comets canceled due to a COVID-19-related issue — took the field at Northwood in front of plenty of local fans.

And they didn’t disappoint. The Chargers’ 8U, 12U and 14U squads went a combined 3-0 on the day, including two shutout wins — 34-0 in 8U, 29-0 in 12U — against the Comets.

The day’s tackle football games got started in the middle of the afternoon with a 14U matchup between the Chargers (1-3) and the Durham Firebirds (0-4), where East Chatham took an early 13-0 lead and held off the Firebirds’ rushing attack to seal a narrow 13-12 victory.

To start the game, Chargers return man Robert Tripp ran the opening kickoff back for a touchdown, followed by a good two-point conversion attempt

on a run up the middle by Nicholas Gregory.

On the following offensive possession, the Chargers managed to drive their way deep into Firebirds territory, where Tripp scored on a one-yard run — but East Chatham was stopped short on the two-point attempt — to give his team a 13-0 lead in the first quarter.

From there, it was all on the defense.

The Firebirds managed to score at the top of the second quarter after back-to-back-to-back quarterback keepers from David Logan Carpenter, a play that would be a thorn in the Chargers’ side for most of the game.

In the second half, trailing 13-6, the Firebirds ran seven designed QB keepers for Carpenter on their first drive of the half, racking up 43 yards and capping it off with a three-yard TD run to give the Firebirds a chance to tie it.

Carpenter’s size, playing against a team of mostly 13-year-olds, was just too much to handle.

“As you can see, there’s a lot of differences between a 13-year-old and a 14-year-old and their diets and body size,” Billy Johnson, head coach of the 14U Chargers, said after the win. “They’re just a little bit bigger,”

However, on the two-point try, Carpenter was tripped up by 13-year-old McKayl Smith — in what would be the biggest play of the game — who latched onto Carpenter’s ankle and brought him down just before he reached the goal line.

In the fourth quarter, the

Chargers defense stepped up, forcing a turnover on downs on 4th-and-22 on the Firebirds’ penultimate drive, then sealing the win with an interception by Ty Willoughby with less than a minute left.

Their defense prevailed. “Randy Cox is my defensive alignment guy and he just motivates kids and has different alignments going on,” Johnson said. “It’s a young team, but we’re trying to not give them the same alignments and give them different looks so that (the opponent) can’t guess them.”

The win was the first for the 14U Chargers, who sit at third place (out of four teams) in the standings for EWFL’s 14U At-Large league, just behind the Raleigh Revolution (first, 4-0) and Fuquay-Varina Bengals (second, 3-1).

However, the script was a little different for the Chargers’ 8U squad, which is undefeated (3-0 overall, 1-0 conference) in the EWFL’s 8U Mini Mites West Division and continued its streak with a dominant 34-0 win over the Comets on Saturday.

East Chatham scored on all five of its offensive possessions, using its ground game to reach the end zone on runs of 50 yards, 24 yards, 48 yards, 20 yards and 12 yards. (It’s worth noting that the 8U team plays eight-minute quarters on an 80-yard field, instead of 100 yards.)

With less than 20 seconds to play in the first half and the Chargers ahead 13-0, East Chatham quarterback Henry Krohn ran it around the right side on a keeper and bolted 48 yards to the house, untouched, to give his team an even larger lead, 19-0, at the break.

Krohn was responsible for two touchdowns on the day, as was Davis Parker, who scored one of them on a 50-yard dash during the Chargers’ first possession.

At halftime, Chargers 8U Head Coach Alan Fairey made a promise to his players: if they kept the shut out alive, he’d buy them all shaved ice from the Kona Ice truck near the concessions stand.

“I think that brought the defensive intensity a little bit,” Fairey said after the win, chuckling. “But we’re going to

have to make up for it on Monday because it looked like the truck picked up and left.”

It was a complete team win for East Chatham, who heads into Week 6 of the season — where it’ll face the Knightdale Knights (3-0) on the road — with an unblemished record.

“We just did our best to not let up and I told the boys at halftime that nothing’s taken for granted and to put our best effort out there,” Fairey said. “They work hard all week, so it’s fun to come out here and see it come to fruition. It’s a great group of boys and coaches and I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

The Chargers’ 12U squad, acting as the nightcap, finished off the day with a 29-0 victory over Clayton (1-3) to improve to a perfect 3-0 on the season as it stands atop the EWFL’s 12U Pee-Wees West Division.

So far this year, East Chatham has had success both on and off the field as one of the county’s only football programs outside of varsity and junior varsity teams at local high schools.

Without middle school football in the area, teams like the Chargers and the Siler City Jets strive to create an environment where younger players can familiarize themselves with the game.

“We are basically middle school football in Chatham County,” Parker said. “All of the kids in this area, this is where they come to play football. We’re working really closely with Cameron Vernon (at Northwood) and Jason Amy (at Seaforth) so that we can really focus on the kids and prepare them for high school.”

But as important as preparing players for their future high school careers is, East Chatham officials hope the experience it provides the fans and players is worth it on its own.


“We’ve felt like we want to be the gold standard (of youth football),” Bryce Smith, assistant coach for the Chargers’ 14U team and former East Chatham president, said. “Let’s keep creating some Charger pride.”

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



Staff photo by James Kiefer

East Chatham’s Ty Willoughby (11) streaks down the field during the 14U Chargers’ 13-12 victory over the Durham Firebirds last Saturday in Pittsboro. Willoughby sealed the game with an interception on the Firebirds’ final drive.



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

October 7th through October 13th

Thursday, October 7th

- Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) at 1:00 PM 📶

Friday, October 8th

- Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Jackie at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧘📶
- Friday Night Dance at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 🕺

Monday, October 11th

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

Tuesday, October 12th

- Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Class 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, October 13th

- 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) 🧘📶

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

🧘 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**

📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

💰 **Fee Required for Participation**

The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC) 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512	Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC) 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975
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PARKS

Continued from page B1

“The community loved being motivated to get outside (and) be active and enjoyed the friendly competition,” Peterson wrote. “Many participants mentioned they were interested in participating again, so we brought the program back for a second year.”

This year’s competition began on Oct. 1 with 126 participants vying for one of the Challenge’s 64 prizes.

The top 20 athletes in each category — based on distance traveled — will receive a free t-shirt, while the top athlete in each category will earn a \$25 gift card to New Horizons, a Pittsboro-based boutique.

Participants are required to track their progress either using the Map My Fitness app on their smart phones or doing it by hand with a paper log, an option being utilized by about 40 entrants.

“We also have significantly more participation with the paper log option this year thanks to Chatham County Council on Aging’s major participation,” Peterson wrote.

The winners will be announced on the department’s social media channels after the conclusion of the Challenge on Oct. 31.

“While COVID-19 continues to bring much uncertainty to our lives, one thing for certain is our commitment to keep Chatham County residents active and involved in our community,” Peterson wrote. “Recreation looks different for everyone. Whether you’re walking, running or biking, we want to celebrate and encourage physical activity in our community.”

