

Chatham News + Record

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Chatham: Giving thanks in a most tumultuous year
Quotes, Page B6

‘A LOT TO BE THANKFUL FOR’

First, there was COVID. Then a cancer diagnosis. And now, for these Chatham sisters, Thanksgiving.



Debbie Champion, left poses with daughters Tonya Williams, middle, and Leslie Hayes. Last Thanksgiving, the younger girls were in the midst of recovering from COVID and breast cancer, respectively.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

BY BOB WACHS

News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — What two Chatham County sisters experienced in the past year has helped them understand that Thanksgiving isn't simply a once-a-year family holiday — it can be a way of life, too.

Their journey to that realization began with the onset of the summer of 2020. A pandemic was starting to rage, but for Leslie Hayes, Tonya Williams and the sisters' mother, Debbie Champion, life was humming along nicely.

Within a period of just a few days, though, everything changed.

On June 30, Leslie, 41, had her first-ever mammogram.

On July 4, during a holiday beach vacation, Tonya, 48, began to feel ill.

Days later, the twin diagnoses they'd receive would leave mom Debbie with staggering questions about how she could help her daughters and their families, and even contemplating whether her girls would survive.

The malady that interrupted Tonya's beach vacation was positively diagnosed as COVID-19, and she soon became so sick that she was hospitalized. And after a series of follow-up tests following her mammogram, Leslie was diagnosed with breast cancer

on July 22.

Tonya's stay at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill initially lasted until early October, when she was transferred to Select Specialties in Greensboro to be weaned off a ventilator. After three weeks there, she was moved to Moses Cone Hospital for a month of therapy and rehabilitation before finally returning home to Siler City, weak and exhausted, on Dec. 5.

Meanwhile, in mid-September, Leslie underwent a double mastectomy at Asheboro-Randolph Cancer Center. In October, she began two months of radiation therapy.

Even with that, she probably had the easier route than Tonya did.

"I was able to continue working at my job with Chatham County Social Services," said Leslie, who lives near Seagrove, "I also did paperwork for Tonya to help her and mama. That helped keep my mind off me."

'What does normal mean?'

Over at UNC, Tonya's mind — and the days — became a blur. Not long after being admitted, she had a tracheotomy to allow her to breathe better.

"I was aware of some things," she recalled, "but had to be sedated because I was spending 16 hours a day

See **SISTERS**, page A3

Small Museum of Folk Art expected to reopen in early December

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Odd Company, or ODDCO, has a new next-door neighbor on West Street — and as luck would have it, this newcomer, the Small Museum of Folk Art, is just as offbeat.

After nearly five years at 219 East St. beside the Small B&B Cafe, the Small Museum of Folk Art closed up shop in

June and just a month later moved in beside ODDCO, an unconventional retail art, gifts and clothing store just west of downtown Pittsboro off Hwy. 64 Business.

Now, after nearly four months of unexpected delays and expenses, the museum's finally on track to reopen early next month, according to executive director Dave Clark.

"We got probably three weeks of getting the electrical

hooked up, getting the ramp and stairs in, and then I hope to have it opening up the first part of December," Clark told the News + Record. "Then we just, you know, let it do its thing."

Opened in 2016 by collectors Clark and his wife, Lisa Piper, the Small Museum of Folk Art is home to nearly 600 works of folk and outsider art

See **ART**, page A8



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Now located on West Street next to ODDCO in Pittsboro, the Small Museum of Folk Art is expected to reopen in early December.

1,4-Dioxane levels double EPA threshold

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Town officials continue to share concerns about higher and higher levels of 1,4-Dioxane in water samples pulled from the Haw River since a discharge from Greensboro on Nov. 3 posed new threats to the source of Pittsboro's drinking water.

In Town Manager Chris Kennedy's latest statement, released Friday, he said testing of the most recent samples "present a clear indication that the flow of the Haw River has been substantially slower than initially believed."

"The concentration levels in the raw water grabs are now over double the EPA's advisory

levels, but the concentration levels seen in our tanks remain under the EPA advisory," he said.

The town of Pittsboro planned to release an updated round of test results Monday, but they had not been provided to the public by the News + Record's press time. Check for new updates on this developing story at www.chathamnewsrecord.com.

It was Monday of last week when water samples from the Haw River and water samples from Pittsboro's water treatment facility first showed 1,4-Dioxane levels which exceed the EPA's recommended threshold of 35 parts per

See **WATER**, page A7

Full return of CCS Thanksgiving meal signals some normalcy

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — George Moses Horton Middle School Cafeteria Worker Mandy Cheek credits two people with helping her through the most challenging of shifts: Jesus Christ and Bill Withers.

Cheek shares a love for the Christian savior and the soulful singer with her coworker of 13 years, Karen Holden, whom she now considers "like my sister." Since they met at Horton 13 years ago, they've weathered recessions, family deaths, a pandemic and now, staffing shortages.

"Just the two of us, we can make it if we try," Cheek sang — quoting lyrics from the famous Withers tune — in between student lunch cohorts. "You make sure you put that



Staff photo by Hannah McClellan

Chatham County Schools Superintendent Anthony Jackson joined cafeteria workers at George Moses Horton Middle School last Thursday to serve the district's traditional Thanksgiving meal.

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 Silk Hope Ruritan Club present the **2nd annual Ruritan Country Christmas**, scheduled for 3 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, at Farm Heritage Park. Come on out and join club members for lots of family fun, music, sweets, and a visit from a special guest.

• The **Siler City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee** has rescheduled its December meeting due to staff availability. The Recreation Advisory Committee will meet Monday, Dec. 13, at 5:30 p.m. at the Earl B. Fitts Community Center for their regular meeting.

• The **Blood Connection Mobile Unit** will be at The Bynum General Store, 950 Bynum Road, Pittsboro, on Nov. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. A \$20 donation will be made for every blood donor. Please

come out and make a blood donation. The event is sponsored by Bynum Front Porch.

OTHER

• The **C.C.C.C. Foundation** is sponsoring a special holiday season drive-thru event on Thursday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center parking lot. The "Cougar Express" drive-thru event is geared toward small children will include cookies and candy canes, elves, a snow-woman — and, Santa Claus. Appropriate COVID-19 measures will be observed.

• **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 to 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 luminaries 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 Nov. 30.

• The **C.C.C.C. Healthcare Job Fair** will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center in Sanford. Explore career and job possibilities with local healthcare employers. We invite nurses, phlebotomists, allied health, medical assistants, patient care technicians, CNAs, and medical office administration to attend and explore employment opportunities. Learn more at <https://bit.ly/306DrD3>.

• A **Village Christmas Street Fair in Moncure** will be held around the loop in Haywood on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. featuring a Santa Claus greeting and Horse-Drawn sleigh rides, vendor's market, 7 Springs Vineyard, food trucks, kids' zone, and much more, with entry across from Liberty Chapel Church.

• Tickets are now available online for **Pittsboro Youth Theater's** four performances of "Seussical" the musical Saturday, Dec. 4, and Sunday, Dec. 5. This local live on-stage musical is for and by local children ages 8 through 13. More information and tickets are available at www.pittsboroyouththeater.com

Pittsboro Youth Theater. com

• **Chatham County Libraries** has announced that the **Outdoor Story Time** programs will continue through November 29, with the following weekly schedule: Mondays at 10:30 a.m., Natural Chef Café seating area on the C.C.C.C. Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library, Pittsboro -Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., Goldston Public Library lawn, Goldston - and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., Natural Chef Café seating area on the C.C.C.C. Pittsboro Campus, adjacent to the Chatham Community Library. 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. Story Time will take a break during the month of December.

• **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.

• 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** has begun winter hours, 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. We are located at 630 E. Street, Pittsboro, in the Food Lion Shopping Center. We are accepting donations of gently used men's and women's clothing and accessories. Credit cards are accepted. All 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.bstroop93.org for more information.

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

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

NEWS BRIEF

JMArts offers 3rd annual Spring Theater Workshop supported by Galloway Ridge

SILER CITY — Jordan-Matthews students interested in theater will once again have an opportunity to expand their acting expertise during the 3rd annual Spring Theater Workshop organized by JMArts, the Jordan-Matthews Arts Foundation, and supported by a grant from the Galloway Ridge Chatham County Charitable Fund.

As in previous years, the two-week workshop — scheduled for April 25 to May 6 — will be held after school for about 30 Jordan-Matthews students. But this year's event is a collaborative venture with RhinoLeap Productions, a professional theater company based in Asheboro that draws artists from all over the United States who are committed to performing and teaching in North Carolina.

RhinoLeap Artistic Director Jeremy Skidmore

says residencies like the one with Jordan-Matthews can emphasize a wide range of skills — including film, puppetry, music, movement, writing and improvisation — but all allow students to work and create with each other and with accomplished professionals.

This residency will be led by three of RhinoLeap's professional actors, including Associate Artistic Director Patrick Osteen, who will provide intensive dramatic work for outstanding Jordan-Matthews actors and an opportunity for less-experienced students to try their hand at acting and learn more about dramatic arts. The workshop will conclude with participants attending a performance of RhinoLeap's "Unnecessary Farce" at the Sunset Theatre in Asheboro.

Osteen worked for three years as a puppeteer in Cirque du Soleil's international tour of "Toruk" and also in the Broadway national tour of "War Horse." He has taught acting, movement, improv and puppetry to high school students all over North Carolina.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to work closely with professional actors," said JMArts President Rose Pate. "We want them to develop both their acting skills and their overall communication skills, which is important given our ongoing need to strengthen students' social and emotional learning."

Because the high school has no theater or dance teacher, JMArts launched its annual spring theater workshop in 2019 to provide outstanding JM actors with an opportunity for more intensive dramatic work and experience in technical theater.

That inaugural workshop, titled "Scene X Scene," featured weekly, two-hour sessions focusing on working "scene by scene" and concluded with a free public showcase performance demonstrating various acting exercises used during the workshop. The second workshop, postponed one year to last spring because of the pandemic, once again offered more intensive acting instruction, this time leading to a public performance of "The Lottery," the school's first live performance after the pandemic shutdown.


This season's Spring Theater Workshop is being supported by a grant from the Chatham County Charitable Fund, a way for residents of Galloway Ridge and other donors to support local not-for-profits, schools and government agency projects. Last year, the fund awarded 16 grants totaling \$100,000.

More information about JMArts, including a schedule of all upcoming arts events and information on membership, is available online at JMArts.org.

—CN+R staff




Boy Scout Troop 93
Eagle Scouts
Pittsboro, NC



Looking for the contact information for those that obtained Eagle Scout while a member of Troop 93.

Chartered in 1947
2022 is the 75th anniversary

Send your address, email & phone no# to:
M. Thorpe Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 93
1033 NC HWY 87 N.
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Or email at:
Thorpe101@mindspring.com
Or call:
919-630-5600



Happy Thanksgiving

The Chatham News + Record office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26, in observance of Thanksgiving.

Chatham News + Record

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MEAL

Continued from page A1

in the paper.”

Last Thursday, Cheek and Holden served students and staff a Thanksgiving feast, getting to school at 5 a.m. to cook up chicken pot pie, cheese dippers and strawberry cobbler and mashed potatoes and gravy.

Horton Principal Bradyn Robinson and CCS Superintendent Anthony Jackson joined Cheek and Holden to serve the holiday meal.

“It is a fun tradition that our students and our staff always look forward to,” Robinson said. “Having leaders like Dr. Jackson joining our fantastic Child Nutrition ladies to serve the meal adds another layer of this. ... it’s a



Staff photo by Hannah McClellan

Horton Middle School Cafeteria Workers Karen Holden (left) and Mandy Cheek, who have worked together for 13 years.

time for us to come together as one and share our grati-

tude for each other.”

Across the country, drastic staffing shortages in schools have led to faltering student services, including bus routes and school meals. In Wake County Schools, staffing shortages and low wages led both bus drivers and cafeteria workers to strike. For a few days during the strike, Wake school officials told parents to expect to drive students to schools and pack their own lunches.

In Chatham, though staff vacancies have presented challenges — leading to the creation of bonuses to entice new employees and maintain old ones, along with principals and administrators filling in — the county hasn’t yet had to abandon bus routes or stop serving meals.

For that, Jackson said the district owes hardworking employees like Cheek and Holden.

“The real story is we’re keeping the schools going,” Jackson said. “Look at this — we’re back in school. We’re gonna keep it going.”

CCS School Nutrition Director Jennifer Özkurt said the district wasn’t able to serve its traditional turkey meal this year because of supply shortages from its food distributors, but it plans on having turkeys for the district’s winter feasts in a few weeks.

Özkurt said the holiday meals this year give thanks to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, which extended waiver flexibility for school nutrition programs this school year — meaning all school children can get free meals.

“Even with staff and food shortages, we were able to share our best from our made-from-scratch chicken pie and baked ham with other holiday fixings,” she said. “Our team rose to the challenge. For all this, I am truly thankful.”

The kids themselves enjoyed the food — with more 6th-graders opting for chicken pot pie than Cheek and Holden expected — and several stopped to thank the four-person team for the Thanksgiving meal.

After a year without the full tradition due to COVID-19, Robinson said it felt good to see students and staff picking up the Thanksgiving fixings again — even if the food was served



Staff photo by Hannah McClellan

The district wasn’t able to serve its traditional turkey meal this year due to supply shortages with its food distributors, but it plans on having turkeys for the district’s winter feasts in a few weeks.

in Styrofoam to-go containers so they could be carried to each classroom instead of to the still-closed cafeteria.

“This meal is another step that we have taken towards normalcy in schools,” Robinson said. “It is no surprise that the last year and a few months has been difficult for all for a variety of reasons. Having to stop traditions was hard, but being able to bring them back to life has been wonderful.”

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

SISTERS

Continued from page A1

on my stomach while my oxygen levels bounced around. Finally, one day they told me I’d have to be on a ventilator, and by then I was so tired I didn’t care if they cut my legs off.”

In late July, Tonya began an 87-day stretch attached to that ventilator — part of which she spent in an induced coma.

Even so, she remembers a few conversations with family members and some events.

“There was never really a good day,” she said. “Some good moments, and then I’d slip back, up and down. I was on paralytic medications so much that I have some residual effect, some weakness in my legs. The muscles and nerves stopped talking to each other.”

Compounding her bout with COVID was Tonya’s asthma, making the care she received particularly vital.

“I had some really, really good doctors,” she says. “Finally, they said I needed to get off the ventilator and go through what [Select] Specialties

could do for me. When I left UNC, I could follow commands but I didn’t have enough strength to squeeze someone’s hand.”

Some time later, after returning home, Tonya called UNC to schedule a follow-up appointment. She asked the staff person in that office if they remembered her.

“‘We sure do,’ she said,” Tonya recalled.

The person told Tonya something startling: “You’re the most critically ill patient we’ve had who recovered.”

“Later, when I was in the office, the doctor said he couldn’t believe the person he was seeing had come so far,” Tonya said. “They told me they wondered how things turned out after I left since they didn’t hear.” The latter part of 2020 is a dark memory for the sisters. Now, as 2021 draws to a close, Tonya and Leslie reflect on the changes, and on what’s ahead.

The question, says Tonya — who uses a wheelchair to get around, and hasn’t returned yet to her former position in the administrative offices of Mountaire Farms — says, is: “Will I be normal?”

“I guess part of that

is what does ‘normal’ mean?” she asks. “Without normal oxygen for as long as I was, there can be some brain injury. But I can remember things before I got sick.”

Debbie says she sees Tonya with strong recall and a zest for life.

“I was on so much medicine that it takes a long time to get out of your system,” Tonya says. “For instance, I had fevers often and would take antibiotics, but after stopping the medicine, the fever would return. Finally, a nurse came into my room and said, ‘We’ve got it.’ They let the culture grow a little longer and they were able to get the right medicine.”

While her two daughters dealt with their situations, mom Debbie, who’s widowed and works part-time at Food Lion, was trying to figure out how to proceed.

“Life was horrible,” she remembers. “I’d walk the dark halls of the hospital; they were lighted, but they were dark to me. Sometimes we’d get a glimmer of hope, some baby steps. She (Tonya) had other things going on — needing dialysis, sepsis. I finally told the doctors, ‘I know you don’t have all the answers and

that you’re trying. You do that and I’ll pray.”

She always had faith, Debbie said.

“But this really deepened it,” she said. “I’d pray all the way to Chapel Hill and back. I’d pray, ‘God, you know what I want,’ and finally got to where I could pray, ‘Your will be done.’ And my daily devotions seemed to speak to me when I really needed them.”

Part of her struggles as a mother was that Debbie had two grown children dealing with major illnesses at the same time.

“Sometimes I’d feel guilty spending so much time with Tonya when Leslie had so much going on herself,” she said. “I didn’t want her to think I loved one more than the other.”

For Leslie, that never was an issue.

“I told her, ‘Mama, you go with Tonya,’ she said. “‘You’re her advocate.’”

‘A lot to be thankful for’ Now that all those events are in the past, the family is focusing on where to go from here. Tonya is doing physical therapy and pulmonary rehab, and it’s going well.