Enjoying the holidays

Over the next couple of months, the department is hosting plenty of holiday-themed activities to get residents in the Halloween and holiday spirit, along with those that are focused on fun and general well-being.

The department kicks off holiday programming with a workshop focused on making holiday bows from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 18, at Chatham Grove Community Center.

Then, just two weeks later, residents can celebrate Halloween a day early with the Trunk or Treat Fall Festival from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30, located at Northeast District Park in Chapel Hill that’s slated to feature trunk-or-treating — a mobile spin on traditional trick-or-treating where people decorate the trunks of their cars and hand out

candy — pumpkin carving/decorating, Halloween-themed games and crafts, among other activities.

The last of its designated holiday programs is its Holiday in the Park festival, taking place from 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, at Northwest District Park in Siler City that acts as awinter holiday-themed version of its fall festival.

And for those that aren’t interested in holiday activities, the department will continue to host yoga classes (Tuesdays and Thursdays at Chatham Grove Community Center), open adult pickleball sessions (Saturdays at Chatham Grove) and jump rope classes (Mondays at Chatham Grove), as well as other programs.

The county’s youth basketball league is also returning this fall, where boys and girls aged 5-18 will have an opportunity to play against one another at a variety of schools in the area. Registration ends Oct. 29.

In addition to athletic activities, the department is offering those based on tracing genealogy, creating arts and crafts, storytelling and watching movies.

“There is something for everyone this fall with Chatham County Parks and Recreation,” Peterson wrote.

While there is plenty of reason to rejoice for the return of in-person, out-of-vehicle programs this fall, Peterson said she understands the ever-changing challenges that the ongoing pandemic presents.

The department’s no stranger to them.

“(Throughout the pandemic) we have tried to stay as flexible and adaptable as we can,” Peterson wrote. “We have learned the importance of modifying our traditional programs and events to keep our community safe and healthy. We come up with multiple plans for each event to be prepared to comply with changes that may come from local, state or federal health guidelines.”

To learn more about programs and events taking place with Chatham County Parks and Recreation this fall, head over to <https://www.chatham-countync.gov/government/departments-programs/parks-recreation/special-events> to view this season’s brochure.

To register for programs, visit <https://ccparksandrec.recdesk.com/community/home>. You must sign-up for an account to register.

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

United Way's Ormsbee Robinson award honors Chatham Hospital employees

From the United Way of Chatham County

SILER CITY — The United Way of Chatham County awarded Chatham Hospital employees with the 2021 Ormsbee Robinson Award — the highest honor given by United Way — last Thursday during an employee appreciation event at Chatham Hospital.

The event also kicked off Chatham Hospital's annual United Way employee giving campaign.

The Ormsbee Robinson Award honors people who reflect selfless giving and committed service to Chatham County. United Way Board Chair Dr. Jim Sink, who is also a retired surgeon, presented the award.

"From my experience, I understand the physical and mental exhaustion that comes from taking care of sick patients and their anxious families," Sink said. "And I understand the selflessness of those who risk their health and the health of their families to take care of patients with communicable diseases. There are many noble professions, teachers and clergy come to mind. But, I think those who choose to work in a hospital are right at the top of the list. You come to work each day to help us when we need you."

Jeff Strickler, CEO of Chatham Hospital, accepted the award.

"We are honored to receive the Ormsbee Robinson award," Strickler said. "This recognition comes to our staff during a challenging time in healthcare and represents an acknowledgment of their efforts to care for our community. This acknowledgment



Courtesy of the United Way

Dr. Jeff Strickler, CEO of Chatham Hospital (left), receives the Chatham County United Way's 2021 Ormsbee Robinson Award. The award, the highest honor given by United Way, was presented last Thursday during an employee appreciation event at Chatham Hospital by United Way board President Dr. Jim Sink (right).

will make their burden feel a bit lighter.

"Also, thanks so much to United Way of Chatham County for this award but more importantly their continued partnership with Chatham Hospital to meet the needs of our community."

The Ormsbee Robinson Award includes a \$1,000 grant from United Way of Chatham County to the hospital's agency of choice. Hospital employees who attended the event voted on the agency they believed most deserving of the grant, with the Chatham County Council on Aging receiving the \$1,000.

Employees were also treated to Ben & Jerry's ice cream, from Ice Cream Catering (ICC) Primo Partners LLC, an Independent Franchisee of Ben & Jerry's.

"The employees of Chatham Hospital have supported United Way and the greater community for many years through an annual giving campaign," said Katie Childs, Executive Director of United Way

of Chatham County.

"But during this past year, they enhanced that support by not only being steadfast financial supporters of our work, but by risking their lives to care for the most vulnerable in our community."

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Chatham News + Record Local Service Directory

Group seeks solutions, alternatives for students whose brushes with the law stymie academic path

The short-term suspension rates for Black students and students with disabilities in Chatham County is more than four times that of white students. That has to do with the behaviors that lead to suspensions, of course, but a group of Chatham County residents says the negative effects of suspensions — which includes the interruption of the suspended students’ education — are as concerning as the disproportionate rates at which students with disabilities and Black and multiracial students are referred to law enforcement for actions at school.

This week, we speak with David G. Delaney, an attorney and Chatham County resident, about the so-called “school to prison pipeline.” Delaney is helping to develop a plan to work to reduce exclusionary practices and school-related delinquency complaints by 90% over one year, as well as to create a collaborative community partnership to maintain safety in schools — yet at the same time interrupt that pipeline.

Delaney serves as chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee of the NAACP Chatham Community Branch. An army veteran and parent of two elementary school children, he has taught law and public policy at Indiana University and UNC-Chapel Hill.

What drew your interest and attention in the “school to prison” pipeline?

The NAACP has had a long-standing interest in keeping children in school and eliminating racial disparities in schools and criminal justice systems. Our branch’s criminal justice committee noticed that there was very little accessible information describing those concerns in Chatham County. So we decided to look for information that would describe the status quo and help us consider what kind of improvements could be made.

What does the data suggest about the school to prison pipeline, specifically in Chatham County?

A 2019 report of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice stated that 57% of juvenile delinquencies in Chatham County — about 110 — were school-related. Those struck us as high numbers. The vast majority of those students do not enter juvenile detention, but they are processed through the justice system, consume significant public resources and can be detrimentally affected by the experience. Unfortunately, we could not find detailed data on 2020 school-related delinquencies. Our upcoming conversations with court personnel, the Sheriff’s Office and Chatham County Schools should bring

that information into public discussion.

However, 2019 and 2020 data clearly show that students with disabilities and Black, Hispanic, multiracial and American Indian students are disproportionately impacted by disciplinary and law enforcement practices. For example, Black students and students with disabilities are, respectively, 4.4 and four times more likely than white students to receive short-term suspensions that remove them from school for up to 10 days. Students with disabilities are referred to law enforcement at the highest rate of any student group. We also found that Black and multiracial students were referred to law enforcement at almost twice the average rate. Inadequate resources for students’ needs, implicit racial bias and socioeconomic factors are some of the possible reasons for these disparities.