“But what to expect? We don’t know,” she said. “The doctors tell us we’re teaching them. Most people stay on a vent two weeks; I did three months.”

Leslie has had good reports from her oncolo-

gy team since having her procedures, as well.

“I’ve got a good prognosis,” she said. “The cancer was found early. I still go for scans, but it wasn’t easy being told at 41 years old you have bilateral breast cancer.”

The experience helped them both think about the “big picture” of family.

“We had to learn some things,” Tonya said, “like how to ask for help. You’re supposed to take care of your children and they did so much for us we wonder if we robbed them of part of their childhood” — she says this speaking of her two children, Jacob and Faith, and of Leslie’s daughter Liza, who’s just beginning to drive.

And on top of that is concern for their mother Debbie.

“I don’t know how mama did it,” Leslie said.

If you ask Debbie, she’s pretty sure she knows — it was her faith that sustained her.

“God takes our trials and tribulations and lets us see what can happen,” she said. “I told myself I’m not going to doubt, that God’s got this. One day a doctor told me Tonya was a little better, and I said, “‘What did I tell you?’”

As the family adjusts, they’re thankful for their blessings — but also for opportunities.

“This showed us how quickly things can happen,” Debbie said. “But one of the biggest things to come out of this, besides our own experiences and blessings, is the families we’ve been able to visit with and talk with, maybe as many as 25 serious cases. We’ve been told so many people ask about us, that Tonya’s name keeps coming up — because she made it.”

For her part, Tonya sees those times as a chance to help others who are struggling, to share hope.

Of all that’s changed, though, some things remain the same.

“I was talking with Tonya on the phone once,” Debbie says, “when UNC was talking about a ventilator and a DNR (do not resuscitate order), if needed. I told Tonya she’d been a joy and then I thought, ‘I hope she doesn’t think we’re giving up.’ The reality is she and her family are still a joy and so is Leslie and her family.”

“Last year,” Debbie continued, “we didn’t have Thanksgiving. We did have Christmas at home. This year, we’re going to celebrate.”

It’ll make their Thanksgiving together this year even more special.

“We know,” Leslie said. “We have a lot to be thankful for.”

The next municipal elections in Siler City will be in March 2022. At that time, Siler City will elect a new Mayor and four Commissioners.

As a longtime servant of Siler City and a current Commissioner, I want to announce that I will be running to become the next mayor of our fine town.

I am asking for your support and hope to see you at the polls.

Chip Price

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | BRITTANY KOHAN

Taking time this Thanksgiving

I saw my first Christmas television commercial on Halloween. On Nov. 1st, I saw my first Christmas tree in a neighbor's window.

Now, I am as big of a fan of Christmas as anyone else. We will get our tree the day after Thanksgiving, play Christmas music, and sip hot chocolate. However, it looks like I missed the memo that Thanksgiving has simply become another Thursday in the march to holiday cheer. Last year many of us were forced to skip Thanksgiving.

This year, we will miss out if we choose to skip Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving really boils down to one simple concept: it is a meal. We all eat meals multiple times a day. We will do it the day before Thanks-

giving and we will do it after. We do not need to buy gifts for this holiday. We do not need to decorate our house. There is no religious service to attend. It really is just about eating food. When I put it like that, Thanksgiving actually seems even easier to skip!

But sometimes, the simplest things are the most profound. What if Thanksgiving has the possibility of holding the most value of any holiday this year?

The power of Thanksgiving starts in the simple act of making time for a meal. Time may not cost any of us money but giving someone else our time is a valuable gift to share. Instead of rushing around to find the season's hottest toy or cleaning up the leaves in the yard to make way for inflatable Santa, we make time for our friends and family, demonstrating their importance to us. Rather than allowing our calendars to be overwhelmed with overtime shifts and cookie exchanges, holiday parties and Christmas light bonanzas, we stop and first make time to sit down and

Thanksgiving might not be easy. There may be people you would rather not talk to or eat a meal with. But what could happen if we stepped into the discomfort and tried?

enjoy a meal.

For when we stop to make time for a Thanksgiving meal, the possibilities reach far beyond full bellies and dirty dishes.

Peer into the kitchen and find your nephew standing on a chair, licking the pumpkin pie bowl while grandma shares her secret ingredient. The kitchen becomes a space for making memories across generations as family recipes are passed down.

Walk outside to the turkey fryer to find cousins deep in conversation about the hunting season, and about the challenges this year brought. Suddenly relationships deepen beyond holiday hellos to supportive friends.

Come to the table where

every person has a seat. Regardless of what job they do or do not have, what clothes you wore, who she voted for or what his life looks like, everyone has a seat around the table. Is there someone you can invite to this Thanksgiving table? A new neighbor on the street or a lonely coworker? Maybe there is a family member who needs to know they are loved. Then, when the mashed potatoes and gravy get passed, love and joy are shared too.

Jesus modeled this for us. When the disciples were tired and worn out, Jesus took the time to share a meal and delight in one another's company. When the disciples were ready to get to the next thing, Jesus stopped and fed 5,000 people. Jesus ate with everyone, regardless of wealth or status, family history or religious pedigree. Every person had a seat at the table with Jesus. Even at the very end of his life, with someone he knew would soon betray him, Jesus sat down with his disciples and enjoyed a meal.

Thanksgiving might not be easy. There may be people you would rather not talk to or eat a meal with. But what could happen if we stepped into the discomfort and tried? Stopping to prepare a meal and eat together may seem like a roadblock on the way to "better" uses of our time, but in the most important moments, Jesus stopped and ate with others. In the stopping we can rest. In the sharing we grow together.

Taking the time to share this meal creates opportunities to look into tired eyes or delightful smiles. We move past platitudes and receive the gift of time with others. We experience laughter and smiles, joy and gladness. This Thanksgiving, take the time to share a meal with others. You never know what you might find.

Brittany Kohan is a local pastor and Briar Chapel's unofficial "Neighborhood Chaplain." This coming spring, she will join the Chaplaincy team at UNC Hospital.

Here's a Thanksgiving exercise

Handshakes began more than 2,500 years ago in ancient Greece. Originally, the gesture was



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

less of a greeting and more of a way to prove that one was not carrying a weapon. An empty hand was a sign of peace. A handshake was a way of saying that you were unarmed. I apologize for any harm caused by that terrible pun ...

In the Roman Empire, it became popular to grasp forearms and shake the sleeves to dislodge any hidden knives.

Medieval knights also pumped hands in the attempt to shake free weapons from beneath someone's armor.

Few of us today wear chain mail or carry daggers. Yet, we might be witnessing the death of the handshake as we have known it, for we fear attack from microscopic enemies. Studies have shown that avoiding handshake can reduce the transfer of bacteria by 90 percent. Even before the coronavirus pandemic, people were choosing other forms of greeting. In fact, five out of the five medical doctors at my church recommend the elbow bump!

As the calendar has turned to Thanksgiving, I've recently discovered an intangible benefit to the elbow bump. Lawrence Katz, the late neurobiologist at Duke University Medical Center, demonstrated how pairing a routine activity with something unexpected stimulates your brain. Katz called this "neurobics" because the brain gets a workout. Neurobics can strengthen memory and recall. It can even pump you up with positive feelings!

With this in mind, I've begun pairing the customary "Thank you" with an enthusiastic elbow bump. I've received a few strange looks, including from my own children. But most people have been pleasantly surprised.

After paying a barista for my cup of coffee, I thanked her and reached over the counter for the elbow bump. She laughed and returned the gesture. Walking away with my beverage, I heard her laugh again. The customer behind me had expressed his gratitude in the same fashion!

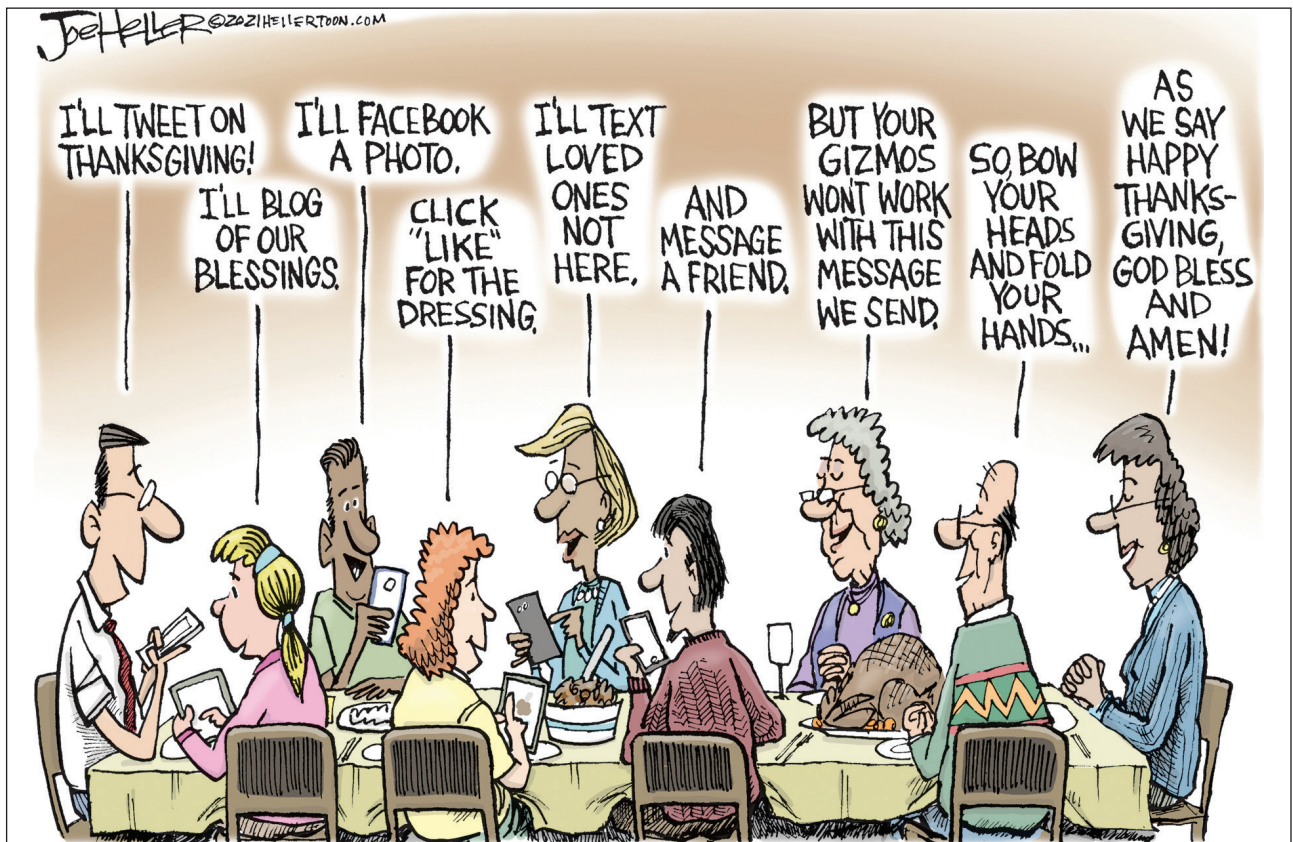
Maybe you miss the handshake and roll your eyes at the elbow bump. We could look at this form of greeting as yet another thing that is "not normal" because of the pandemic. Or, we could reframe our attitude and exercise our brains. On this holiday, we could bring new energy to the familiar words "Thank you."

While handshakes developed as a means to prevent an attack, forms of greeting can be life-giving. Sometimes we need to shake things up a little in order to realize what we have to be grateful for. And such gratitude is — dare I say — infectious.

Chatham News + Record

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Shoe company's advice good way to live life

Not that I set the woods on fire (not literally, just a figure of speech) by always doing the right thing, but



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

most of what I learned about how to treat other folks came from two really important sources — my folks and the church.

The good news for me — and others who had similar experiences — is that most of the

time those two were walking hand in hand. I know the world can be tough today. And stuff we don't understand happens a lot, but one of the biggest hurts I know is that many — and I mean *many* — little folks don't have that two-prong combination going for them and they're growing up not always knowing how to treat both themselves and other folks.

And so the cycle repeats when they have kids and all of society is the loser.

I wish when I was younger that I had known of the pain many people endure. Some of it, to be sure, is of their own doing. Some choices are bad on purpose; others just sort of get away from us and before we know it we're in over our heads.

But the reality of life is I couldn't have known those things until I'd experienced them — either on my own or by seeing what was going on with other folks.

And the reality of all that is that all that takes time.

So today I'm no longer 18, the age at which I knew everything, or 21, the age at which I could vote, or even 35, the age when I could have been president. And so the question now has become what do I do where I am with what I have left, which I hope is a few more years (since I'd like to see if UNC can ever gets its mess right on the football field and if the Cardinals can win a few more World Series).

I think then, through that combination of my folks and church and the time spent to learn those life experiences, that I have discovered the secret of life — made even more aware in this Thanksgiving time. And although I'm a big fan of the American free enterprise system, please give serious consideration to not overlooking Thanksgiving in the already-overly-saturated rush to Christmas.

That secret of life is that we all have something to do.

All of us.

As a little fellow in church life, I succumbed to that thought that infects many folks. I was big on

church and thought there was sort of a pecking order that had to be there. That meant that the preacher (my word then, but not now) was the A-Number One Honcho. Just a bit below were the deacons and/or trustees. Below them were the Sunday School teachers, followed by committee members and so on and so forth on down to the ushers and finally the folks who filled a pew.

That reasoning led me to believe then that if you really wanted to make it big with God, you needed to be a missionary, either in the U.S., which was cool, but if you really wanted things to look good on your resume, then you needed to go to the African Congo, the Amazon River basin or deepest China.

Now I am not diminishing the importance of that work and the folks who do it, but the reality finally came somewhere after that 35th year when I could have been president that there was no such pecking order in life.

And I think what I want to say to folks, here or in the pulpit or in daily life, is that we all have something to do.

All of us.

Take a moment or two this Thanksgiving Day and season to fine tune who you are and where you are and see if you can find what it is you are to do. Chances are pretty good it won't get done unless you do it.

And so here's the advice: Be like Nike, the shoe company — just do 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

Cawthorn's handlers got it wrong

When Carolina Journal first reported first-term U.S. Rep. Madison Cawthorn's intention to abandon his current district next year to run in an adjacent one, CJ quoted Cawthorn as saying his decision was part of "a strategy to increase conservatism in North Carolina."

Here's what Cawthorn said in a subsequent video making it official: "Knowing the political realities of the 13th District, I am afraid that another establishment, go-along-to-get-along Republican would prevail there."

The "establishment Republican" Cawthorn was calling out was clearly N.C. Rep. Tim Moore, who'd been widely expected to seek the Republican nomination in the new

13th District stretching from the mountains to the Charlotte suburbs. To label Moore a "go-along-to-get-along Republican" is, among other things, to reveal an embarrassing ignorance of how legislative chambers work. Moore is the longtime speaker of the N.C. House. At worst, other GOP lawmakers may "go along" to "get along" with him.

Of course, one regularly finds the words "embarrassing" and "ignorance" in the same sentence as the name of the freshman congressman from Western North Carolina. Madison Cawthorn is a callow and appallingly ignorant young man who regularly embarrasses conservatives and Republicans, whether they admit it or not.

My indignation about this episode, however, isn't primarily directed at Cawthorn, who is likely a pawn in some broader (and sillier) scheme hatched by others. What appalls me is that out-of-state operatives are us-

ing him as a vessel to trash the very real accomplishments of conservative governance in our state. You can see the same dynamic in the GOP primary for U.S. Senate, with the Club for Growth and other supporters of U.S. Rep. Ted Budd sliming former Gov. Pat McCrory as "unprincipled" with "a record of failure."

Many North Carolina conservatives, myself included, have disagreed with McCrory, Moore, and other GOP leaders from time to time. But you'd have to be living under a rock, or perhaps in some faraway beachfront resort, not to be aware of and appreciate their role in enacting some of the most far-reaching and successful conservative reforms in recent American history.

These leaders and their colleagues cut state taxes multiple times. The new state budget will phase out North Carolina's corporate rate entirely. Since 2010, state spending has fallen significantly as a share of the

state's economy. Thanks to a thriving charter sector and an expanding voucher program, North Carolina parents have more school choice than ever before. During McCrory's tenure, the state substantially reformed its system for financing infrastructure and curtailed costly regulations. Those are only some of the entries on a long list of victories.

Such victories, and the practical experience that comes with them, are the building blocks of a successful political movement with the goal and capability of governing North Carolina and the rest of the country. Soundbites and click-bait, on the other hand, build little except fundraising lists.

Speaking of which, the off-stage grifters and demagogues who'd like to portray Tim Moore as a do-nothing squish and Madison Cawthorn as a conservative champion seem to think they've mastered the art of political manipulation. Moore did, after all, bow out of

a potential primary fight in the 13th District and announced that he would seek another term in the legislature — and as speaker of the house.

Mission accomplished? Depends on the mission you have in mind. The most-despised institution in American government right now is Congress. Hard-core partisans appreciate their own party's members, perhaps, but a broad swath of voters from the center-left to the center-right view our federal legislature as a circus of ponderous pachyderms, braying jackasses, and clueless clowns.

Although some may think otherwise, a feckless and disreputable Congress is a threat to limited, constitutional government. It concedes too much power to the executive and judicial branches. Our republic has grave problems — the impending bankruptcy of our entitlement state being a prime example — that only legislation can address.

Thanksgiving to the rescue again

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, as I explained in a column many years ago.

One reason is that it is one of the very few days we have saved just for families and friends. We've done a better job of keeping the Thanksgiving holiday from getting away from us. It has not yet taken charge of our lives. No dressing up with new clothes, no cards to mail, no gifts to buy and wrap, no parties, no alcohol, no high expectations to be crushed, no embarrassing failures to do the right thing. Somehow we have mostly kept it centered around our family dining table.

I like Thanksgiving because I still own it. All of this distinguishes Thanksgiving from Christmas which we have let get away from us. We are slaves to Christmas and it is a hard master. It sometimes works us into such a state that the season's most rewarding moment is its concluding one.

Thanksgiving's central theme is the happy ritual of the family meal. It brings back a time when we sat down together more often, serving each other, passing the food, carving the main dish, saying prayers of thanks, and listening to each other's stories. Is it, though, merely a remnant of times past? I think it is more than that. It may be our own private family sacrament of remembrance, reunion, renewal of connections, and thankfulness for life's blessings.

If Thanksgiving is so good, why do families so seldom sit down formally at their own dining room tables to take meals together these days? Is it because our schedules drive us in so many directions — apart from each other? Maybe, but even when we are at home together, some favorite TV program calls us to the den to bring our plates and watch. And when we do eat together at a table, it is more likely to be in the kitchen than in the dining room.

So, being all together at the dining room table is a big part of the reason I like Thanksgiving so much.

There is another reason — a simple one.

Thanksgiving encourages thankfulness. And being thankful is good for us.

Let me try to explain. First, I don't want to argue that Thanksgiving always or automatically puts us in a state of thankfulness. The formal public prayers we say on that day don't do the job. We can get through a Thanksgiving Day without really being grateful for much of anything other than the meal.

But the day prompts us. It reminds us to be grateful. We remember how thankful the Pilgrims were for food and shelter. These things we usually take for granted. On Thanksgiving we sometimes remember how much more blessed we are than the Pilgrims.

If we let it, Thanksgiving can do more ... If we let it move us to say our private prayers of thanks — avoiding the pompous stylized prayers we say for other people to hear ... If we let it encourage us to aim our prayers straight towards God ... If we use the day to make a long private list of things we should be thankful for ... If we keep adding to that list all the time.

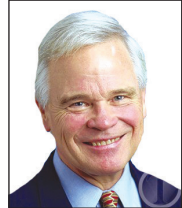
If Thanksgiving moves us to do such things, we might begin to feel really good.

Why does being thankful make us feel so good? I think it just flushes out all the bad, negative, mean-spirited thoughts that have piled up inside us. There is no room in a thankful mind for pettiness, jealous feelings, anger, and disappointment. Thankfulness drives out the junk.

Thankfulness equals happiness.

Of course, all these good things don't have to end when Thanksgiving passes. If times get tough on any other day our private prayers of gratitude can drive away the negative trash that loads up our minds. Prayers of thanks for spouses, children, parents, our old scout leaders, coaches, teachers, principals, friends we can trust, good health (or if good health is not with us, as my mother taught us, be thankful for the good health we once had), warm fall days, favorite animals, music, books, problems to solve, people to help, good food, warm baths and on and on and on.

Feels good doesn't it?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One



Mad as you-know-what and not going to take it

Maybe you remember the classic 1975 film, "Network," where anchor-man Howard Beale throws open a window and shouts, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

Perhaps that's an explanation for the 2020 statistics on violent crime.

The good news-bad revelation is that the overall crime rate in our state declined again in 2020 — but violent crime increased by 31 percent year over year.

Philip Cook, a professor of public policy at Duke, said it was the largest increase since experts started keeping stats in the early 30s. "2020 became the most violent year of the 21st Century," Cook said. "It looks like that is also true for North Carolina."

A crime is considered violent if it involves rape, robbery, aggravated assault or murder. Our state reported 44,452 violent crimes and 852 homicides, ranking us 21st in the nation — ahead of New York, Georgia and most southeastern states, with the exception of South Carolina. We experienced 670 gun deaths, up from 2019's 511, and there were 20 mass shootings. Preliminary evidence indicates these numbers will increase again this year.

After years of decline in violent

crimes, how can we explain last year's large increase, especially since most of us were cooped up in our homes for much of last year? Perhaps our pandemic frustrations morphed into anger. The hyper-charged political climate could also have spawned violence and hatred. The Southern Poverty Law Center reports that North Carolina has 29 active hate groups within our borders, groups that include white nationalists, neo-Confederates, Ku Klux Klans, racist skinheads, Islamic, anti-immigration and Proud Boys.

Complete data from last year isn't yet available, but we know the majority of gun related deaths involved suicide. In 2019 suicide deaths were 1,358, and since violent crime numbers rose last year, it is reasonable to assume suicides did also.

There are two responses to this data. The first involves mental illness. Few can deny that our state's mental health reforms, begun in 2003, are a disaster. Our state eliminated 854 psychiatric hospital beds from state facilities and re-directed funding to local communities. These local management entities were neither capable of dealing with the swell in patients nor able to provide adequate staffing and resources for them. Many with mental illness end up in emergency rooms, in county jails or committing suicide. Better options might have prevented some of these problems.

The second issue is gun control; I can already hear the gun lobby get-

ting their dog-whistles ready to resist any restrictions to their second amendment rights. Take another look at what this article in the Bill of Rights says and doesn't say.

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." In 1791, when the Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution, there was no massive federal Army, no full-time or part-time state militias, police or sheriff departments like we have today. It was essential to have citizen militia groups, and they needed guns to defend themselves and their communities.

We support that right today, but it has been abused to mean anyone can own any weapon they want and carry it anywhere they go. Whenever even the hint of gun control is raised, we hear threats that the boogeymanman is trying to take all your guns. Not so. It is time for reasonable gun owners to show some backbone and admit there are too many guns too easy to buy and in the wrong hands. Daily we see headlines of drive-by and public shootings. Recently a North Carolina pastor called on his congregation from the pulpit to get gun training. Do we really want someone sitting in the pew next to us coming to church carrying?

What's it going to take to move away from the anger and hatred evident today? We must lower the boiling point and find workable solutions for reducing both the anger and violent crime. For the time being, the best advice is the old time-honored axiom to count to ten before taking action.

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 tom-camp@carolinabroadcasting.com.

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

Chatham Middle teachers commemorate Native American Heritage Month

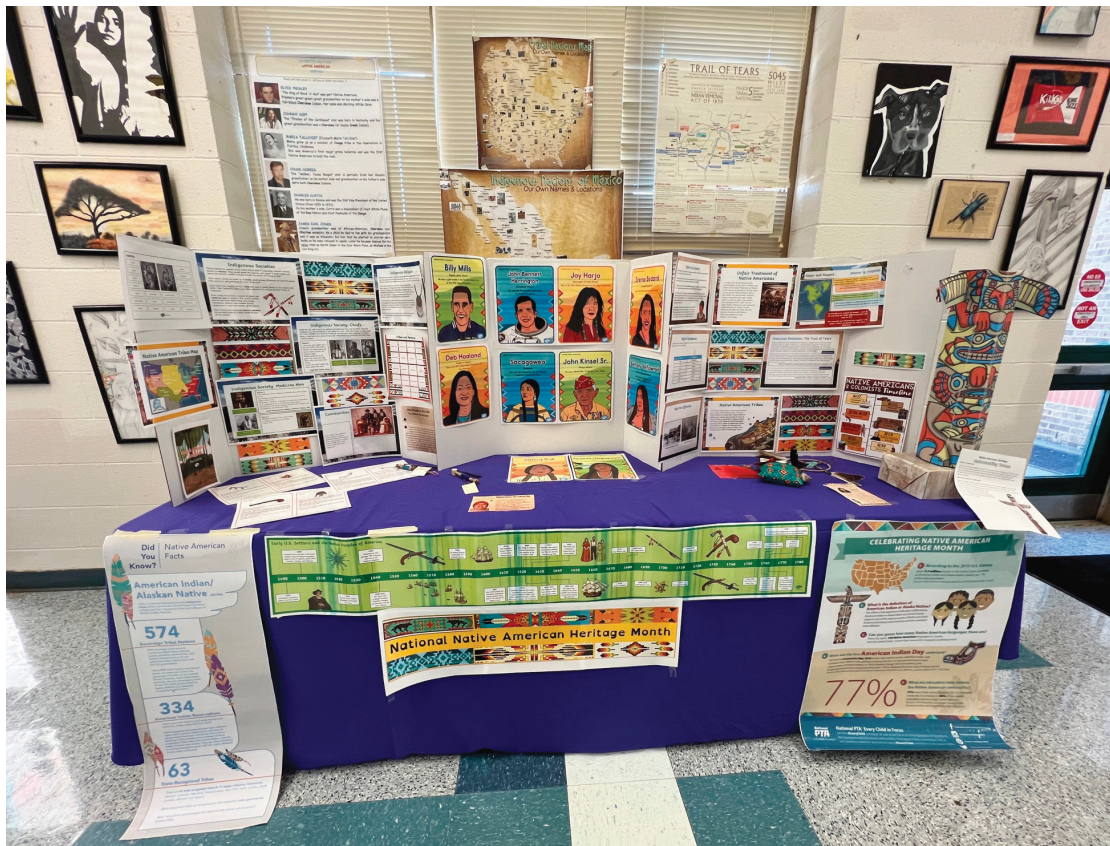
BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — At Chatham Middle School, some educators are finding ways to celebrate Native American Heritage Month by teaching students the history of the Americas’ first inhabitants through colorful displays and activities.

Commemorated in November, Native American Heritage Month is meant to celebrate cultures, traditions and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. It’s also, according to the National Congress of American Indians, an “opportune time to educate the general public about tribes, to raise a general awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced both historically and in the present, and the ways in which tribal citizens have worked to conquer these challenges.”

Social studies and science teacher Kevin Bishop created an activity quiz for his students on Google Forms, spanning the establishment of the first Indian Reservation, the number of Indigenous people estimated to have lived in North America before Christopher Columbus arrived and notable Indigenous historical figures. The activity accompanied a large classroom display made by fellow Chatham Middle teachers, Judit Dorado-Zimo and Angela Boone.

“I thought it would be a great opportunity to get students into groups, get out of their seats and walk down the hall to the display to interact with



submitted photo

the display,” Bishop said of the display.

“The assignment itself was nothing special. I really just wanted the students to take the time to read what was on the display, possibly discuss it, and bring that information back to class,” he said. “I wasn’t sure what was going to come of it, but it was successful enough that I plan on using future displays in the same way.”

The display itself features information on Indigenous societies, medicine men, chiefs and religion along with prominent Indigenous people, maps with historical territories and

key events regarding European and colonist violence toward Native people.

Dorado-Zimo said the idea for the display came last year, when she and Boone were discussing displays they created for Black History Month.

“... She said she would like to have a display on Native Americans. I thought it was a great idea,” Dorado-Zimo said. “We checked when the heritage month was and we put our brains and resources together and this is what we ended up creating.”

Many Indigenous activists and leaders have called on non-Native people to support

Indigenous leadership, Native-led organizations and Native communities in meaningful ways during this month and beyond. Part of that call includes educating oneself and others on the history of Native peoples as well as their contemporary life.

In Chatham, which occupies historical Skaruhreh/Tuscarora and Lumbee lands, about 1.2% of the population is Native American, according to 2019 Census estimates, with more than 10,000 American Indians residing in the Triangle.

There are eight state-recognized tribes located in North

Carolina: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the Meherrin, the Sappony, the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and the Waccamaw Siouan.

Bishop said the activity and display are meant to teach students about potentially unfamiliar cultures, to see that Indigenous peoples aren’t monolithic and to “allow that to become yet another perspective as we strive for viewpoint diversity.” This year, students were especially interested in learning about the Navajo Code of World War II — an unbreakable code used across the Pacific and developed by 29 Navajo men who joined the U.S. Marines — Dorado-Zimo said, along with questions about the map on Indigenous Nations of Mexico.

The display also teaches about the oppression of Native Americans, through genocidal events such as the Trail of Tears, and the Indian boarding school era — of which there has been recent renewed awareness due to discovery of the remains of 215 children in a mass grave at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

“Native American History is such a big part of American history,” Dorado-Zimo said. “The most important thing is that getting to know other cultures is central in our understanding of the world and of others.”

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

What does the average 5% teacher pay raise in budget break down to?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

The first full state budget since 2017 was signed into law last Thursday by Gov. Roy Cooper, and among other things, allocates hundreds of millions of dollars to increase educator compensation pay over the next two years.

The compromise budget was passed after nearly two months of negotiations, with projected spending of \$25.9 billion in the current fiscal year, which started July 1, and \$27 billion in the 2022-23. The budget cuts individual income taxes, starts phasing out the state’s corporate income tax and includes average raises of 5% over two years for teachers and other state employees.

“This budget moves North Carolina forward in important ways,” Cooper said in a statement Thursday. “Funding for high speed internet, our universities and community colleges, clean air and drinking water and desperately needed pay increases for teachers and state employees are all critical for our state to emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. I will continue to fight for progress where this budget falls short but believe that, on balance, it is an important step in the right direction.”

Bonuses and raises taking effect from July 1 could be given to state employees by January or earlier, a legislative staffer told reporters.

While lawmakers are publicizing average 5% pay raises over the next two years, many teachers are frustrated, due to the fact that the raise in base pay this year amounts to about \$50 to \$65 a month. North Carolina ranks 30th in the nation for teacher pay, not including pay for other school

employees like cafeteria workers, janitors, instructional assistants and bus drivers. (Minimum wage for school staff will rise to \$13 an hour this school year, under the budget, and then to \$15 an hour next fall.)

Northwood High School teacher Edward Walgate said lawmakers prioritized tax cuts over “proper investment in schools” in the new budget.

“I’m very disappointed by this budget,” he said. “After three years without a raise, school staff won’t even get raises that keep up with inflation. And after the extremely challenging 18 months we’ve just had, there is no mention of extra teachers’ assistants and other personnel that will help our students catch up on learning loss.”

“I urge our local school system to do more to make up for the meager provisions in this budget.”

School employees are eligible for bonuses — up to \$2,800 for teachers — but those are temporary. Here are the bonuses school staff are eligible for:

- \$1,500 bonus for state employees with salaries under \$75,000, which most teachers and staff will be eligible for. Any school employees with salaries above \$75,000 will receive a \$1,000 bonus.
- \$1,000 bonus to teachers and instructional support personnel who have participated in one or more trainings between March 2020 and Jan. 1, 2022, covering COVID-19 mitigation strategies, virtual instruction or learning loss.
- \$300 bonus to all teachers

The average 5% pay raise over two years includes annual step increases on the teacher salary schedule most teachers receive for each extra year of service. The

2.5% annual raise breaks down to a 1.3% bump in base salary each year, and an annual step increase for teachers with 15 years or less of service amounting to about a 1.2% raise.

For Northwood teacher Eliza Brinkley, who has been teaching for four years, those increases amount to about an extra \$940 each year. Veteran teachers with more than 15 years in education are only eligible for the 1.3% raise.

“Yes, we get a one-time bonus of \$2,800. Watch taxes take away at least 25% of that,” Brinkley wrote in a Facebook post she shared with the News + Record. “And consider the fact that it’s a whole lot cheaper to give us a one time bonus instead of actually granting us what we deserve — a meaningful raise.”

Staffing shortages, supplements

In Chatham, as is the case across the country, schools have taken what would typically be seen as drastic measures to maintain student services in the face of drastic staffing shortages. At Chatham County Schools, where the districts said there were about 115 vacancies earlier this semester, those measures have taken the form of one-time bonuses from COVID-relief funds and the utilization of school principals and teachers as bus drivers and nutrition services workers.

Even with extra COVID-19 funding, finding new employees and retaining old ones isn’t an easy task. Lower pay than in private sectors and often sparse benefits, particularly for part-time or hourly workers, has long led to school staffing shortages, national labor advocates say, and the pandemic has only em-

phasized such factors.

This year, school districts across the state were collectively advertising more than 10,000 vacancies on online job boards in the first week of November, according to a WUNC report.

Brinkley said many lawmakers have made it “crystal clear” they care more about the privatization of schools than investing in public schools — even during such shortages.

“The sad thing is, even as so many of my teacher friends are running out of steam and will probably switch to another career within the next few years, many members of our General Assembly don’t care,” she said.

County taxpayers contribute a local supplement on top of a teacher’s base state pay — a factor which creates the most variation in teacher

pay across the state. To address the disparity among supplements in lower-income counties, the new budget commits \$100 million in recurring funds to a new “low wealth” supplement that will be divided among schools in all but five counties (Wake, Mecklenburg, Buncombe, Durham and Guilford).