Most schools have a “zero-tolerance” behavior policy. What is that, why has it contributed to the problem and why is it important to re-think that?

The schools are not our only focus for zero-tolerance policies, but that’s a good place to start. We expect schools to say that classroom disruptions, discrimination, assaults or threats will not be tolerated. The concern

School Discipline and Law Enforcement		
	Goal: 90% lower than 2019-2020	Adjusted for 10,000 students
Short-term Suspensions	63	70
Long-term Suspensions	0	0
Expulsions	0	0
In-school suspensions	151	168
Referrals to Law Enforcement	1	1
Arrests	0	0
Juvenile Justice System		
	Goal: 90% lower than 2020	
Violent Class A-E	1	
Serious, Class F-I	2	
Minor Class 1-3	12	
Infraction	0	
Status*	0	
Total Delinquent Complaints	15	
Total Complaints	15	

arises when policies mandate disciplinary or law enforcement responses that treat all students the same and remove them from the normal learning environment.

When there is zero flexibility in addressing student behavior — perhaps by mandating suspension or school resource officer involvement — students fall behind and lose the benefits of the shared learning environment. School discipline can be positive and constructive instead of punitive and exclusionary. When school personnel have the discretion, skills and resources to be constructive and pay special attention to a student’s emotional needs, disability or other circumstances, the child can learn better and stay on a path to success in school and life.

What other zero-tolerance policies contribute to the problem?

Some laws create zero-tolerance policies. For example, North Carolina law requires principals to report 10 categories of student crime to law enforcement. Principals can be charged with a misdemeanor crime and lose their teaching license for failing to report the behavior. That’s a zero-tolerance policy that may also lead school officials to over-report student misconduct. Our committee is going to study these laws more closely over the coming months to see if legislative changes are warranted.

When students are referred to the school resource officer, they may find that individual officers, law enforcement policies, or court personnel bring other zero-tolerance policies into the equation. We learned of a student charged with a crime in a neighboring county for behavior that rarely reaches a court. Was a school official biased against the Black student? Did the school resource officer have a zero-tolerance policy for such behavior (or such behavior by Black students) to promote safety because he had family members in the school system? Did the juvenile court counselor defer to the sheriff’s office as a matter of policy for some reason?

Awareness of the ways that formal and informal zero-tolerance policies operate can help community members identify them and find ways to inject expert discretion back into the equation.

What are the specific goals you and the local NAACP have?

First and foremost, our Chatham Community Branch wants to give

our community common knowledge and language to frame conversations. Data helps us do that. By knowing more about the issues, we hope to inform community dialog, involvement and improvement. The NAACP has a special interest in eliminating disparities for racial and ethnic groups and students with disabilities. We urge stakeholders to focus on that goal while aspiring to make Chatham County the statewide leader in reducing school-related diversions to the criminal justice system.

The goal we propose is to reduce by 90% the number of students who are referred to law enforcement, suspended at home or enter the criminal justice system for school-related acts.

Where is Chatham County Schools in these discussions? Where does Chatham County stack up?

Our committee was very impressed with the five-year strategic Equity and Excellence for Everyone program that Chatham County Schools has been implementing. It addresses these issues, provides employee learning opportunities, promotes behavioral development and problem solving for students, increases student mental health services and links school leaders to other community stakeholders. We see a strong foundation to build on.

You included students with disabilities in your data search. Why is that important, and what else needs said about that population?

We learned a lot by speaking with local child development experts and considering the experience of other counties. More children with emotional and behavioral disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and intellectual disabilities are involved in the justice system than are children with other disabilities. But other disabilities can affect behavior and discipline, too, so the schools and criminal justice system must be prepared to serve a wide range of student needs. Special concern and planning is required to support all students with disabilities, their families and educators both to prevent and respond to student behaviors. Fortunately, our community seems to have many well-qualified experts, specialists and counselors to help our public institutions reduce the disparate treatment that students with disabilities experience.

What’s the next step in creating a collaborative community partnership to maintain safety in schools, yet at the same time interrupt that pipeline?

One possibility is to

leverage the resources of the N.C. Judicial Branch’s School Justice Partnership program. We are reaching out to Chief District Court Judge Samantha Cabe, CCS and Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson to explore their interest in that option.

Another possibility is creating Chatham County’s own stakeholder agreement. That option could include some of the judicial branch’s goals while also implementing best practices recommended by the N.C. Dept. of Public Safety Juvenile Community Program Section. Ideally, the schools, courts, juvenile justice professionals and Sheriff’s Office work from a common list of priority goals after deeper analysis of nonpublic data that helps pinpoint specific needs in specific schools or geographic areas.

In your report, your committee recommends that “CCS, CCSO, and the courts collectively work to reduce exclusionary practices and school-related delinquency complaints by 90% over one year.” Why is that important?

We’re providing these numbers [see table] to help all parts of our community envision what excellent outcomes can look like. We want public officials to ask, “What kind of changes in my organization would enable this much better future for our children?” That kind of open-ended, positive thinking enables new ideas and implementation plans to come forward.

Let’s assume that about half of 2020 juvenile delinquency complaints were school-related, as they were in 2019. That’s 73 complaints involving an unknown number of children. We know that CCS reported 63 criminal acts at school resulting in 11 referrals to law enforcement. By reviewing those situations, officials can identify specific student behaviors, school responses and justice system actions that might be improved.

If all public officials share a goal of reducing those numbers by 90%, they can identify ways to prevent student misbehavior, respond with positive behavioral interventions and adjust law enforcement involvement to help achieve the goal. That kind of analysis also helps determine the best ways to spend public dollars, engage nonprofits, help families, seek additional professional expertise or service providers and pursue grants or private donations to fill gaps. Without that kind of analysis, improving outcomes for students is more of a guessing game.

When we set these county-wide goals for next year — only 15 juvenile delinquency complaints, six criminal acts at school and one school referral to law enforcement — we’re asking stakeholders to envision great progress. More than that, we’re asking stakeholders to picture the faces of the students who will realize the life-changing benefits of the community’s extra efforts. Those students’ brighter futures should guide us all so they are not just imaginary stories.

The News + Record is preparing a series of related stories addressing these issues.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On September 22, Carl Lewis Blanton, 60, of 1410A Hol-lands Chapel Road, Apex, was arrested by Deputy Jesse L. Clark for common law rob-bery, assault and battery and assault by pointing a gun. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 4.

On September 22, Francis Cyril Nichols, 46, of 209 Mediate Drive, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Cha-tham County District Court in Pittsboro on September 29.

On September 22, Daniel Scott Smith, 33, of 1421 Sunny Slope Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Yuridia Robles for

failure to appear related to child support. He was issued an \$800 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Ran-dolph County Child Support Court.

On September 24, Bielman Mendez Arias, 18, of 505 Womble Street, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for failure to appear. He was issued a secured bond of \$500 and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Novem-ber 4.