At the CCS Board of Education Nov. 8 meeting, the board approved a new employee supplement plan, which anticipated an approximately \$800,000 additional cost, which is up 10% from the county’s current budget.

Chatham’s representative in the House, Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54), said that \$100 million state fund is another needed supplement that will bring an additional \$775 per year to teachers in Chatham.

Though “this budget is far from perfect,” Reives said he voted for it because the needs of the state were too great to allow another session to pass without a state budget.

“The budget has critical investments in public education that we have needed for years,” he told the News + Record. “While I supported much higher raises for our educators, as did Governor Cooper, I felt that 5% was the best we could get at this time. We have more work to do but making public schools an outstanding first choice for families in Chatham continues to be a major priority for me moving forward.”

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



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Artist Sunday, Nov 28 Noon-5pm

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COVID-19 vaccine boosters now available for all 18 and older

Options for kids ages 5-11 continue to expand

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — Booster shots for the COVID-19 vaccine are now available for all people ages 18 and older, and options for children ages 5-11 continue to expand in Chatham County.

While North Carolina and Chatham County have seen a decrease in COVID-19 cases since the Delta variant's peak in late summer, Chatham continues to experience substantial levels of community transmission of the

virus. Just over half of county residents are fully vaccinated, and the Chatham County Public Health Department continues to encourage all who are eligible to get vaccinated.

"As we enter winter and the holiday season, COVID-19 cases will likely increase," said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. "The COVID-19 vaccine offers the best protection against illness. Also, to further reduce the risk of spread to family and loved ones, we encourage you to get a COVID-19 test before attending a holiday gathering."

Booster shots available for all ages 18 and older

On Friday, the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that all adults aged 18 and older who received their last dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months ago are eligible to receive a booster shot.

If it has been at least six months since getting the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine:

- You should get a booster if you are ages 50 year or older or ages 18 years and older and live in a long-term care setting.
- You may get a booster if you are ages 18 years and older.

If it has been at least two months since getting the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, you should get a booster if you are 18 years or older.

Booster shots are available in most locations

offering the COVID-19 vaccine. To find a location near you, visit www.vaccines.gov.

According to the announcement, the "CDC continues to encourage the 47 million adults who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect themselves, their families, loved ones and communities. We also strongly encourage those who were already eligible — older populations and individuals with underlying medical conditions — to get boosted before the holidays."

Children need the COVID-19 vaccine, too

Since the COVID-19 vaccine became available for children ages 5-11 in

early November, more than 85,000 in North Carolina have received their first doses, including over 700 in Chatham County.

In addition to pediatricians' offices, there are multiple providers offering the vaccine for 5- to 11-year-olds across the county.

The CCPHD has established English- and Spanish-language webpages with information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children. Residents can find the English-language page at www.chathamcountync.gov/vaccinekids and the Spanish-language page at www.chathamcountync.gov/vacunainos.

Additionally, Kimberly Houston, the school nurse at Woods Charter School, recently shared

with the CCPHD why kids should be vaccinated, including her children. The video premiered on YouTube in English and Spanish on Monday, alongside a video of Kelsie Houston, a 5th-grader and Kimberly Houston's daughter, explaining why she got vaccinated. To see the videos, visit www.youtube.com/c/ChathamCountyNCPublicHealth.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and the CCPHD's vaccination plans, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirus-vaccine. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth or www.facebook.com/chathamhealth.

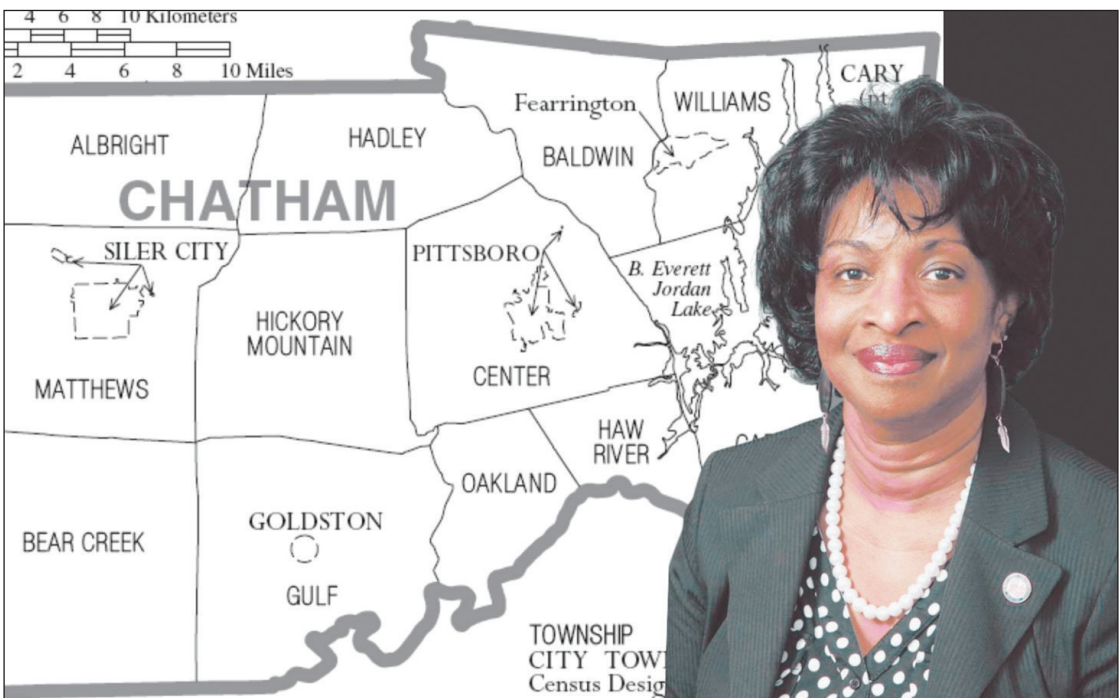
Sen. Foushee announces run for Congress

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN
News + Record Staff

State Sen. Valerie Foushee, who has represented Orange and Chatham counties for eight years, is running to represent the Triangle in the U.S. House, she announced last Wednesday.

"I am thrilled to enter this race and bring a fighter for North Carolina to Congress," Foushee told McClatchy newspapers in a written statement. "I've dedicated my entire life to public service, and I know and understand the values of this district."

Foushee, a Democrat and lifelong resident of Orange County, is running to represent the Triangle in the 6th Congressional District of the U.S. House. A likely front-runner, she joins multiple Democrats who have announced bids for the seat after U.S. Rep. David Price announced his retirement in October. Richard Watkins, a virologist who was previously running for U.S. Senate, also announced his candidacy Wednesday. He ran in the 2018 primary against Price and finished as a distant third. Other Democrats running for the seat include Durham County Commissioner Nida Allam, the first Muslim woman elected to office in the state, and former Obama staffer and state Sen. Wiley Nickel. Robert Thomas and Ma-



State Sen. Valerie Foushee, who has represented Orange and Chatham counties for eight years, is running to represent the Triangle in the U.S. House.

hesh Garnorkar are the only Republican candidates in the left-leaning district so far.

Following the redistricting of North Carolina's three political maps for the next decade, approved along partisan lines earlier this month, Foushee would no longer have represented Chatham in the state's General Assembly after the 2022 election.

Foushee's new district — if she were still running — includes Orange, Caswell and

Person counties. The projections for redistricting based on preliminary Census results back in August suggested it'd be unlikely Foushee would continue representing Chatham.

"I'm not happy about it," Foushee told the News + Record of the likely redistricted lines in August. "I'm happy to serve, let's be clear, but as a representative of Chatham now for eight years and my husband was born in Chatham — we have lots of friends and

relatives in Chatham, he has siblings who live in Chatham and my sister lives in Siler City — I wasn't just representing the county itself. Because of our relationships with friends and family, it was like one continuous district. There were no county lines for me."

If elected to Congress, Foushee wants to be a champion for working families, a leader in criminal justice reform and to help protect the environment while addressing

climate change.

She worked 21 years at the Chapel Hill Police Department as an administrator who oversaw two units. Her long political career includes serving on the Chapel Hill-Carboro City School Board and the Orange County Board of Commissioners — the first African American woman on that board — and representing the area in both the N.C. House and Senate.

Foushee received nearly 30 endorsements after announcing, including former state Sens. Mickey Michaux and Sam Searcy, Sens. Natalie Murdock and Mike Woodard and Reps. Marcia Morey and Graig Meyer.

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson also endorsed Foushee.

Prior to announcing her bid for Congress, Foushee told the News + Record she's been honored to represent Chatham.

"I enjoy working with residents of Chatham," she said. "It was certainly an honor to represent Chatham in the Senate. I am willing to serve where I am designated to serve. But the processes are over. We have what we have, and I look forward to continued service to the state."

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

WATER

Continued from page A1

billion. Last Friday's report stated "raw grab" samples taken from the river on Wednesday, two days prior, showed 1,4-Dioxane levels of 80.7 parts per billion, over double than the day before when levels were at 38.1 parts per billion.

Town officials continued to emphasize that while those levels are above the EPA's recom-

mended threshold for 1,4-Dioxane, the drinking water stored in the tanks throughout town are still showing levels below the recommended 35 parts per billion.

"Town staff remains concerned by the increase in concentration levels seen in the raw water samples and will continue to exert our energies towards manipulating our water operations in an effort to reduce the concentration levels in our water distri-

bution lines," Kennedy said in a statement.

Prior to the most recent testing, a week ago, raw water samples from Nov. 15 and Nov. 16 showed 1,4-Dioxane levels of 28.2 parts per billion and 38.1 parts per billion, respectfully. 1,4-Dioxane levels at the town's water plant show 16.8 parts per billion on Nov. 15 and 21.3 parts per billion on Nov. 16, both of which are below the EPA's recommended threshold.

"The 1,4-Dioxane

concentration levels in our tanks remain well below the EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisory," Kennedy stated in a news release. "The water quality in our tank infrastructure is indicative of the water quality distributed to each of our customers."

1,4-Dioxane, coming from a yet-to-be-identified source in Greensboro, is a synthetic chemical typically found in laundry detergent, shower gel and other soaps. The toxic

chemical is thought to be a likely carcinogen, so the EPA has a Drinking Water Health Advisory Level of 35 micrograms per liter of 1,4-Dioxane based on a 1 in 10,000 cancer risk for lifetime exposure.

Last Friday, the fears of Pittsboro town staff — made public on Nov. 8, following the Nov. 3 discharged — were confirmed when raw water samples from the Haw River from Nov. 17 came back with high concentrated levels of 1,4-Dioxane.

awaiting sample results from Greensboro to determine concentration levels upstream of Pittsboro that will likely predict concentration levels of 1,4-Dioxane in Pittsboro's drinking water in the coming days," he said last week.

Pittsboro residents can access treated drinking water from BMC Brewing, according to owners John and Carmen Rice. They told the News + Record in an email Sunday morning they are giving out treated water to those who need it at their brewery.

"We have asked that recipients help us by buying a pint or cookie and posting on their social media, but we are willing to give the water to anybody who just comes in and is in need," they said in the email. "We recently had a volunteer drop off several 5-gallon water jugs so even people without a jug can get water."

Pittsboro town staff are also encouraging residents to follow the EPA's guidance when it comes to 1,4-Dioxane contamination, which can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-03/documents/ffrro_factsheet_contaminant_14-dioxane_january2014_final.pdf

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.

Happy Thanksgiving

We thank you for the opportunity to work together and for making us feel at home in our community.

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Sharon A Dickens, AAMS®
50101 Governors Dr Suite 118
919-967-9968

Pittsboro
Lee Shanklin, AAMS®
120 Lowes Drive Suite 107
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Fearrington
Kathy Brommage, CFP®
190 Chatham Downs Drive
Suite 103
919-960-6119

Siler City
Laura Clapp, CFP®, AAMS™
301 E Raleigh St
919-663-1051

Penguin Place
Eric C Williams, AAMS®
114 Russet Run Suite 120
919-542-3020

Pittsboro
Kevin C Maley
984 Thompson St Suite E2
919-444-2961

Chapel Hill
Jessica L Villagrana
180 Providence Rd
Suite 1c
984-219-6635

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

ART

Continued from page A1

— creations made by self-taught artists “outside” of mainstream styles — including various pieces from local artists Clyde Jones, Vollis Simpson and Jimmy Lee Sudduth.

Some of the drawings, paintings and small sculptures came from Clark and Piper’s own travels, during which they collected folk art from all over the country. More than 400 came from Moncure collector Jim Massey, who wanted to ensure his pieces found their way to people — and a public — who would truly treasure them. Part of the museum’s mission is to educate others about the folk and outsider art traditions.

Their commitment to Massey, Clark said, explains why the museum’s still in Pittsboro when its caretakers no longer are. While the museum moved just a couple blocks west, Clark and Piper migrated even farther west. After running their Small B&B Cafe for a decade, they sold the cafe and restaurant this summer before moving to their mountain home in Marshall, a small town in Madison County in western N.C.

“We agreed to keep it in Pittsboro, which is why it’s there today,” Clark said. “We ... would have taken it with us, but (for) our commitment to the previous owner and to the town of Pittsboro and their arts programs. We are really set on keeping it there and making it work.”

Moving the museum next to ODDCO was just icing on the cake — and it ended up there thanks in part to ODDCO co-owner Cristina Virsida, who has been helping Clark and



Courtesy of the Small Museum of Folk Art’s Facebook page

Opened in 2016 by collectors Dave Clark and his wife, Lisa Piper, the Small Museum of Folk Art is home to nearly 600 pieces of folk and outsider art, including pieces from local artists Clyde Jones, Vollis Simpson and Jimmy Lee Sudduth.

Piper manage the move on the ground, along with other interested residents.

“ODDCO is a wonderfully quirky little venue and they do music. They do art. They have a couple libations, but for the most part, we love Cristina’s energy. She’s got a great eye for art,” Clark said, adding, “So, it was a great match for us and for her. ... It seems to be a great place for people to come in and stop at the (Phoenix) Bakery and just hang out.”

But the move wasn’t just a love match, Virsida told the News + Record; it’s also an attempt to amplify the museum’s reach — both figuratively and literally.

“We’d have two metal buildings that were focused on art on the same

property and thought that with both of us here, we could bring a bigger presence to local art, but also to the galleries and other people in town ... and (we could) also use the space,” she said. “We have this great green space in the backyard that is mostly unused, and they could have access to that, too, and be able to do more outreach, more children’s programs. (It would bring) more opportunities for them with the community to really branch out of that tiny little space that they have in the building.”

So, what’s the hold-up? Securing the necessary county permissions and beating the bushes to pay a slew of unexpected expenses — all while living about 250 miles away.



Submitted photo

Bob Bedell of Catbird Seat plays at ODDCO on Nov. 13 as part of a fundraising concert for the Small Museum of Folk Art.

“We had it all permitted, and everything that was done originally at the Small Street location was done through the county’s permission, so we had all of the electrical done and all of the footings were designed by an engineer,” Clark said. “Then we moved it, and they’re like, ‘Well, you’ve got to do it all over again,’ so we had to contact the engineer and pay him more money to just basically put 2021 on the design and stamp it.”

He added with a laugh: “So, you know, we’re struggling with getting the county satisfied, but we’re very close now.”

To move the building, they had to unearth it from its footings and other attachments. Beyond electrical work and HVAC projects, Clark said they also have to build a new deck since they weren’t allowed to reuse the old materials. All of it has cost thousands of dollars — and for a donation-driven nonprofit that operates on a budget of around

\$11,000, that’s quite a hit.

“We had over \$11,000 in the bank, and I think maybe we’re down to \$2,000 or \$3,000 — I mean, it’s going to be gone by the time we get this open,” Clark said. “I will contribute what I have to keep it going. It’s not going to close, but you know, I don’t have bottomless pockets either.”

To help offset costs and recoup the nonprofit’s budget money, Piper started a GoFundMe in July for the organization at bit.ly/3qBk0gq. So far, the GoFundMe has raised just over \$3,000 of its \$10,000 goal.

“That helped somewhat, but this last year has been difficult for everybody,” Clark said. “ ... So the biggest thing (that the community could do) is, you know, when we get it open, to come out and see it, put five bucks in the donation bucket, and we’ll build it back up.”

According to Virsida, people can also stop by one of ODDCO’s fundraising events for the museum, like the concert they hosted in their back-

yard on Nov. 13. Featured acts included artists Bob Bedell, Clare Means and Brendan Hinch, among others.

“We’re gonna keep doing that,” Virsida said. “We want to build that into all of our events so that there’s some portion of fundraising. Some amount of either it’s a ticketed event, or it’s a pass-the-hat kind of thing, that people know that their dollars to some degree are going to be helping to keep the folk art museum going.”

Looking ahead, Clark said he and the museum’s board hoped to resurrect one of its original missions: educating others about folk art. Before the pandemic, the museum would host tours for school groups and retirement communities; they’d also carve out a presence at several local arts festivals, including the Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance.

“Some of those things have dropped off with COVID and then with us selling, we just — our energy just got pretty thin and the board was a little bit tired,” Clark said. “So, we kind of revamped that and got some new blood on the board, and there’s some people who are excited about seeing some of those things come back.”

But first thing’s first — they’ve got to reopen.

“There’s a lot of people with wonderful donations of art and wonderful donations of time and energy who are helping us out now,” Clark said, “so we’ll get it open. I know we will.”

Find out more about the museum at www.smallmuseumfolkart.org.

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



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LOVE CHATHAM

Siler City-based homeless program hires director

*Chatham native
Dakota Philbrick to
take on their newly
established position*

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Love Chatham, the Chatham County homeless shelters organization, has named Dakota Philbrick as its program director, tasking him with developing and overseeing an emergency sheltering plan, as well as growing its network of volunteers and donors.

Earlier this year, CCNCHS was one of the beneficiaries of the United Way of Chatham County's Issue-Based Grant that provided much needed funding to a few local organizations. Love Chatham used part of those funds, along with generous private donations, to establish a program director position. Over the last few months, the group's board took applications from all over the region and vetted many great candidates, but after a round of interviews unanimously selected Philbrick.

Philbrick has been a volunteer with Love Chatham since its inception. He is a graduate of Chatham Central High School and Appalachian State University, where he majored in Business Management and CIS. Over the last 15 years Philbrick has gained experience in accounting principles, project management, information technologies, and small business entrepreneurship all over the southeast before moving back to N.C. in 2020.

"The combination of his established skills and training along with his familiarity and heart for the initiatives of Love Chatham made him a stand-out candidate and an obvious choice," said CCNCHS board member Edwin Argueta.

"He impressed us all with his interview and I think he's going to be great," added Treasurer and Executive Director Mack Neeves.

"I am beyond blessed to have the confidence of this organization that I love and I want to help it continue to grow and do good in our community."



Courtesy of Love Chatham

Dakota Philbrick, the new program director of Love Chatham.

Philbrick said. "I think God wants to show His love abundantly through the things Love Chatham is doing. My life verse is Isaiah 41:10: 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.' I want to be a part of passing on that same kind of hope to others. We've got a big challenge ahead of us, so I'm ready to get to work!"

The most pressing challenge is to find a more affordable and sustainable way to house those experiencing homelessness this winter. The board and other volunteers have already been developing a program modeled after Family Promise in Lee County, where a rotation of churches could house at least some of the more vulnerable clients for short periods of time. The plan is to begin testing that approach in smaller-scale situations in the coming weeks.

"We're in a very Luke 10:2 situation," Philbrick added. "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

Love Chatham is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization started by local churches with a desire to love and provide for those experiencing homelessness and hunger to the Glory of God. You can donate, volunteer, or find out more at chathamhomeless.org or 919-726-9976.

\$100 FROM 100

United Way of Chatham County begins business fundraising challenge

From the United Way of
Chatham County

The United Way of Chatham County's annual campaign is under way, and UWCC is now asking Chatham businesses to join forces in a \$100 by 100 Challenge.

The goal is to raise \$100 from 100 businesses in Chatham County, and to show that every donation to UWCC builds on the gifts of others and will make a significant impact in our community.

"The past year and a half has been terrifying for the Chatham residents who live at or below

the poverty line," said Katie Childs, UWCC's Executive Director. "I know because they have called our office weekly, sometimes multiple times a day, desperately looking for help. We are calling on our local businesses to share the responsibility with United Way in ensuring Chatham County

remains a safe, healthy and equitable place for individuals and families to live."

Businesses that participate will be recognized in a public advertisement in the News + Record the first week of January, will be recognized in a mailing to UWCC's top donors, and receive digital recognition, as well.

The challenge ends Monday, Dec. 20. For more information or to join the challenge, please visit www.unitedwayofchathamcounty.org/100by100, or contact UWCC at 919-542-1110.

The United Way of Chatham County funds 23 programs managed by its 16 nonprofit agencies that specialize in the education, financial stability, and health of Chatham County residents, with UWCC funding serving one in three Chatham residents. For more information on the agencies and programs funded by United Way, volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org.



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OBITUARIES

DELORES ANN PHILLIPS CAVINESS



Delores Ann Phillips Caviness, 66 of Sanford, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at UNC Chapel Hill Hospital.

Delores was born on February 26, 1955, in Siler City, to the late Noah Calvin Phillips and Billie Joan McLaughlin Phillips. She was an educator for many years and retired as an Assistant Principal from Lee County Schools. Her service and impact on the many number of students and

staff will be remembered. She and her husband, Michael, enjoyed life to the fullest. Whether traveling together, dancing to love songs in grocery store aisles, or sharing the Word of God with others, they showed everyone the true meaning of soulmates. Delores was also an expert at creating the most magical moments with her granddaughter, Olivia. Whether it be playing dress-up in gorgeous gowns, tiaras and jewelry or sitting down to an exquisite tea party, she made Olivia feel like a princess every time.

Delores was also a devoted, Godly woman who read and studied the Bible extensively. She enjoyed researching the Bible and sought to fully understand the meanings of scriptures to gain complete understanding of the Word of God. Lastly, Delores was a caregiver by nature. She deeply cared for both her mother and father as they aged, and she continued her love and devotion for her husband as he battled multiple health issues.

She is survived by her stepson, William Caviness (Bridgit Price Caviness) of Smithfield, N.C.; her stepdaughter, Jennifer Caviness Hobson (Daniel) of High Point, N.C.; her sister, Dianna Phillips Norris (Gary) of Colbert, Georgia; her grandson, Cobey Caviness; her granddaughter, Olivia Hobson; her nephews, Kiel Norris (Katrina) of Athens, Georgia, and Ryan Norris (Abby) of Winder, Georgia; her great-nephews, Brooks and Benton Norris; and her great-nieces, Reagan and Carson Norris. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death on August 17, 2021, by the love of her life, her 8th grade crush, and husband whom she was married to for 26 years, Michael Lynn Caviness.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 11 a.m. at Hope Assembly of God, 1922 Henley Road, Sanford, N.C.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the UNC Cancer Center or to the charity of one's choice.

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

Services entrusted to Miller-Boles Funeral Home of Sanford.

CLARENCE HORTON ‘SHORTY’ JOHNSON SR.

Clarence Horton “Shorty” Johnson Sr., age 85, of Pittsboro, passed away peacefully Monday, November 15, 2021, at home with his family by his side.

Shorty was born in Chatham County on April 17, 1936, to the late Jodie Jackson Johnson and Allie Williams Johnson. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Jack Johnson, Red Johnson, and one sister, Sandy Joe Johnson.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Mollie Ann Morris Johnson; two sons, Shorty Johnson Jr. and wife Tammy of Siler City, Charles Johnson Sr. of Sumter, S.C.; one sister, Crystal Faye Long of Pittsboro; sister-in-law, Janice Johnson of Pittsboro; and seven grandchildren, Shenoah Buford and husband Christian, Nyckolas Johnson, Charles (Jay) Johnson, Jr. Tyler Davis, Abbey Davis, Kendall Mitchell and Jake Mitchell.

The family received friends Thursday, November 18, 2021, from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at New Salem Church. The funeral service followed at 2 p.m. with Pastor Steve Moore presiding. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Shorty's memory to New Salem Church, 5030 Old Graham Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312 or Emmaus Baptist Church Building Fund, 2428 Silk Hope Gum Spring Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com

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

JOHN ANDERSON ‘BUCK’ THOMAS

John Anderson “Buck” Thomas, 84, of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at his home.

The graveside service was held Friday, November 19, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Barbeque Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Dr. David Sherrod officiating.

Mr. Thomas was born in Harnett County on August 13, 1937, to the late Herman C. and Mary Kate Darroch Thomas. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife Zula Thomas. Buck farmed the family farm his entire life.

He is survived by sisters Cornelia Stewart of Lillington and Thelma Persing of Longs, S.C.; and brother, Cameron Thomas II of Vass.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

STEPHEN ‘STEVE’ RAY FARRIS

Stephen “Steve” Ray Farris, 66, of Siler City passed away Thursday, November 18, 2021, at Chatham Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts & Sons Funeral Home, Siler City.

LARRY ‘DONNELL’ DONALD GOINS

Larry “Donnelle” Donald Goins, age 68, of Bennett, passed away on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at LongLeaf Medical Center in Wilson.

Services entrusted to Knotts & Sons Funeral Home, Siler City.

ALICIA JOSEPHINE O’NEIL DALRYMPLE

Alicia Josephine O’Neil Dalrymple, 95, passed away Tuesday, November 9, 2021, in Cary.

A graveside service was held at Salem Presbyterian Church with Pastor Julie Hughes officiating and her grandson, Christopher Dalrymple eulogizing on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at 11 a.m.

Born in Manhattan, N.Y., she was the daughter of John and Anna Darlington O’Neil. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, William Clyde Dalrymple and sisters Anastasia O’Neil Robinson and Elizabeth O’Neil Doyle. After a military life with her family, they settled down on the Dalrymple Family Farm.

She is survived by her children, Laura Dalrymple, Sharon Keating, Billy Dalrymple, and Lisa Dalrymple, all of N.C.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

WILLIE HOWARD DEGRAFFENREIDT

Willie Howard Degraffenreidt, 90, of Goldston, passed away Sunday, November 21, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts & Sons Funeral Home, Siler City.

NORMAN ARTHUR JORDAN SR.



Norman Arthur Jordan Sr., 94, died November 20, 2021, at his home in Siler City. He was the youngest child of Claude Womble Jordan and Blanche Jones Jordan. He graduated from Siler City High School in 1947, where he was a three-sport athlete, and from N.C. State College in 1952, where he earned a B.S. degree in dairy husbandry. It was during his time at N.C. State as a member of the college dairy judging team that he

was introduced to Brown Swiss dairy cattle and decided to develop a purebred, registered Brown Swiss herd on his family's dairy farm west of Siler City. Brush Creek Swiss Farms continues today under the management of his son, Norman Jordan Jr. It was also during his time at N.C. State that he met Beverly Smith, a student nurse at Rex Hospital in Raleigh. They were married for 67 years until her death in 2019.

Norman was active in many organizations promoting the dairy business during his lifetime. He served for many years as the Brown Swiss breed representative for the N.C. Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, as the dairy representative on the selection committee of the N.C. State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame, and as secretary-treasurer of the N.C. Brown Swiss Association. He also started exhibiting his dairy cows at the N.C. State Fair in 1960, and Brush Creek Swiss Farms has been part of the Brown Swiss show every year since then — 62 consecutive years. He was inducted into the State Fair Livestock Hall of Fame in 1986. For many years, he donated Brown Swiss heifers for fundraisers supporting dairy youth activities in the state. He served as chairman of the board of directors of the Farmers Alliance Store and was a lifelong member of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church. He enjoyed woodworking, grew the best watermelons and cantaloupes, and well into his 90s took care of the baby calves on his farm.

Norman was preceded in death by his parents, wife Beverly and brother Henry. He is survived by three children, Sheila Jordan and husband Jerry Washington of Sunset Beach; Penny Jordan Wofford and husband Bill of Greensboro; and Norman Jordan Jr. and wife Dr. Karen Jordan of Siler City. He is also survived by his granddaughter, Rebekah Wofford of Morrisville; his sister, Mary Ellen Harris of Raleigh; and Sheila and Jerry's children, Kristi Haas of Hampstead and Robert Washington of Vidalia, Georgia, and grandchildren, Olivia and Delia Haas.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, November 27, 2021, from 1 to 2 p.m. outside of Moon's Chapel Baptist Church, 175 Moon's Chapel Rd., Siler City, with a graveside service following at 2 p.m. at the church cemetery with Dr. Patrick Fuller officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made in Norman's memory to the Moon's Chapel Baptist Church cemetery fund (175 Moon's Chapel Road, Siler City, NC 27344) or the N.C. Dairy Youth Foundation (mail donations to Dr. Stephanie Ward, 120 W. Broughton Drive, Box 7621, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695).

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Jordan family.

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

JAMES MONROE WALLS SR.

James Monroe Walls Sr., 84, of Bear Creek, passed away on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at his home. He was born in Oxford, Mississippi, on October 5, 1937, to Alice and James Andrew Walls. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and worked as a warehouse manager for Super Value in grocery distribution.

The graveside service was held Sunday, November 21, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Hickory Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Sanders officiating.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra Walls; son, James Monroe Walls Jr.; sister, Merle W. Everwine; brothers, T.J., Robert, Louis, Bobby and Bill.

He is survived by his sons, Jimmy Walls of Bear Creek, Richard Walls of Chicago, Illinois; daughter, Bridget Kouba of Chicago, Illinois; brothers, Earl Walls of Kentucky and Jettie Walls of Mississippi; 10 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and a host of family and friends.

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

DOYLE OCHLETREE HARRINGTON

Doyle Ochletree Harrington, age 98 of Broadway, died Thursday, November 18, 2021, at Sanford Senior Living.

Graveside service was held at 2 p.m., Saturday, November 20, 2021, at Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Rev. Doug Houston officiating.

Mr. Harrington was born May 3, 1923, son of the late Doyle Graham and Bessie Gaster Harrington. Doyle was a Veteran of World War II, serving in the United States Navy and was a member of Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church.

Surviving is his wife of 62 years, Charlye Arnette Harrington of the home; daughter, Marsha Harrington Whittington of Garner; son, Wiley Doyle Harrington of Broadway; four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

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

STANLEY REICHARD THOMAS SR.

Stanley Reichard Thomas Sr. 83, of Chapel Hill, died Thursday, November 11, 2021, at the SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan UNC Hospice House.

A graveside service was held Sunday, November 14, 2021, at 2 p.m. at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church with Rev. Wesley Thomas and Rev. Dan Robinson presiding.

Stanley was born in Chatham County on November 7, 1938, to the late Everette and Elsie Riddle Thomas. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Buddy Thomas, Emil Thomas, one son, Stanley Reichard Thomas Jr., and two grandsons. Surviving relatives include, a sister, Pearl Thomas Maynor of Chapel Hill; a brother, Emory B. Thomas of Elk City, Oklahoma; daughters, Lorrie T. Koger, Cindy T. Howard and Julia T. Teague, all of Cookeville, Tennessee; son, Shane Thomas of Cookeville, Tennessee; 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial contributions to be made in Stanley's memory to Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, 1785 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

ROSA LEE (TRAPP) BERRYMAN

Rosa Lee Trapp Berryman, 72, of Sanford passed away on November 17, 2021, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral service was held at 12 p.m. Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at Trinity United Methodist Church with burial following at Lee Memory Gardens.

MARY LOUISE (FOX) MOYD

Mary Louise Fox Moyd, 70, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at her home.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 21, 2021, at St. Mark United Church of God with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

BONNIE RHAЕ SUTTON

Bonnie Rhae Sutton, 59, of Sanford passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at her home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

AUGUST RAYЕ SUTPHIN

August Raye Sutphin, 47, of Bennett, passed away on Saturday, November 20, 2021, at home.

The funeral was held at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, at Bennett Baptist Church with Rev. Tim Strider presiding.

She was born in Lee County on July 6, 1974, to LouAnn Jones Lee and Carlton Ray Binkley. August was a member of Bennett Baptist Church and had worked as a mail carrier. August was preceded in death by her grandparents; sons, Kelly Modery and Mitchell Modery; brother, Christian Lee; and her husband, Billy Sutphin.

She is survived by her sons, Steven Sutphin of Bennett and Jacob Lee of Sanford; parents, Ray and Annette Binkley of Bear Creek; LouAnn and Tom Lee of Sanford; brothers, Brennan Binkley of Fayetteville, Robert Lee of Holly Springs; and one grandchild.

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

BERNICE ETHEL (TAYLOR) BLAND

Ms. Bernice Ethel Taylor Bland, 88, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, November 15, 2021.

The funeral service was held at 12 p.m. Monday, November 22, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden.

PATTIE MAЕ (BATTLE) PETTY

Pattie Mae (Battle) Petty, 78, of Sanford passed away Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at Sanford Manor.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 24, 2021, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

JOANNA MCAULEY

JoAnna McAuley of Sanford passed away on Monday, November 15, 2021.

Funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Saturday, November 20, 2021, at Try Jesus Ministries, with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

KATHERINE MARIE (MIDGETT) CAMPBELL

Katherine Marie (Midgett) Campbell, 64, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, November 14, 2021, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CHARLOTTE KAREN WILLIAMS

Charlotte Karen Williams, 58, of Sanford passed away Friday, November 19, 2021, at UNC Hospice House in Pittsboro.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

JOANN REDDING

Joann Redding, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, November 22, 2021, at her home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CURTIS MILTON MARSH

Curtis Milton Marsh, 88, of Sanford passed away on Friday, November 19, 2021, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.



CHATHAM CHAT | MONCURE'S HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Moncure plans street fair this Christmas, parade next year

On Dec. 4, Moncure will hold a “Candy Land” themed street fair open to the community on Moncure Loop Road, supported by Moncure’s Lion’s Club, Moncure Fire Dept. and 3 Rivers Coalition. Called, “A Village Christmas,” the fair will include a vendors market, food trucks and horse-drawn sleigh ride. The event marks the anticipated return of the Moncure Christmas Parade in December 2022, after 37 years.