On September 27, Andrew David Charles Ranck, 40, of 5 Lane Street, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for assault on a female and assault inflicting serious injury in the presence of a minor. He was placed under a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Hoke County District Court in Raeford on November 10.

On September 27, Heather Ann Green, 35, of 2612 St. Luke's Church Road, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for possession with intent to manufacture/sell/ deliver a schedule II controlled substance, selling/deliver-ing a schedule II controlled substance, conspiracy to sell/ deliver a schedule II controlled substance, obtaining property by false pretense, possession of marijuana (up to ½ ounce) and misdemeanor child abuse. She was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to ap-pear in Chatham County Dis-trict Court on October 4. She was also arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear and was issued a \$500 secured bond; she is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on Oct. 27.

On September 27, Ricky Dustin Oldham, 36, of 2612 St. Luke's Church Road, Goldston, was

arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$4,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 6.

On September 27, Cooper Davis Daniel, 20, of 9813 Burnet Place, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for assault on a female and interfering with emergency communications. He was issued a 48-hour domestic violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 6.

On September 27, Francis Cyr-il Nichols, 46, of 209 Mediate Drive, Raleigh, was arrested by Sgt. Rischetta White for failure to appear related to charges of driving while impaired. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County

District Court in Pittsboro on October 29.

On September 28, Jacob Benja-min Dowd, 23, of 849 Glover's Grove Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for posses-sion of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear. He was issued a \$30,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 27.

On September 28, Shannon Victoria Lamb, 35, of 3383 Old Graham Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failures to appear on charges of simple assault, interfering with emergency communications, and resist-ing a public officer. She was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on October 27.

Make way for the travel agent's homecoming

For at least a decade, online travel sites have eroded clien-tele from once indis-pens-able travel agen-cies. But the new complexities of travel in a pandemic-ridden world — from vaccine require-ments to mandatory quarantines and regular COVID-19 testing — have made the bygone travel agent a resurgent super-star.

"People are coming to us who used to be our clients," said Margaret de St. Aubin, president of Siler City's North Carolina Travel, "and they're saying, 'I'm so sorry, I apologize, I used Expedia and it was horrible. I couldn't ever get a person, and I had to cancel, but nothing worked. Please forgive me, I'm coming back to you.' And I'm like, 'Well I didn't know you had left, but thank you.'"

De St. Aubin has op-erated the agency since 1988. Back then, 50% of the company's business came from corporate travelers. As Siler City's once-thriving industry sector dwindled, so too did North Carolina Travel's client pool evaporate.

The agency pivoted and made leisure travel its bread and butter. But then came the internet, and again prospects looked grim.

"The travel industry, at least for travel agents, had seen a slump because of the internet because, I

mean, everyone's a travel agent now," de St. Aubin said. "So that had been frustrating."

COVID-19 seemed like it would deal her company its final blow — federal mandates forbade most travel, airlines were grounded and widespread fear tanked traveler enthu-siasm. Instead, the pan-demic ignited a revival.

"It was, of course, slow at first. But we're get-ting back into business because travel is more complicated now," de St. Aubin said. "I think a lot of people are coming to travel agents now because they need more resources, particularly about what's open, what's not open. And those things can change, it seems, day-to-day sometimes."

De St. Aubin's expe-rience isn't a one-off. A New York Times report confirms travel agents countrywide are seeing renewed interest from would-be travelers strug-gling to negotiate labyrin-thine regulations.

"Many travel agents are seeing an unprece-dented surge of business, as COVID-19 has given them a new relevancy," the story said, "thanks largely to the morass of constantly changing rules and restrictions that travelers must nav-igate."

Some countries require visitors submit regular COVID testing results. Others want new arriv-als to quarantine. Still others permit entry only from select locations. The intricacies of travel can baffle laymen. But such impediments are no lon-ger quelling widespread zeal. A year of confine-ment bred a population consumed by wanderlust.

"People are dying to get out there and take the trips they had to miss," de St. Aubin said. "It's been a long time for a lot of people stuck at home waiting for the chance to do something again."

Still, de St. Aubin is a realist. She recognizes the swell might subside when post-pandemic trav-el returns to normal.

"It's never going to get back to what it was in the old days," she said. "And we'll see what it's like as things start to calm down."

But de St. Aubin is glad for renewed interest in her company, and will en-joy it as long as she can.

"When things were at their worst, my manager and I said, 'We don't want

it to end this way. We've got to give it another try for a while,'" de St. Aubin said. "So we're grateful that we did and for the way things are going now, and hopefully it'll pan out."

Other business news

In his first week as Raleigh's economic de-velopment director, Kyle Touchstone — Chatham's former Economic De-velopment Corporation president — is already making waves.

During his brief tenure, which began last Monday, Touchstone has seen a major company, Ineos Automotive, an-nounce it would establish a new North American headquarters in the

Triangle. And more announcements could be on the way, including the arrivals of Fortune 500 companies.

"Fortune headquarters are always a goal for this region," Touchstone told Triangle Business Jour-nal. "While I can't disclose who's looking, I think there is a strong possibility that we're being consid-ered by these largest companies in the U.S."

Candidates come from "life sciences to tech to manufacturing," accord-ing to TBJ.

Other major companies, such as Google and Apple, are already in process of establishing Triangle sites, all within short driv-ing distances of Pittsboro

where the Chatham Park development and other neighborhoods are pre-paring to welcome more than 50,000 new residents over coming decades.

"We want to make sure we maintain a very diverse set of business-es," Touchstone told the TBJ. "But we also have to continue building on the momentum that is in place. We can't win projects in the region and then say, 'Well, we've won and we can stop now.' I think the city of Raleigh is at a phenomenal place in time for us to really capitalize on the wins of the region, the commer-cial real estate develop-ment that is occurring throughout the city."



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Siler City initiates redistricting process, greenlights Chatham 250 fireworks display

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Board of

Commissioners initiated the redistricting process Monday night, setting mapmakers' five guiding principles for creating the town's new voting

districts. Those criteria include preserving the core of existing districts; avoiding pairing incumbents; planning for future

growth; preserving communities of interest (i.e. prioritize the intactness of neighborhoods, or other historical, cultural or economic communities); and requiring substantially equal population.

Commissioners approved the criteria in a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Bill Haiges didn't attend the meeting.

"This is a process that takes place every 10 years after the Census in order to readjust the lines of voting districts in accordance with population shifts that may show up after that census," said attorney Deborah Stagner of Tharrington Smith LLP, the law firm the town contracted last December to guide Siler City through the redistricting process.

Usually, Census data arrives in March to states and municipalities, permitting town officials several months to redistrict in advance of the November elections. This year, however, the U.S. Census Bureau didn't begin releasing data to state and municipalities until August 12, thanks to pandemic delays.

To accommodate tardy Census data, the General Assembly passed a law in July to delay some 2021 municipal elections until March 8, 2022 — including Siler City's. Because most municipalities — such as Pittsboro — don't vote by districts, their elections will go on as planned in November.

Since Siler City uses electoral districts to elect five commissioners, town officials must evaluate the town's voting districts and amend them, if needed, to uphold the "one person, one vote" principle, in which every resident is entitled to fair and equal representation by districts of roughly equal population.

Municipalities don't need to readjust districts if their populations didn't change much over the previous decade.

The 2020 U.S. Census found that Siler City's population decreased from 7,887 people to 7,702 — and now the town's new ideal district population is 1,540 people, according to demogra-

pher and mapping expert Blake Esselstyn. He and his company, Mapfigure Consulting, will be drawing Siler City's new voting maps.

"The law in North Carolina has determined that in order to make the finding that the districts are within the acceptable level of deviation, that they have that substantially equal population, they need to be within +/- 5% (of the ideal population)," he told the board. "... And so the key determination that everyone's talking about in terms of whether the town will need to redistrict is whether all five districts fall within that +/- 5%."

Only three of Siler City's districts fall within that range. District 1 is about 7% below the ideal district range, while District 3 is 8% above.

So, "the districts have to be modified," Esselstyn said — and he can only modify them with direction from the town board, which commissioners gave.

Now that the town has outlined guiding principles, Esselstyn will draw a couple of potential plans and present them to the board on Nov. 1, allowing commissioners to ask questions and give feedback. By law, the town must then hold a public hearing over the maps; under Stagner's timeline, the town will hold that hearing on Nov. 15.

On Dec. 6, commissioners will gather for one final time to approve the revised maps.

Seats held by four commissioners — Cindy Bray, Tony Siler, Norma Boone and Lewis Fadely — plus the town's vacant mayorship will be up for election on March 8, 2022. The revised candidate filing period opens at noon on Jan. 3 and closes on Jan. 7.

Chatham 250's grand finale

The year-long celebration to commemorate Chatham County's 250th anniversary will come to a close in just over a month — but its grand finale won't be a "caravana," or parade, around Siler City on Oct. 23 as originally planned.

Instead, it'll be a fireworks display at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, in downtown Siler City. On the recommendation of the celebration's primary planner, Chatham 250's Diversity and Community sub-committee, the board voted 6-0 to amend the event and postpone it until mid-November.

"This is a great idea," Commissioner Chip Price said. "Siler City's been missing fireworks for I don't know how long."

Hale Artificier, a fireworks store based in Lexington, will present the display from the Wren Industries property for 20 to 30 minutes. According to Chatham 250 presenter and assistant county manager Bryan Thompson, the display will cost \$6,000 — a cost Siler City and Chatham County will evenly split as sponsors under the proposal.

Siler City first voted to sponsor the celebration's grand finale last April. Up until Monday, Chatham 250 planners had hoped to arrange a parade, which would have started at Bray Park and ended across the street from the Siler City Fire Department. About a month ago, however, pandemic-related concerns forced planners to consider pivoting.

"There have been concerns expressed earlier on, especially when we were in the heat of the pandemic, of crowds that parades could bring and that are the kind of crowds that are condensed and pushed to the

front of a road," Thompson told the board. "So as we were workshoping that problem over the past month or so, we started exploring not forward with the parade, but instead going out with a bang."

A fireworks display, Thompson said, would offer ample space for social distancing and allow people to join in from their cars and even their homes. A display also wouldn't disrupt traffic as much as a parade. Various town departments — including fire, police and public works — have already approved the display plans.

"It's an opportunity to bring people downtown and really chime with the great work going on there," he said. "... It's just a great end of a long one-year celebration to go out with fireworks as opposed to something like a parade, so we're very, very excited about this. Everybody that we've spoken with has met this with a very real sense of positivity, and we think this is going to draw a very nice crowd."

Other meeting business

- Commissioners authorized Town Manager Roy Lynch to contract a structural engineer to evaluate and recommend what the town should do about a condemned building on 106 E. Raleigh Street after Oct. 10.

Due to the building's liability to fire, decay and the bad condition of its walls, the Chatham County Inspections Department condemned the building as unsafe on Sept. 17.

The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building within the Siler City Commercial Historic District. Built in 1910, the one-story brick building had been constructed as an annex to another building that no longer exists (the 1902 Wrenn Brothers Co. building). Today, only the building's rear and side brick walls are original.

"The violations (need to) be addressed by Oct. 10," Planning Director Jack Meadows told the board. "That is to give that structural analysis and share that with us so we can assess what actions will be taken and furthermore on Nov. 28 obtain proper permits or demolish the building — so analysis by the 10th and then the permits to make the repairs."

- Repairs to West Fifth Street culverts between Camelia Avenue and the railroad tracks will likely not meet its original deadline in late October, Lynch told the board in his manager's report.

In June, Siler City contracted McGill Associates, an engineering consultancy based in Raleigh, to evaluate a replacement project on the Fifth Street culverts. The tunnels convey water beneath the road away from Loves Creek Tributary 1.

The town contracted SKC Inc., the lowest bidder, to complete the road repairs for \$149,960. SKC Inc. contacted the project's engineer, who reported "they are having a difficult time now sourcing the culverts," according to Lynch.

"So this project is going to be delayed for a little while, but I'm not sure at this point what that time frame looks like," Lynch told the board. "We had originally contracted with them to complete the project in 45 days, which was supposed to be sometime around the third week of October, but I do not think we are going to meet that at this point."

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



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OCTOBER 7, 2021 AT 11:30

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Hardware General

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*#1 Rated Brand in Cordless Outdoor Power

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham CARES
‘Celebration of Lights’ set
for Dec. 4

SILER CITY — The Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy will host its annual Celebration of Lights drive-thru fundraiser on Dec. 4 at St. Julia Catholic Church, located at 210 Harold Hart Rd.

Attendees can celebrate the season outdoors with a band playing holiday favorites and a bilingual Christmas message. Luminaries will be on display during the service, guiding vehicles along the drive-thru holiday experience.

The parking lot opens at 6 p.m. Admission to the event is free, and luminaries can be purchased for \$10 each. All proceeds from the sale of luminaries will be used for prescription drug purchases, which are then dispensed to patients through Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy in downtown Siler City.

To purchase luminaries, call 919-663-0177. If you are purchasing luminaries in memory or in honor of someone and would like the name to be included in the program for the service, please do so by Nov. 30.

Each year, the Chatham CARES Community Pharmacy serves more than 350 clients with chronic health concerns like high blood pressure, diabetes and mental health disorders. Qualifying low-income clients meet 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and are uninsured or underinsured, and do not qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. The pharmacy operates with two paid staff members (a full-time pharmacy tech, and a bilingual receptionist who also serves as a translator), four volunteer pharmacists and a handful of other volunteers.

For more information, go to www.ChathamCares.com or email the pharmacy at chathamcares@embarq-mail.com.

— CN+R staff reports

Cardinal Innovations Healthcare
Chatham Drug Free
Chatham County

Jordan-Matthews High School
2021 Homecoming

#liveabove theinfluence

Join your friends and the Chatham County community by pledging to #LiveAboveTheInfluence of drugs! Stop by our tent to sign a banner to be hung in the hallways of Jordan-Matthews and enjoy the pre-game festivities of Homecoming Night with games, giveaways and more. This FREE event is sponsored by Cardinal Innovations Healthcare and Chatham Drug Free.