This week, the News + Record spoke with Clarissa Faye Toomer-Neal, the original coordinator from the first Moncure Christmas Parade and who will resume her title for the slated 2022 return.

Neal, 67, grew up in Moncure and retired in 2016 from Xerox and from Nationwide Insurance, where she was an executive administrative assistant, to take care of her parents, the late Hubert Toomer (deceased December 2016) and Cora Thomas Toomer (deceased August 2019). She also worked previously as a bus driver for Chatham County Schools, and works now part-time as an office assistant at All About Us Kids in Sanford. She enjoys helping others and working with, listening to and tutoring youth.

What led you — after 37 years — to once again have a Christmas Parade in Moncure?

We wanted to do a repeat Christmas Parade just so our community could work together to accomplish what everyone knows — we can all come together for the good of our community and for each other. Moncure is a quiet, small

town, but is a giant when it comes to industrial hard workers in the county’s tax system. We don’t ask for much but we are awake, alive and well!

It’s true — 37 years ago we had two stores, no stoplights, and four industrial plants, one school and bumpy roads. Today, we have five stores, no stoplights, three industrial plants, one school, bumpy roads, a dam and a lake. I thought we should have doubled in all areas but it appears everyone knows we are here, but no one knows what a good life and a good time is anymore. Our kids have to be up by 5:30 a.m., catch the school bus, take a two-hour ride to get to a high school, stay at school for seven hours or so and then ride one and a half to two hours just to get back home and do homework. A three to four hour commute just to get to and from high school conditions our youth here in Moncure to either know how to make it in life or stop trying and accept what they’re given.

Can you imagine driving to and from your job taking three to four hours a day and then working eight to 12 hours?

Moncure adults and youth have always had the same opportunities and the same bumpy roads. We are here and see people come work here, leave work and go to another county to live. Even pastors come here but live elsewhere. We are a friendly home to strangers who come visit Jordan Lake but think twice about living here.

We are doing the parade after 37 years so we can remember there are good things and good people — good co-workers, good families, good friends and good times still here, together, in Moncure!

No parade this year, but what will next year’s parade feature?

There is not an actual parade this year, but on Dec. 4, we have planned a street fair. Our theme

is “Candy Land” and the event is called “A Village Christmas.” The street fair is an open event to all! It is being held in the Haywood Community on Moncure Loop Road. It is an event to introduce unity in our communities and support our community’s organizations (Moncure Lion’s Club, Moncure Fire Department, 3 Rivers.) All our neighboring communities are welcome. Our actual parade will be held next year, Dec. 3, 2022.

You’re also having a street fair. Tell us about that ...

Moncure’s Village Christmas is the street fair, held from noon to 4 p.m. on Dec. 4. The street fair will be relaxing and enjoyable for all who attend. We have some 30+ vendors, food trucks, children’s play place with guest appearances of Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and elves, planned. Our vendors are coming from Raleigh, Greensboro, Raeford, Fayetteville, Apex, Cary, with local vendors attending as well. Vendors will have scented candles, fresh produce, jewelry, floral arrangements, clothing, handbags; music, street dancing with a live DJ and music, a wine tasting vendor from Seven Springs. The event will also feature a horse-drawn sleigh ride through the village. A silent wreath auction will also be held.

It’s a Moncure event but open to everyone, right? What should people know about times and details?

That’s right, it’s open to everyone! Time is from 12-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021. Bring your whole family!

We have space for approximately five more vendors for the street fair/village Christmas event. Anyone wanting to vend or donate a wreath for the wreath auction can contact Clarissa Toomer-Neal by email at nealc4253@gmail.com or by phone at 919-888-2493.



Celebration of Lights

JOIN US FOR A DRIVE-THRU LUMINARY SERVICE AT ST. JULIA CATHOLIC CHURCH 210 HAROLD ROAD, SILER CITY SATURDAY, DEC. 4TH, 2021 6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

***Admission is Free. Hundreds of Luminaries!**

Luminaries are \$10. each and can be purchased in honor or in memory of a loved one, friend, or family member. To purchase call 919-663-0177. Ask for Patricia. 100% of the sales go to support Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy. Learn more at ChathamCares.com





A steady stream of cars lined up for a recent county-wide shredding event, where Chatham residents could bring items such as outdated medicines and cans of leftover paint for disposal, in addition to paper documents.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Happy Holidays FROM ALL OF US AT CENTRAL PIEDMONT URGENT CARE



WE DO COVID TESTING OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



SILER CITY
101 Walmart Supercenter

RANDLEMAN
1011 High Point Street





In this season of giving, the Rotary Club of Pittsboro is pleased to bring holiday cheer to homes in our community one family & table at a time. In collaboration with Food Lion, Chatham Marketplace, & our members, the club recently donated 92 turkeys & dry goods for a total of 2,450 pounds of food to CORA for local distribution. Wishing you and yours a healthy & happy celebration with family and friends!



Give where you live! CORA accepts donations throughout the year because food inequality knows no season.

‘TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING

CORA hosts its second ‘Turkey Tuesday’ event

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The CORA Food Pantry held its second annual “Turkey Tuesday” holiday food drive last Tuesday to collect Thanksgiving meal essentials for the food insecure in Chatham County.

CORA — the Chatham Outreach Alliance — will be able to serve hundreds of families by giving them traditional Thanksgiving fixings, such as turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and more after receiving over 400 turkeys, 75 hams and around 1,500 pounds of other food.

Pam Barker, a member of CORA’s board of directors and the co-chairperson of its food drive committee, said the idea for Turkey Tuesday came from a new CORA volunteer last year, Liz Guinan.

“They had done this in the state where she worked and where she previously lived [in Arizona],” Barker said. “We just thought it was a great idea, and so the rest is history.”

Rebecca Hankins, CORA’s development and communications director, said the holidays were an especially hard time for those who face food insecurity. The financial strain the holiday season brings often brings more individuals to the food bank.

“This time of year, we always see an increase in numbers of people coming to the food pantry,” she said. “The holidays can be stressful, and putting food on the table, if you’re already struggling with food insecurity, is hard.”

CORA has already seen the number of people coming to the pantry increase in the two weeks leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday — nearly doubling normal totals.

“The numbers this week have already jumped up,” Hankins said the week before the Turkey Tuesday food drive. “Last Monday we served 32



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Volunteers working to collect food donations for CORA’s ‘Turkey Tuesday’ food drive last week.

families, and this Monday we served 54 families, and we’re anticipating on serving 300 families this week alone.”

According to the Food Bank for Central and Eastern North Carolina 2020-2021 annual report, 9,100 Chatham residents — 13% — face food insecurity. When it comes to children in Chatham, 17% of those under the age of 18 are considered food insecure.

CORA aims to provide relief to the many low income and food insecure families in Chatham County. This year, the organization has helped to serve 11,276 people with food, as well as provide more than 1.2 million meals and enroll over 1,100 children in the Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids — SNACK — program.

CORA is “dedicated to acquiring and distributing food to Chatham County residents who have a need for community support to keep themselves and their families fed, creating a community without hunger,” according to its website, and the annual holiday food drive is just one way for CORA to reach that goal.

“It’s hard for me to believe in our country of surplus that

there are people that don’t have food,” Barker said. “It’s just about educating people to let them know how great the need is and the impact COVID has had this year with the increase in prices, inflation of food, and the scarcity of food that’s eaten has made it more difficult for our families.”

CORA usually sees a spike in people coming to the food bank around Thanksgiving and Christmas, and volunteers are already seeing an increase in food pantry patrons. After Tuesday’s event, Hankins said CORA has enough food to help accommodate the uptick in pantry patrons this holiday season.

“We literally packed every freezer we have and donated a few turkeys to other local organizations helping families,” she told the News + Record.

“We will be very busy through the end of December and will have plenty of food to give thanks to Chatham County and our many supporters,” Hankins wrote in a social media post. “We are very grateful to be able to serve those facing hunger this holiday season with bountiful bags of groceries and lots of smiles.”

Barker said while the Turkey



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

CORA held its Turkey Tuesday food drive outside of the Governor’s Club Food Lion last Tuesday.

Tuesday event was successful and will help provide food through the holidays, food insecurity doesn’t vanish after the holidays.

She said she remembers one of the first years she volunteered at CORA, the pantry was full from floor to ceiling with various holiday foods. Barker thought the food would last the pantry for weeks, but that wasn’t the case.

“I went away for a holiday and came back, and after two weeks at all that food was already gone,” Barker said. “It’s important for people to remember that even though the holidays are over food insecurity continues January through the rest of the year.”

For Hankins, Barker and everyone at CORA, the vision

of a community without hunger is a year-long goal, not just one for the holiday season. By supporting food drives like the Turkey Tuesday event, community members can help in the fight against food insecurity in their own neighborhoods.

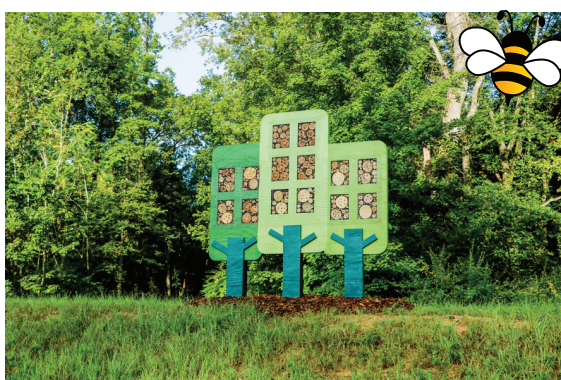
“I think that this community has stepped up time and time again in helping CORA and the families that we serve,” Hankins said. “I think it’s important for community to understand that many of our neighbors are facing hunger and by supporting an event like Turkey Tuesday, they’re helping the most vulnerable in our community.”

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at theeden@chathamnr.com.



The buzz is out that our most recent Chatham Park venture will bring a little sweetness to the life of our residents! Our new pollinator garden, now visible from the roof of the community’s Water Recovery Center (WRC), hosts eight beehives amidst a variety of plants, trees, and bee-friendly perennials. The plants were chosen using the North Carolina cooperative extension as a source by our team of landscape architects. Approximately 250,000 tiny tenants call this area home and will benefit the entire community with their pollination activities. As Chatham Park development continues, additional pollinator gardens will be installed as part of an overall system.

Honeybees are important to our environment in a variety of ways. Their pollination services help to provide food for both humans and animals such as fruits, berries, nuts, and seeds. They also are essential to gardens and trees, pollinating wildflowers and shrubs as well as ensuring beautiful landscaping and healthy,



life-giving vegetation. Of course, we cannot forget the incredibly delicious and healthy honey that they produce for us to enjoy. Make sure to be on the lookout for local honey which is not only a wonderful preservative but can also be a remedy for allergies. Purchasing local honey is often the only reward that small time beekeepers get for their efforts, so we encourage you to support local businesses and stock up! You may even get the chance to sample honey from the Chatham Park bees as early as next spring.

The Chatham Park honeybees were raised in hives at Rocky River Bee

Farm, a 15-acre farm near the Rocky River just south of Pittsboro. When their new accommodations were complete, Jody Moore with Rocky River Bees successfully moved the colonies to the WRC to begin their new life.

As we promote community togetherness, we encourage our residents in Vineyards at Chatham Park to be good neighbors to these natural wonders. Bees face many challenges, but you can help by planting seasonal foliage, especially plants that bloom during the summertime, and growing organically is always best as pesticides kill bees.

Check out NCBeeKeepers.org for more information on the best flowers and shrubs to plant. You can also offer small pollinator condos in your backyard -perfect for native bees - and birdbaths are a huge asset to bees as they spend a lot of their energy bringing water to their hive. Let’s give them a zone where they can live and flourish!



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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

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

OFFICE SPACE RENT

SMALL NICE OFFICE in Siler City. Great location. Central air. Furnished desks and chairs. Call 919-227-6698. N25,1tp

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

HOUSE RENTAL

3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, in Pittsboro area, Appliances included, Large yard, \$800/mo + Utilities. Pets and children welcome. 919-542-1431, Call after 5 p.m. N18,25,2tp

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,tfnc

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

portunity. A2,tfnc

FOR SALE

FOUR REGISTERED BULLS By Proffat Blood Line. 2yr to 3yr olds. Price \$1,850 to \$2,600. Call 336-362-8887, Siler City, NC. N25,D2,2tp

20 NEW SINGLE wood chair frames, available for anyone that does upholstery work. Price negotiable. Please call 919-200-1977. N25,D2,2tp

SILK HOPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC. will be accepting sealed bids for a used generator, Briggs & Stratton, Vanguard 993cc, 20KW LPG, 120/240V. All bids must be mailed to: Silk Hope Volunteer Fire Department, 8110 Silk Hope-Gum Springs Road, Siler City, NC 27344 by 12-31-2021. Bid opening on 12-18-2021. \$2,000 reserve. For questions, call 919-742-5874. N18,25,D2,9,16,23,6tc

AUCTIONEERS

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

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,tfnc

SERVICES

I PAY CASH for junk cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or cell: 610-639-5614. God Bless! N25,1tc

T.V. ANTENNAS + INSTALLATION - Come by or call Bruce McDaniel at 102 North Third Ave., Siler City to get an estimate on how many channels are available at your location. Various options available. 919-227-6698 N18,25,2tp

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,tfnc

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

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

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

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. 021,tfnc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call

919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

LEGALS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **AILEEN MCGUIRE**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before February 4th, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 4th day of November, 2021. Maureen Bonanno, Executor Estate of Aileen McGuire c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **LESTER ROGERS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 2nd day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 29th day of October, 2021. Jeffrey N. Rogers, Administrator CTA of The Estate of Lester Rogers P.O. Box 415 Siler City, North Carolina 27344 MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE ATTORNEYS AT LAW BOX 1806 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

27312 (919) 542-5605 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF FARREL F. POTTS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **FARREL F. POTTS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Gregory Herman-Giddens, as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before February 4, 2022, c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Attorney at Law, 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400, Naples, FL 34108, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executor. This the 4th day of November, 2021. Gregory Herman-Giddens, Executor c/o Gregory Herman-Giddens, Atty. Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. 8889 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 400 Naples, FL 34018 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 15-E-358 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Bruce Lawrence, having qualified as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **RICHARD HUGH BROWNE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before 27th day of January, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

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.

This the 4th day of November, 2021.

Bruce Lawrence
c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 27th day of October 2021, as Executrix of the Estate of **HELEN WARREN**, 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 2nd day of February 2022, 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 4th day of November 2021. Denise Kustka, Executrix of the Estate of Helen Warren 925 Strathorn Drive Cary, NC 27519 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tc

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The undersigned, having qualified on the 21st day of October, 2021, as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **AUGUSTA ANNA MYLROIE**, 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 4th day of February, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 4th day of November, 2021. Linda M. Danieley, Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of Augusta Anna Mylroie Post Office Box 57579 Durham, North Carolina 27717 Julia G. Henry Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 591

All persons having claims against **JACKSON GIBBS HITCHCOCK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 2nd day of November, 2021. Amanda Suttle Hitchcock, Executrix 100 Della St Chapel Hill, NC 27516 N4,N11,N18,N25,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF

THE ESTATE OF JUDITH POE CANCELLARO NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

ANCILLARY EXECUTOR'S NOTICE
The undersigned, having qualified as Ancillary Executor

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claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 17th day of November, 2021.
Christina Lynn Blankenship
c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds,
Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
N18,N25,D2,D9,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 669**
All persons having claims against **HARRIET DICKENS GEORGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 18th day of November,

2021.
Christopher Lynn George,
Co-Executor
2017 NC Hwy 42
Moncure, NC 27559
Angela George Harris, Co-Ex-ecutor
67 Dickens Rd..... Moncure, NC 27559
N18,N25,D2,D9,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 670**
All persons having claims against **RANDALL KELLY OATES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 18th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 18th day of November, 2021.
Carolyn A. Oates, Executrix
3705 Chatham St
PO Box 7
Bennett, NC 27208
N18,N25,D2,D9,4tp

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N25,1tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21 E 675**
All persons having claims against **JOY L. MASKE JUDGE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded

in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 25th day of November, 2021.
Jamey L. Judge, Executrix
5505 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro, NC 27312
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM**
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of November, 2021, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF **ANNA COOK FOWLER**, 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 26th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the Estate will pleas make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This, the 25th day of November, 2021.
Patsy Cook Hirschhorn,
Executrix
Estate of Anna Cook Fowler
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney

Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21E683**
All persons having claims against **JOHN KYLE FULLER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 25th day of November, 2021.
Renee Paschal, Executrix
105 Chatham Oaks
Moncure, N.C. 27559
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21E681**
All persons having claims against **PATTI KUCINIC JUSTICE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same

to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 25th day of November, 2021.
Joseph Randy Welch, Executor
845 Lakewood Falls Rd
Goldston, NC 2725225
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
21E672**
All persons having claims against **LOUISE H. POE aka LOUISE HUMBLE POE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 25th day of February, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 25th day of November, 2021.
Cynthia Poe Ferguson, Executrix
87 John Lane Rd
Bear Creek, NC 27207
N25,D2,D9,D16,4tp

CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS | SATURDAY, DEC. 4

Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy celebrates Luminaries

BY DOLLY R. SICKLES
Special to the News + Record

SILER CITY — Lynn Glasser, executive director for Chatham County's free pharmacy, has high hopes for it. He wants it to eventually close.

Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy, which opened in 2005 and operates on budget of less than \$150,000, employs one full-time person, one part-time person, and five volunteer pharmacists.

It provides free prescriptions to some 350 qualifying low income, uninsured, and underinsured Chatham County residents — including those with chronic health concerns like high blood pressure, diabetes, and mental health disorders — who meet the 200% threshold income limit of the Federal Poverty Level.

And though it runs like a well-oiled machine, Glasser said, "We'd really like to put ourselves out of business one day."

Glasser is a retired retail pharmacist and hometown kid who's lived and worked in Chatham County most of his life. Like the other pharmacists practicing at Chatham Cares — Lewis Mizelle, Trish Wilson, Karen Geisler and Joan Davidson — he's a volunteer. All but Geisler are retired, and they rotate shifts to ensure the pharmacy is staffed on a regular basis.

Glasser was once part-owner of Siler City Pharmacy, and that's where he met Jack Brooks, who once owned Family Pharmacy across town. Brooks is the founding pharmacy manager for Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy, and served on the original board of directors with Glasser.

"I practiced for years in either Pittsboro or Siler City and just saw so many people affected by poverty," Glasser said. "I knew when I retired, I would have time on my hands and wanted to do something to help the people of my home county. When Jack left Chatham Cares, I took over. I tell everybody it's not just my home county that



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Lynn Glasser, Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy's executive director, poses at the organization's offices in Siler City. The pharmacy serves hundreds of Chatham residents by providing free prescriptions.

has problems — there's poverty everywhere. I'm blessed to still be practicing, and I'm blessed to help the people who need help."

Patricia Dowdy serves as its licensed pharmacy technician, and is the only full-time person on staff. Like Glasser, her awareness of poverty in the county encouraged her career pivot.

"I worked for over 25 years in retail pharmacy and was ready to change to nonprofit," she said. "My dear grandmother Fields always taught and showed me how to help when I could. She always instilled in me that I should treat others the way I would want to be treated if I needed help."

And that's exactly what Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy does: help.

"There's such a need for pharmaceutical care for patients who can't afford it," Glasser said. "Even with the Affordable Care Act impacting our business, there are still people who can't afford the

premiums. There's poverty everywhere; I'm just helping my small slice of the people who can't help themselves right now."

Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy operates through donations and grants, occasionally getting help from those who've benefited from its services — like the former longtime client who found employment and started making annual financial contributions a couple years ago.

"There are people who are so appreciative of the things we do for them," Glasser said. "That's the satisfaction I get out of it. When I see people who don't have much of anything, who are willing to give back when they can. That's pure joy."

Options are limited when you need medication and can't afford it. Free pharmacies are a blessing, and not often commonly known about until you need the assistance. One of



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Contributions to Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy help pay for much-needed prescription medications for qualifying local residents.

Dowdy's areas of expertise is helping patients sign up for prescription assistance programs.

"In Chatham County, folks who need assistance can get medication from UNC pharmacy outpatient services if they qualify, or there are drug assistance programs for patients for many brand name medicines that are otherwise too expensive to get," she said. "There are discount programs like Rx Outreach and Good Rx and Needy Meds ... and there's us."

Beyond dispensing prescriptions and corresponding consultations, having a free pharmacy in the community is a necessary bridge to poverty, according to Glasser.

"The dollars we can save the population is one thing," he said, "but the bigger thing is that we're able to provide lifesaving medications that otherwise wouldn't be utilized by a population who can't get those meds anywhere but a free pharmacy."

Community outreach is an important element for the success of the Chatham Cares Community Pharmacy. Individuals-in-need learn about the pharmacy through word of mouth and referrals from healthcare providers.

Thanks to part-time receptionist Ana Salazar-Ortez, who also serves as a translator, materials are accessible bilingually. The community-at-large often learns about it through

fundraisers, like the upcoming Celebration of Lights, which will present itself with hundreds of luminaries lining the drive up to St. Julia Catholic Church in Siler City.

As for Glasser and Dowdy, and the staff and volunteers at Chatham Cares, they're luminaries, too. They're the people who light the path when you need to see how to move forward.

"What it all boils down to is giving back," said Glasser. "God has blessed me with a wonderful family and wonderful career, and through the teachings I've learned over the years in Sunday school and church, it's me having the resources and the health to give back to people. That's just what I should be doing with my life."

The Celebration of Lights Drive-Through Luminary Service will be held from 6-7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, at St. Julia Catholic Church in Siler City. Admission is free, but luminaries can be purchased for \$10 each. Proceeds from the sale of the luminaries and all corresponding general donations will go toward the purchase of medication for pharmacy clients. For more information and to make a donation, go to www.ChathamCares.com.

Dolly R. Sickles is a Pittsboro-based freelance writer, journalist, author, and occasional CNR columnist.

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CHATHAM CHARTER 72, FAITH CHRISTIAN 58

Red-hot Knights cruise past Eagles to keep perfect season intact

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Every high-caliber team has strengths. Those strengths may be as simple as one or two players who can shoot the lights out on any given night, or a staunch defense that excels in shot-blocking and creating turnovers. Sometimes, the strengths stem from great coaching or fundamentally sound players. But as illustrated by a 6-0 start and 72-58 win over Faith Christian last Tuesday, the Chatham Charter Knights have one major strength that simply can't be taught: pure athleticism. When watching the Knights play last Tuesday against the

Eagles, it's hard to ignore the team's athleticism in all five positions. The Knights' three-quarter-court press rivals that of Bob Huggins' West Virginia teams — or "Press Virginia," as they've been deemed — and is only made possible by the athletes they have on the floor, wearing offenses down, little by little, until they break. Against the Eagles, Chatham Charter forced 13 turnovers — 10 of which came in the first half — in a textbook example of how to run a successful press. Every time the Knights scored, they'd allow the ball to be inbounded and immediately step into the face of the ball-handler, forcing them to make quick decisions — and, often, quick mistakes. While the success of the

Knights' press can undoubtedly be linked to the coaching mind of Head Coach Jason Messier and his players' desire to buy into his strategy, it's also a testament to his team's prowess and pure skill as athletes. "I think that we're athletic and we have a decent length to us and they commit to it, so we practice (the press) a lot," Messier said after the win. "Every game, we're going to come out and make teams see if they can handle it and establish that tone. We want to come out early, hard and aggressive, and make teams adjust to our style of play." However, as athletic as the Knights are, they differ from Huggins-coached teams in the See **SEASON**, page B5



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Charter junior Aamir Mapp (24) looks to drive into the paint in the Knights' 72-58 win over the Faith Christian Eagles on Nov. 16 in Siler City. Mapp was the team's leading scorer on the night with 16 points.

KNIGHTS 45, EAGLES 28



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Charter's Meredith Reese (right, in white) goes for three points in the Knights' matchup against Faith Christian in Siler City on Nov. 16. The non-conference game was their fourth win of the 2021-2022 season, 45-28.

Chatham Charter's defense turns up heat in 17-point win over Faith Christian

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

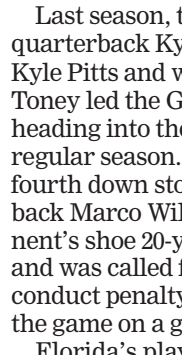
SILER CITY — A win's a win. That's the mindset of the Chatham Charter women's basketball team coming off of a home victory over the Faith Christian Eagles last Tuesday, 45-28, in what could only be described as an imperfect game by the Knights. However, despite a slow start and myriad mistakes, Chatham Charter didn't just scrape by with a win — it won in near-dominant fashion. It may not have been pretty, but adding another tally to the win column is all that matters, said the team's head coach, Jeff Patterson. "Like I told the girls, a win's a win," Patterson said after the victory. "We'll take an ugly win or a good win. They're working hard. We've got to get a little more unselfish, but other than that, everything's been great." The Knights and Eagles were even

at the end of the first period, 7-7, as both teams got off to a less-than-stellar start. In the first period alone, the two teams combined for seven turnovers, including four by the Knights, who made a couple of errant passes that either landed right into the Eagles' hands or sailed out of bounds. And while the Knights excelled in getting offensive rebounds in the opening quarter — including one possession with three in a row — they struggled to capitalize on second (and third) chances. The Knights racked up six offensive rebounds on four possessions in the first period, but came away with zero points. But, as has been the case for Patterson's team this season, they took their cold start and turned up the heat later in the game. "When it was 7-7, I'm thinking, 'Uh oh, this is going to be one of those

tough games like we played last Friday (against N.C. School of Science & Math)," Patterson said. "Last Friday, it was a five-point game with five minutes to go and we ended up scoring 28 points in the fourth quarter (to win)." While it wasn't quite as dramatic of a finish as the game against the Unicorns, the Knights — specifically, their defense — flipped a switch in the second quarter. Chatham Charter did all it could to make Faith Christian uncomfortable in the second, playing a tight zone defense that disrupted passing lanes and gave the Eagles' ballhandlers little-to-no space to maneuver with the ball. In total, the Knights forced eight turnovers in the second quarter en route to a shut-out performance, converting four Eagles turnovers into buckets on the other end. Knights center Alexis Baldwin, a See **DEFENSE**, page B5

Mullen's firing highlights 'win now' culture in college football

Dan Mullen was one shoe away from playing for a chance at the College Football Playoff last year. Now, he's fired. The Florida coach was relieved from his coaching duties on Sunday following the Gators' 24-23 loss to Missouri one day earlier. There's no denying that it has been a disappointing season for Florida. The Gators have lost four straight conference games, two months after giving Alabama a scare in the Swamp. Current recruiting rankings also suggest Florida might be on a downswing. In Florida's last 11 games against Power Five opponents, it has a 2-9 record. Mullen might've been seen as a villain by fans in the Southeastern Conference for his statements during the COVID-19 season, but should one bad season really be enough to get a coach fired? He was 34-15 in his four seasons at Florida. That .694 winning percentage was the highest of any coach other than Steve Spurrier and Urban Meyer since 1924. Last season, the offensive trio of quarterback Kyle Trask, tight end Kyle Pitts and wide receiver Kadarius Toney led the Gators to an 8-1 record heading into the final game of the regular season. But after getting a late fourth down stop against LSU, cornerback Marco Wilson tossed the opponent's shoe 20-yards down the field and was called for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. LSU ultimately won the game on a game-winning field goal. Florida's playoff hopes were over. Now, Mullen is out and Florida joins a list of storied programs looking to fill a head coaching vacancy. LSU, USC, Miami and Washington are among the schools who will enter the market. But that also means they will have to compete with them for the top coaching candidates around the country. Will Florida's replacement coach be better than Mullen? Although Florida might be atop that list of schools as a target coaching destination, they'll still need to find a coach who wants to leave. As of now, it's unclear if they have a top replacement choice. There's something to be said for having faith in a head football coach. Four years doesn't allow a coach to have his first full recruiting class graduate. Mark Stoops went 2-10 in his first year at Kentucky and didn't have a winning season until his fourth year. Now, he's had six consecutive winning seasons for a program that was once thought of as an afterthought in the SEC. Kentucky is obviously in a different position than Florida, but Stoops is now thought of as one of the top coaches in the conference.



MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

See **MULLEN**, page B5

2021-22 BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Who and what to watch for in men’s basketball this season

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

With the 2021-22 basketball season getting under way, the News + Record is taking a look at the teams across the county and previewing all of the upcoming action for both men’s and women’s basketball. Here is the men’s basketball preview, with teams listed in order of best 2020-21 record.

Chatham Charter Knights

Head coach: Jason Messier, eighth season
Assistant coaches: Bill Slaughter, Mark Murphy
2020 highlights: 12-2, 9-0 in Central Tar Heel 1A conference; lost in NCHSAA 1st round
2021 outlook: The 2020 season was a bizarre one for the Knights following their appearance in the 1A state semifinals in 2019. They finished undefeated in the conference, clinching a first-round home playoff game ... where they were promptly trounced by visiting Mountain Island Charter by 26 points. In 2021, despite losing the team’s second-leading scorer in Trevor Golden (16.4 points-per-game), Messier’s Knights are not only younger — no seniors on the entire roster — but they’re hungrier, causing Messier to say, “I think we have the potential to be special,” following an early season win.

Top returners: The Knights are bringing back the 2020-21 Central Tar Heel Conference Player of the Year and leading scorer in junior forward Adam Harvey (18.2 ppg, 9.5 rebounds-per-game), now the team’s primary on-court leader, while also returning junior forward Aamir Mapp (9.5 ppg, 5.6 rpg), who has deadly athleticism and is set to play an even larger role without Golden in the picture.

Top newcomers: The Knights’ incoming freshmen are worth getting excited over, according to Messier, namely point guard Beau Harvey — Adam’s brother — and center Brennen Oldham, both of which are locked-in starters this season. Messier sounds confident in Beau’s ability to run the team’s offense and call sets without much help, despite his young age. Oldham is a 6-foot-6 big man with the athleticism of a guard and the inside presence of a center, with Messier describing him with just three words: “He bothers people.”

Northwood Chargers
Head coach: Matt Brown, fifth season
2020 highlights: 14-3, 10-2 in Big 8 3A conference; lost in NCHSAA 3A state championship
2021 outlook: The Chargers were one game away from securing the first team state title in school history last March, but fell in the 3A state championship to Weddington. Each season under Brown, the Chargers seem to get better and better, which isn’t by accident. This offseason was spent participating in morning workouts, numerous tournaments against top-tier teams from both North and South Carolina and all kinds of summer activities to keep the team working toward its ultimate goal: a state title. While Brown isn’t ready to call this team — after



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood Head Coach Matt Brown (blue) draws up a play in the huddle during the team’s 55-34 win over Cedar Ridge last season. The victory was the Chargers’ largest of the season up to that point.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Central junior guard Colby Williamson (with ball) shoots a floater in his team’s 60-59 win over Jordan-Matthews last season. Williamson was one of five players who fouled out in the rivalry game.

losing four key seniors this year — a championship contender, he said they’ve “wanted to do everything they can do to put themselves in that position” this offseason to win it all. And they may just have the talent to do so.

Top returners: You’d be hard-pressed to ask about Northwood basketball without hearing the names of their two biggest returners: sophomore guards Frederico Whitaker Jr. (9.7 points-per-game, 3.5 rebounds-per-game, 3.5 assists-per-game) and Drake Powell (11.4 ppg, 5.7 rpg, 3.9 apg), who act as two-thirds of the all-star freshmen class from last season. Whitaker is a savvy floor general who Brown expects to not only have more scoring opportunities, but also become the true “quarterback of the offense,” said Brown. Powell is a lengthy, 6-foot-6 shooting guard with plenty of athleticism and raw talent that could easily lead the team in scoring this season. Brown also mentioned the likes of guard Griffin Hobbs (1.1 ppg), junior guard Koda Lewis (0.2 ppg), senior Seth Lewis (0.7 ppg) and junior center Kenan Parrish (1.2 ppg) — a 6-foot-11 center that Brown described as “the most improved player I’ve ever seen” — to take major steps this season.

Top newcomers: Max Frazier is an incoming junior transfer from Woods Charter that averaged 7.5 ppg for the Wolves in 2019-20. He’s a 6-foot-8 junior power forward/center that’s long and athletic with great passing and shot-blocking skills that Brown called “a difference-maker.” The Chargers are also getting two others, sophomore Jake Leighton from last year’s J.V. team and freshman Gus

Ritchey, both of which are at least 6-foot-4 to add to the team’s incredible size.

Chatham Central Bears

Head coach: Robert Burke, sixth season
Assistant coach: Justin Johnson
2020 highlights: 10-2, 7-1 in Yadkin Valley 1A conference; lost in NCHSAA 2nd round
2021 outlook: The Bears are coming off of a second-round exit in last year’s pandemic-shortened playoffs. Now, entering 2021, Chatham Central is down a boatload of seniors associated with the program that graduated over the summer, but none more important than star center Michael Moore, whose shoes will be tough to fill. This season, in a brand new conference where North Moore will be their only 1A competition, the Bears are set on last year’s juniors stepping up and leading a squad that may still have the juice to compete for a conference title.

Top returners: Among this year’s senior class are guards Colby Williamson and Nick Jourdan, along with forward Sawyer Elkins, all of which are set to assume larger roles on a team that lost so many upperclassmen during the offseason.

Top newcomers: N/A

Jordan-Matthews Jets

Head coach: Rodney Wiley, sixth season
Assistant coach: Reggie “Kermit” Carter
2020 highlights: 4-10, 3-9 in PAC 7 2A conference; missed playoffs
2021 outlook: The Jets graduated six players this past offseason, nearly all of which were ma-

jor contributors during the pandemic-shortened 2020 season that accounted for “maybe 75-80% of our scoring,” Wiley said. This season, as Wiley prepares to have almost an entirely new team, he’s implemented a different offense, one full of moving around and cutting and “trying to get some stuff going toward the basket,” he described. Even though his team doesn’t have the experience, Wiley said his group — complete with hard work, hard play and a “basketball savvy” attitude — has a shot to compete for the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference title this season if everyone steps up.