Friday, October 8th, 2021 | 4:30-7:30 PM

Jordan-Matthews High School | 910 E. Cardinal St., Siler City
Prior to Jordan-Matthews Homecoming Football Game

Games! Giveaways! More!

Football, basketball challenge and corn hole
Photo Booth
Live DJ

Free *LIMITED* tickets to football game

Free *LIMITED* concession tickets

Cash giveaways

Free swag from Cardinal Innovations!

Live
Above the
Influence

Chatham Drug Free is partnering with Cardinal Innovations Healthcare and the county to host ‘#liveabovetheinfluence,’ a free event prior to Jordan-Matthews’ homecoming football game Friday to promote abstinence from drug use. Scheduled for 4:30 - 7:30 p.m., the gathering will feature music, games and a photo booth, as well as giveaways and other festivities. Students will have the chance to sign a banner to be hung in the hallways of J-M pledging to not use drugs.

Kid Scoop®

THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



© 2021 by Vicki Whiting, Editor Jeff Schinkel, Graphics Vol. 37, No. 44

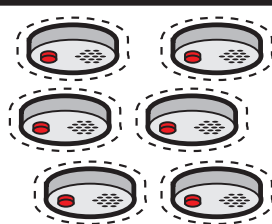
Smoke Sniffers!

A fire has started at 101 Flintstone Lane! How will everyone in the house know there is a fire?

By the time anyone in the family smells smoke, the fire could be too big for the people upstairs to get down the stairs. *This is a job for Super Sniffer Blaster Bleepers, your life-saving smoke alarms!*



Quick! Cut out each of the smoke alarms. Read the **Super Sniffer Blaster Bleeper Smoke Alarm Tips** to find out where you should put each smoke alarm!



SUPER SNIFFER
BLASTER BLEEPER'S
SMOKE ALARM
TIPS

► Put smoke alarms in several places in your home:

1. Each bedroom.
2. Just outside all bedroom areas.
3. At least one smoke alarm on each floor of the house.
4. Near the kitchen, but more than 20 feet away, so that cooking smoke and steam don't set it off.

► Test smoke alarms each month to make sure they are working, and so you'll know what they sound like when they go off.

► Replace old batteries with brand new ones at least once a year.

► Replace smoke alarms at least every 10 years.

► Keep smoke alarms dust free. Run the vacuum cleaner attachment over and around the alarms to clean away the dust.

Standards Link: Health and Safety: Students develop and use appropriate skills to avoid injury.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

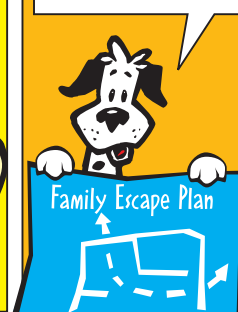
If your house caught on fire at night, you might not see fire, smell smoke or wake up in time to get out safely. **Smoke alarms can help.** Smoke alarms are tools that can tell if there is smoke in the air. **They work even if you can't smell smoke!!**



A smoke alarm makes a **VERY** loud beeping noise to warn you that a fire has started.



When you hear the loud noise, follow your home escape plan and **get out fast!**



Extra! Extra!
Spot the
Details

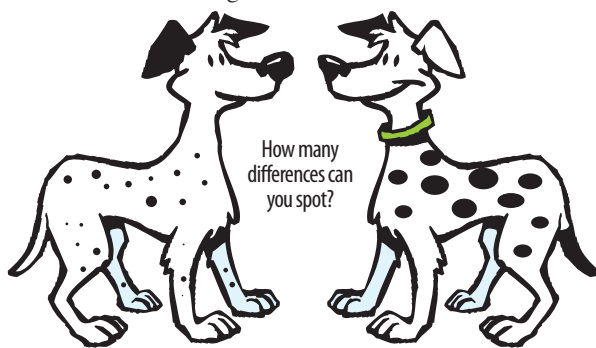
Select a newspaper photo, drawing or comic. Study the image and make a list of all the details you can observe. Give yourself a point for every detail that is a fact and not an opinion. Can you get 50 points?

Standards Link: Reading Comprehension: Recall major points; distinguish between fact and opinion.

Standards Link: Health and Safety: Students understand and practice safe behaviors to avoid injury by fire.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Long ago when horses pulled fire trucks, Dalmatian dogs were used to help guide the horses through busy streets. Dalmatians have long been known for their ability to bond well with horses. Today, horses no longer pull fire trucks, but the Dalmatian has continued to be the firefighters' mascot.



How many differences can you spot?

Standards Link: Visual Discrimination/Sorting: Find similarities and differences in common objects.

Double
Double Word Search

SMOKE
ALARMS
DALMATIAN
BATTERIES
SLOGAN
FLOOR
STAIRS
FIRE
SAFELY
LOUD
STEAM
DUST
HELP
SMELL
FACT

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

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

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

Keeping you safe
in an emergency.

To stay safe in a burning building, a firefighter must wear special gear.

A turnout coat, for example, is a special jacket designed to protect a firefighter from heat and flames.

Reflective stripes on the coat and pants help firefighters see one another in a dark, smoky building.



Photo: Flashon Studio/Shutterstock

Smoke can be one of the biggest dangers in a fire. Firefighters wear face shields and an air mask to be able to see and breathe.

If a fire breaks out in your home, it is **VERY** important to **STAY LOW**. Crawl towards an exit as quickly as possible to avoid breathing in smoke. And if a firefighter wearing gear like in the photo above is there, don't be afraid. They're there to help!

Write On!

Our Fire
Department

Write a paragraph telling what you know about the fire department in your town.

the Y YMCA

Chatham YMCA

- CHATHAM YMCA SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PITTSBORO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- YMCA DAY CAMP: PERRY HARRISON SCHOOL

287 East Street, Suite 412,
Pittsboro, NC 27312
More Info: 919-545-9622

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

LEARN ABOUT LAND - Chatham Land Experts - www.learn-aboutland.com - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfncc

OFFICE SPACE RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfncc

MOBILE HOME RENTAL

ONE BEDROOM, 1 bath, office in Bear Creek area - No smoking or pets. Application required, call 919-548-1332. Leave number & message, App will be mailed. 07,14,2tp

RENTAL APARTMENTS

POWELL SPRINGS APTS. Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD # 1-800-735-2962. Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfncc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS now for one bedroom apartments, adults 55 years or older. Water included, appliances furnished, on-site laundry, elevator, keyless entry. Section 8 accepted. \$486/mo., no security deposit. Application fee \$25 per adult. Call Braxton Manor, 919-663-1877. Handicap accessible. Equal Housing Opportunity. A2,tfncc

FOR SALE

HAY FOR SALE - Round bales, \$20 and up, Charles R. Marsh, 336-669-9705, 07,14,21,3tp

AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, My6,tfncc

RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal Property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, My6,tfncc

SERVICES

RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS, Alice Cox, Cox's

Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,tfncc

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfncc

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfncc

I PAY IN CASH FOR Junk Cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or Cell: 910-639-5614. God Bless! J9,tfncc

LETT'S TREE SERVICE - tree removal, stump grinding, lot clearing. Visa & Master Card accepted. Timber. Free estimates. 919-258-3594 N9,tfncc

HELP WANTED

FOOD SERVICES STAFF - Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. 07,1tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY - PARKS MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT. Performs difficult skilled trades work overseeing the daily maintenance activities for the Town's parks and recreational facilities and planning for future facility maintenance. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Associate degree in sports turf management, parks management, or related field and considerable experience in building and grounds maintenance or park operations, including supervisory experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. - Extensive customer service skills. - Possession of a valid NC driver's license -- Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications, Possession of NC Pesticide Operator's License upon hire. Possession of Certified Playground Safety Inspector License upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. Additional Employment Requirements: Must obtain NC Pesticide Operator's License

with one year of hire. All required certifications and licenses must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. -- Hiring Salary, \$45,004 annually -- Please refer to our website for a full job description. To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. - This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. 07,1tc

LILES PLUMBING - We are hiring, on the job training. Apply in person, 110 S Chatham Avenue, 919-742-3312. 523,30,07,3tc

HOME CARE SEEKING, Now

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.

400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5410

TDD 1-800-735-2962

Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMGt.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

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,tfncc

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,tfncc

LEGALS

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 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

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.

persons or a notary public. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to the Chatham County Board of Elec-



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

Join the News + Record's Team

HELP WANTED Delivery Drivers

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

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

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952 S. Stout Road, Randleman, NC 27317 - (336)498-8700 Hughesfurniture.com

EOE

tions 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 voters 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

tham 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,S30,07,4tc

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 the 16th day of September, 2021. Joseph Lee Perry, Executor 4107 Bullhead Road Apex, N.C. 27502

S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

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 or 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

111 Sierra Ct.
Durham, NC 27704

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 the 16th day of September, 2021.

James H. Bryan, Jr., and William R. Bryan
Co-Executors of the Aubin Redfield Sander Estate
Scheil Bray PLLC
P. O. Box 21847
Greensboro, NC 27420
C/O Amy H. Kincaid
SCHEIL BRAY PLLC
230 North Elm Street, Suite 1500
Greensboro, NC 27401

S16,S23,S30,07,4tc

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 the 16th day of September, 2021. MARY O. WOODALL, Administrator

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 501

All persons having claims against **MARY E. TOVELL** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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. Robin Tovell-Toubal, Executrix 197 Quarter Gate Trace Chapel Hill, N.C. 27516 or Pierce Law Group 3020 S. Miami Blvd., Suite 201 Durham, NC 27703

S23,S30,07,014,4tp

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 23rd day of December, 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 20th day of September, 2021. W. Woods Doster, Administrator of the Estate of Melicent Huneycutt-Vergeer 178 Windstone Pittsboro, NC 27312 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330

S23,S30,07,014,4tc

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

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Redemption code: **DF-CO-NP-Q321**

Reply by: **October 15, 2021**

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***\$100 ADT Visa Reward Card:** Requires 36-month monitoring contract starting at \$28.99/mo. (24-month monitoring contract in California, total fees from \$695.76), and enrollment in ADT EasyPay. Requires minimum purchase price of \$449. One (1) Visa Reward Card valued at \$100 is redeemable seven (7) days after system is installed, wherein an email is sent to the customer's email address associated with their account with a promo code. The customer must validate the promo code on the website provided in the email and a physical card will be sent in the mail. Installation must occur within 60 days of offer expiration date to receive card. Applicable to new and resale sale types only. Card is issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. No cash access or recurring payments. Can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply. Reply by 10/15/2021.

General: Additional charges may apply in areas that require guard response service for municipal alarm verification. System remains property of ADT. Local permit fees may be required. Prices and offers subject to change and may vary by market. Additional taxes and fees may apply. Satisfactory credit required. A security deposit may be required. Simulated screen images and photos are for illustrative purposes only.

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DF-CO-NP-Q321

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
18 E 167**

All persons having claims against **KENNETH M. JOHNSON** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 21st day of September, 2021.
Carolyn Johnson, Administrator
349 Hillside Dairy Rd
Pittsboro, NC 27312
S23,S30,07,014,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 550**

All persons having claims against **EUGENE BRYAN MARLEY, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 23rd 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 21st day of September, 2021.
John McCarty,
Ancillary Administrator CTA
56891 Mark Manor Drive
Elkhart, IN 46516
S23,S30,07,014,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 512**

All persons having claims against **PATRICIA WELCH CAREY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 September, 2021.
Cathleen C. Roberts, Executrix
c/o Kirschbaum, Nannay, Kennan & Griffin, P.A.
PO Box 19766
Raleigh, NC 27619-9766
919-848-0420
S30,07,014,021,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **ELEANOR DE GRANGE HEATH** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 4th day of January, 2021, are notified to present them to Frank Boynton Heath, Executor of the Estate of Eleanor de Grange Heath 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 January 7, 2022. 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 Eleanor de Grange Heath. Those indebted to Eleanor de Grange Heath are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.
David R. Frankstone
Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.
1414 Raleigh Rd, Suite 203
Exchange West at Meadowmont
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
S30,07,014,021,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 515**

All persons having claims against **WILLIAM DARRYL LEVO**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 September, 2021.
BRIAN M. LEVO, Co-Executor
6571 5th Ave NE,
Unit A
Seattle, Wa. 98115
Michelle R. Levo, Co-Executor
17507 Sonora Rd
PO Box 882
Knights Ferry, Ca. 95361
S30,07,014,021,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
16 E 108**

All persons having claims against **WAYBELLE C. BALDWIN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 September, 2021.
Tracy B. Rivera, Executrix
2626 Mallard Cove Rd
Sanford, NC 27330
S30,07,014,021,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified as Executor on the estate of **CARL G. SANKEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned c/o Robert A. Mason, Esq., PO Box 817, Asheboro, North Carolina

27204, on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 7th day of October, 2021.
Lucille A. Sankey, Executor of the
Estate of Carl G. Sankey
c/o Robert A. Mason, Esq.
PO Box 817
Asheboro, NC 27204
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned, having qualified on the 17th day of September, 2021, as Executrix of the Estate of **Virginia J. Rahdert a/k/a Virginia Josephine Rahdert**, 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 7th day of January, 2022, 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 7th day of October, 2021.
Barbara Berry, Executrix of The Estate of
Virginia J. Rahdert a/k/a Virginia Josephine Rahdert
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, NC 27707
c/o Candace B. Minjares, Esquire
Kennon Craver, PLLC
4011 University Drive, Suite 300
Durham, North Carolina 27707
07,014,021,028,4tc

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, October 18, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street.

Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham-countync.gov by selecting the heading County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the issues listed below:

Legislative Request:

1. A legislative public hearing for a request by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to consider amendments to the Chatham County Subdivision Regulations; specifically, Sections 1.13, Variances; 2.3, Meaning of Specific Words and Terms; 6.4, Final Plat, subsection B, Features; 5.2B Concept Plan; and 7.7 Conservation Subdivision – Alternative Standards for Development; and to the Chatham County Conservation Subdivision Guidelines for Conservation Space Selection to include an appeals process of staff decisions, remove the option allowing off-site septic systems for subdivision impact assessments be reviewed by the Environmental Review Advisory Committee, and revise conservation subdivision development standards and guidelines.

2. A Legislative public hearing for a request by the Chatham County Planning and Watershed Protection Departments to consider amendments to the Chatham County Watershed Protection Ordinance; specifically, Article 100 Section 103 (D) Exceptions to Applicability; Section 106 (A) Remedies; Section 109 General Definitions; Article 500 Section 501 Watershed Administrator and Duties; and updating department and division titles throughout the document.

Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.

Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided.

If you have any questions or comments concerning

these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

07,014,2tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE
CONVEYANCE OF COUNTY
OWNED PROPERTY
TO A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

RESOLUTION-Declaring Property Surplus and Conveying Property
WHEREAS, the Chatham County Health Department has five (5) display racks and ten (10) shopping baskets to be declared surplus as they are no longer needed by the Department; and
WHEREAS, NC General Statutes § 160A-279 authorizes the Board to approve the conveyance of personal property to a non-profit agency with or without consideration; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Chatham:
Section 1: The Board declares the above listed items to be surplus property; and
Section 2: That the Board approves the conveyance of the identified property to Chatham Outreach Alliance (CORA) for promoting healthy eating habits for people receiving food assistance from the CORA food pantry.
Adopted, this the 20th day of September, 2021.
Mike Dasher, Chair
Chatham County Board of Commissioners
ATTEST:
Lindsay K. Ray, NCCCC, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners
07,1tc

**TOWN OF SILER CITY
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Oct. 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Public hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:

Town of Siler City proposes the following text amendments to the UDO: §136 Uses Defined (family care home, shelter house, temporary home for homeless) and §147 Table of Permissible Uses (family care homes, nursing care homes, intermediate care homes, child care homes, halfway house, temporary home for homeless).

The proposed item is available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the application are invited to attend the public hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on Oct. 11 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such as arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
07,014,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 566**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **WILLIAM LOUIS DIGGS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons,

firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, 152 Old Farrington Road, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517, on or before the 5th day of January, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.
This 29th day of September, 2021.
Catherine Jean Diggs
152 Old Farrington Road
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P. O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **ELEANOR de GRANGE HEATH** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 4th day of January, 2021, are notified to present them to Frank Boynton Heath, Executor of the Estate of Eleanor de Grange Heath 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 30, 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 Eleanor de Grange Heath. Those indebted to Eleanor de Grange Heath 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
07,014,021,028,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **RICHARD SPRINGER** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 1st day of August, 2021, are notified to present them to Frederic R. Ammon, Executor of the Estate of Richard Springer 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 January 13, 2022. 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 Richard Springer. Those indebted to Richard Springer 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
07,014,021,028,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 569**

All persons having claims against **KAREN BETH HEILMAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 4th day of October, 2021.
Thomas Newton Heilman II
306 Highland Trail
Chapel Hill, NC 27516
07,014,021,028,4tp

**IN THE GENERAL COURT OF
JUSTICE
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION
FILE NO. 17-CVD-318
NORTH CAROLINA**

CHATHAM COUNTY
COUNTY OF CHATHAM
Plaintiff, vs.
The HEIRS, ASSIGNS, and DEVISEES
of BARBARA HOWARD, et al
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVISEES of BARBARA HOWARD and spouse, if any, which may include WOODROW W. HOWARD and spouse, if any, and KIMYETTA L. HOWARD and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder
A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on October 7, 2021.
The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.
You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after October 7, 2021, or by November 16, 2021, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.
This the 24th day of September, 2021.
Zacchaeus Legal Services
By: Mark D. Bardill/Mark B. Bardill
Attorney for Plaintiff
NC Bar #12852/56782
310 W. Jones St.
P. O. Box 25
Trenton, North Carolina 28585
Telephone: (252) 448-4541
07,014,021,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E-559**

All persons having claims against **INGRID BAIRD**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th 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 30th day of September, 2021.
Joanne Hawkins, Executor
c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC
PO Box 31205
Raleigh, NC 27622
07,014,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 9th day of January, 2021, are notified to present them to Mariechen Smith Matson, Executrix of the Estate of Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope 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 January 13, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope. Those indebted to Catharine W. Pope aka Catharine Louise Pope 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
07,014,021,028,4tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE
Haren Construction Company, Inc.**

is seeking qualified Small/

Minority/Women Business Enterprises (S/MWBE) for construction of the Pittsboro, NC – Wastewater Transmission System Impvs Contract 1 Project. Subcontractor and supplier opportunities include but not limited to: Electrical, Plumbing, Painting, Masonry, Paving, Roofing, Hauling, Wood Trusses, Concrete Formwork, HVAC, Rebar Supply/Install, Doors, Erosion Control, Fencing, Clearing, Windows, and Toilet Accessories. Quotes received by E.O.B 10/13/2021. Please contact Samantha Nelson at 423-604-3038 for information.

07,1tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Estate of George C. Theologus aka George Charles Theologus
Having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of George C. Theologus, aka George Charles Theologus, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 8th day of January, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This is the 7th day of October, 2021.
Laura Shel Brahlek, Administrator CTA of the Estate of George C. Theologus aka George Charles Theologus
Dori J. Dixon
Schell Bray PLLC
Attorney for the Estate
100 Europa Drive, Suite 271
Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27517
07,014,021,028,4tc

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **JAMES E. RICE, AKA JAMES EUGENE RICE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment.
This 7th day of October, 2021.
Barbara S. Rice, Administrator of the Estate of James E. Rice
1274 New Hope Church Road
Apex, N.C. 27523
Wade H. Paschal, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 273
Siler City, NC 27344
Attorney for th Estate of James E. Rice
07,014,021,028,4tc

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARY CATHERINE JOHNSON HARRIS, AKA MARY K. HARRIS, AKA MARY J. HARRIS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of January, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate of the deceased will please make immediate payment.
This 7th day of October, 2021.
Larry Wilson Harris, Sr., Administrator of the Estate of Mary Catherine Johnson Harris
724 McLaurin Road
Siler City, NC 27344
Wade H. Paschal, Jr.
Attorney at Law
PO Box 273
Siler City, NC 27344
Attorney for th Estate of Mary Catherine Johnson Harris
07,014,021,028,4tc



Animal Resources

Low Cost Spay / Neuter - Only \$20

Qualified applicants may purchase vouchers to use at participating pet clinics. Submit applications to:

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Phone: 919-542-7203  facebook.com/chathamsoar

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www.chathamsheriff.com



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