Top returners: Those primarily stepping up are the team’s returners, namely seniors Jacob Carter, Colby Daniel and Rayshaun Alston, who Wiley was quick to mention had a couple of 20-point games for the Jets last season, going as far as to say, “We really expect some big things out of him this year.”

Top newcomers: Wiley expects to see the most out of junior guard Dallas Richardson and sophomore forward Kelton Fuquay, both of which are coming over from football this past fall. He described Richardson as someone that’s improved his shooting and is “a guy who can get to the basket, sometimes even with ease,” while Fuquay is “a totally different ballplayer than he was last year” with hopes that he’s coming into his own this season and can make a much-needed impact for the Jets.

Woods Charter Wolves

Head coach: Taij Cotten, fourth season
Assistant coach: Jamie Cotten
2020 highlights:



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Wolves junior Nate Crump (14) receives a pass to break the Knights’ press last season. Crump was Woods Charter’s leading scorer (14 points), but Chatham Charter’s defense was suffocating all night.

1-10, 1-9 in Central Tar Heel 1A conference; missed playoffs

2021 outlook: The pandemic-shortened season didn’t shine brightly upon the Wolves, who had just one win in all of 2020-21. This year, however, Cotten sounded thrilled about the amount of work the team’s put in this offseason, along with the level of “raw talent” the squad has despite losing four seniors this summer. He said this was the most he’d ever been able to work with a team over the offseason, noting that he is attempting to create a “winning mentality” amongst the locker room as he remains hopeful that his team will take the next step and compete for the Central Tar Heel 1A conference title.

Top returners: Nate Crump (15 points-per-game, 8 rebounds-per-game) was the team’s leading scorer in his first season with the Wolves as a versatile big man last year and he’ll be back this season as one of the team’s five seniors. Crump may not be the most vocal guy in the locker room, but senior Luke Smollen has made up for it, showing great leadership over his four seasons under Cotten. He’s proven to be one of the team’s most important players, even though he “doesn’t necessarily give us the big buckets,” Cotten said. There’s also Luke’s brother, Alex Smollen, who’s a 6-foot-1 sophomore that can finish around the rim and stretch the floor, likely acting as one of the Wolves’ top perimeter shooters this season following a summer in which he “had tremendous growth,” according to Cotten.

Top newcomers: Seth Daniels, who played for the Wolves his freshman season before taking two years off, is returning this year as one of the team’s major newcomers. With a height somewhere between 6-foot-1 and 6-foot-2, Daniels is set to stand alongside Crump and Alex Smollen as the team’s imposing post presence, adding both a rebounding and shot-blocking threat that’s going to be incredibly valuable to Woods

Charter this year. Cotten said that had he played his sophomore and junior seasons, Daniels would “probably be a pretty decent prospect (for colleges) in this area.”

Seaforth Hawks

Head coach: Jarod Stevenson, first season
Assistant coach: Nicole Stevenson

2020 highlights: N/A
2021 outlook: In the program’s inaugural season, the ceiling is high — and so are the community’s spirits. With a roster full of freshmen and sophomores, Stevenson recognizes that it’ll be tough to lead Seaforth to the Holy Grail (or the state championship) this year, especially without any veteran leadership. But despite the lack of experience, he said he sees potential for some of the sophomores to assume leadership roles as the season goes on and players get more comfortable. While there may be some growing pains this year with the gap in both age and experience compared to other teams, it’s safe to say that Hawks games will, at the very least, carry plenty of excitement for fans and players alike.

Top returners: N/A
Top newcomers: With a brand new program, everyone’s a newcomer. But topping that list is 6-foot-8 power forward Jarin Stevenson — a sophomore transfer from Northwood — who is a jack-of-all-trades big man that has the ability to shoot and defend from pretty much anywhere on the court and was a major contributor to the Chargers’ state title runner-up journey last season. Jarin already has offers from N.C. State, North Carolina and Wake Forest despite his age and he’s sure to be the Hawks’ top option this year. In addition to Jarin, freshman point guard Noah Lewis, sophomore wing Lochlan Haddix and sophomore big man Chris Walker all have the potential to make noise in Seaforth’s first-ever season, added Stevenson.

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

2021-22 BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Who and what to watch for in women’s basketball this season

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

With the 2021-22 basketball season getting underway, the News + Record is taking a look at the teams across the county and previewing all of the upcoming action for both men’s and women’s basketball. Here is the women’s basketball preview, with teams listed in order of best 2020-21 record.

Northwood Chargers
Head coach: Kerri Snipes, first season
Assistant coaches: Jazmine Atkins, Kevin Forster, Thomas Snipes
2020 highlights: 14-1, 11-0 in Big 8 3A conference; lost in NCHSAA 3A Final Four
2021 outlook: Last year, the Chargers were one game shy of a 3A state title game appearance after a home loss to Asheboro in the Final Four, which came after an undefeated regular season. Though they didn’t finish with any hardware, one thing’s for certain: the team put Northwood women’s basketball on the map. The abrupt ending to last year’s historic season has led to the most motivated offseason yet, leading Snipes — who has been an assistant coach for the Chargers the last four seasons — to say, “They’re not satisfied. They don’t want to settle for finishing in the Final Four, they want to win it all. They’ve set that out for themselves as a team already.”

Top returners: Te’Keyah Bland (15.9 points-per-game) was the only double-digit scorer for the Chargers last season as their go-to post player, using her 6-foot frame to get the best of her opponents in the paint. She’ll be back this season as a junior alongside up-and-coming sophomore point guard Skylar Adams (8.0 ppg), who managed the team well during its play-off run last year. Guards Myla Marve (2.4 ppg) and Natalie Bell (4.9 ppg), as well as center Caroline Allen (3.2 ppg), are all set to make an impact defensively as seniors, too, according to Snipes.
Top newcomers: Olivia Porter is a senior transfer from Auburn High School in Alabama, where she earned 2020-21 All-Area Player of the Year honors and averaged 20.0 ppg. At Northwood, she’s slated to make an immediate impact for Snipes’ squad, who said she “has been a huge help so far and just fit right in with the girls.”

Chatham Charter Knights

Head coach: Jeff Patterson, second season
Assistant coaches: Jennifer Dameron
2020 highlights: 8-3, 5-1 in Central Tar Heel 1A conference; lost in NCHSAA 1st round
2021 outlook: After losing their top scorer over the summer in senior Morgan Lineberry (14.3 points-per-game, 9.3 rebounds-per-game), the Knights are shifting into a defense-heavy team in 2021-22 to make up for any struggles they may have putting points on the board. With just two seniors on the roster — and a bench full of underclassmen — the lack of experienced depth may hurt them down the road, but by then, Patterson said he’s hoping the team as a whole



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter then-sophomore guard Tamaya Walden (4) had 14 points and a number of fast-break layups in the Knights’ home win over Research Triangle on Jan 12.

‘They’re not satisfied. They don’t want to settle for finishing in the Final Four, they want to win it all. They’ve set that out for themselves as a team already.’

KERRI SNIPES,
head coach of Northwood Chargers

will learn and grow with each game played (win or loss) as the team finds its groove, which undoubtedly included getting the underclassmen involved.
Top returners: The Knights second- and third-leading scorers — senior Alexis Baldwin (13.1 ppg, 7.3 rpg), who is a 5-foot-9 forward with an imposing presence inside and terrific rebounding ability, and junior Tamaya Walden (10.6 ppg, 5.0 assists-per-game), the team’s dual guard and spark plug — are returning to act as Chatham Charter’s top-two options this year. It’s likely that sophomore guard Delana Loflin (6.8 ppg, 2.7 apg) and junior guard Lillian Jones (2.2 ppg, 3.1 rpg) will also provide hard-nosed defense for the Knights as the season goes on.
Top newcomers: There are three incoming freshmen on the Knights this season: guard Ella Ingle, guard Skylar Lynn and center Sasha Blackmon.

Chatham Central Bears

Head coach: Lynda Burke, seventh season
Assistant coach: Kathryn Hackney
2020 highlights: 4-4, 4-3 in Yadkin Valley 1A conference; missed playoffs
2021 outlook: The 2020 season was an off year for the Bears after a third-round playoff exit in 2019, amassing a .500 record and missing the postseason altogether during the pandemic-shortened season. In 2021, Chatham Central hopes to get itself back on track with another group full of upper-classmen, despite losing a strong senior class, including its only two all-conference finishers in Mary Grace Mur-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Northwood sophomore forward Te’Keyah Bland (12) waits to grab a rebound alongside Asheboro senior forward Diamond McDowell (5) in the Chargers’ 54-44 loss to Asheboro last season in the Final Four. Bland (13 points) and McDowell (22 points) battled in the paint all night long.

chison and Danielle Vaughn.
Top returners: Burke is mostly excited by the potential of senior Lindsey Johnson — a two-year starter — senior Ivey Tillman, who looks to play a large part in the offense at the center position and junior Kai-ley Green. In addition to those two, the duo of seniors Sadie Gaines and Carleigh Gentry will help out tremendously on the defensive end.
Top newcomers: The Bears’ lone freshman this season is one that turned heads in volleyball this year, the 5-foot-9 Karaleigh Dodson, who racked up 202 kills in her first varsity season at Chatham Central.
Jordan-Matthews Jets
Head coach: Lamont Piggie, first season
Assistant coaches: Kenyon Burns, Raysha Fox
2020 highlights: 1-10, 1-10 in PAC 7 2A conference; missed playoffs
2021 outlook: When asked about the style of play he wants to implement this season, Piggie didn’t hesitate when giving his answer: a fast-paced, run-and-

scribed as the team’s “engine,” because things wouldn’t move on the court without her passion, intensity and scoring prowess. Also returning are two sophomores, Lia Carter (1.5 ppg) and Logan Gunter (4.4 ppg), who are next in line to step up on such a young roster.
Top newcomers: Maggie Thornton is a junior combo guard/forward who is coming back after taking her sophomore year off to focus on other sports. She averaged 1.3 points as a freshman in 2019-20, but is set to have a much larger role this season as one of the team’s top scoring options. Piggie said he’s also been blown away by freshman forward/center Kelsey Morris and her “hustle and determination, especially being a freshman already playing like this on varsity” through the offseason and the Jets’ scrimmages.

Woods Charter Wolves

Head coach: Princess Alston
Assistant coaches: Sharon Bynum
2020 highlights: N/A
2021 outlook: After the team took a brief hiatus during the 2020 season, the Wolves are back in 2021 with a squad that Alston recently called her “best group yet.” While its unclear what they’ll bring to the team just yet, Alston sounded giddy when talking about her sophomore class, raving about their athleticism, leadership and even their off-the-court academic integrity.
Top returners: Senior guard Emi Hutter-Demarco is one of the only players left from Alston’s first season in 2019 and was the only women’s player that opted to play with the Wolves’ men’s team last season, where she honed her talents against tough competition. She’s already committed to play basketball for the Technology Tigers of the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York, according to Alston, but she’s slated to make the most of her last year with the Wolves, acting as one of the top scoring op-

‘[It’s] a challenge because I’ve never done it before, but I really like this challenge.’

CHARLES BYRD,
head coach of Seaforth Hawks

tions if she’s able to stay healthy.
Top newcomers: It’s hard to talk about Woods Charter athletics in 2021 without mentioning Lexi Smollen, the 6-foot-tall sophomore phenom that dominated the volleyball court this past season, leading the Wolves to an Sweet 16 appearance. She’s also playing basketball this season, which has Alston all kinds of excited. Smollen is not only able to score points in the paint for the Wolves, but also rack up steals and blocks on the other end as a legitimate two-way threat. Alston also has high hopes for plenty of other sophomores, including Caroline Mitchell, who will act as the Wolves’ biggest three-point weapon, as well as Chloe Haswell, along with junior Lucy Miller, all of which will play important roles alongside Smollen and Hutter-Demarco.

Seaforth Hawks
Head coach: Charles Byrd, first season
Assistant coach: Shontai Totten, Antonio Hayes

2020 highlights: N/A
2021 outlook: For Byrd, building the program at Seaforth and coaching in its inaugural season has been “a challenge because I’ve never done it before, but I really like this challenge.” On top of the myriad challenges of starting an entire program from scratch, Byrd’s squad is made up almost entirely of freshmen this season — save for one sophomore — despite playing on the varsity level against many teams that’ll be both older and larger than them. Byrd seems confident in his team’s ability to compete, however, based simply on the talent level and the chemistry his players have with one another despite having never played a varsity game together.
Top returners: N/A
Top newcomers: Seaforth’s talented freshman class is led by guard Gabby White, who Byrd describes as both “phenomenal” and “very good at basketball.” She’s a slasher with terrific speed and court vision. Then there’s Sydney Ballard, a 6-foot-1 inside force with a lot of polish for a freshman, especially when it comes to finishing around the rim. She’ll be paired with Sofia Ramirez, the team’s “enforcer,” according to Byrd, who’s just as strong. Hannah Ajayi is the team’s lone sophomore, which Byrd called the “heart and soul of our team.” Landry Pyland and Bailen Fauth, both freshmen, are also two players that Byrd picked out as working extremely hard with a shot to fly under opposing teams’ radars this season.

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

With Thanksgiving Break happening this week, the schedule for Chatham County sports is a little nonexistent as athletes, coaches and school staff alike get much-needed rest and relaxation. However, last week saw plenty of basketball amongst the county's charter schools, spearheaded by the perfect start by the Chatham Charter men (6-0) and women (5-1). Once Thanksgiving Break concludes, basketball, swimming and wrestling will all come back with a vengeance. Until then, Happy Thanksgiving!

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, November 24

No events scheduled; Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 25

No events scheduled; Thanksgiving Break

Friday, November 26

No events scheduled; Thanksgiving Break

LAST WEEK

Monday, November 15

No events scheduled.

Tuesday, November 16

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women won a home game against the Faith Christian Eagles, 45-28, to improve to 4-0 on the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (23 points) and senior Alexis Baldwin (12 points).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men earned a comfortable win over the Faith Christian Eagles, 72-58, to

remain perfect on the young season at 4-0. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Aamir Mapp (16 points) and freshman Brennen Oldham (14 points).

Wednesday, November 17

Wrestling: The Northwood men defeated both the Walter M. Williams Bulldogs, 54-12, and the Southern Alamance Patriots, 51-21, to start 2-0 on the year.

Thursday, November 18

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Vandalia Christian Vikings for the second time this season, 50-28, to push their season-opening winning streak to 5 games. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (26 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 5 steals) and senior Alexis Baldwin (11 points, 10 rebounds, 1 steal).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men dominated the Vandalia Christian Vikings, 77-36, to extend their winning streak to 5 games.

Friday, November 19

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women suffered their first loss of the season against the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 56-42, at home.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men narrowly beat the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 50-46, in their tightest contest of the season. The Knights remain unbeaten on the year at 6-0 with the victory.

Basketball: The Woods Charter women crushed the Oxford Prep Griffins, 51-15, in their season-opener to begin the year at 1-0.

Basketball: The Woods Charter men lost a lopsided game to the Oxford Prep Griffins, 58-16, in their season-opener to start the season 0-1.

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



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

November 25th through December 1st

Thursday, November 25th

- COA Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 26th

- COA Office Closed for Holiday
- Friday Night Dance at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 💰

Monday, November 29th

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

Tuesday, November 30th

- Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧘

Wednesday, December 1st

- 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**

Donate to the COA's 2021 Annual Appeal at
<https://givebutter.com/COAAppeal21>

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.

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919-542-4512

Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)

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Siler City, NC 27344
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THE CLIPBOARD | MATT BROWN, NORTHWOOD MEN'S BASKETBALL

Young Chargers hope to shake off 2020 state title loss using size, defense as catalysts

Last March, Northwood turned heads as its men's basketball team, led by three freshmen and a capable group of seniors, won four straight road playoff games en route to an appearance in the NCHSAA 3A state title game, where the Chargers fell short of the championship trophy in a close loss to Weddington.

This season — despite the losses of four senior leaders and sophomore star Jarin Stevenson (now at Seaforth) — Northwood is said to be “really, really hungry” as it strives to fight its way back to the title game with a full slate of games standing in its way.

This week, the News + Record spoke with Matt Brown, Northwood's fifth-year coach, to discuss his team's resilience, potential breakout performers and rigorous offseason training. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.

Your team was one game away from winning a state title last season, but came up just short. After that game, were the players down on themselves or were they motivated to come back, do it again and try to finish the job?

The seniors were down because that was their last shot, but the other guys who were returning were fully motivated and really, really hungry, wanting to do it again. It's so hard to get that far, but they have wanted to do everything that they can to put themselves in that position again. Morale has always been great, even after the loss. A couple days after the loss, guys were texting

me asking, “When can we get back in the gym? When can we get back to the gym?” so it's never been, “Man, we blew it,” it's always been, “I want to finish this.” We've talked about the loss briefly, but we don't talk about it a lot. Now we're always talking about the process, getting better every day.

You've seemed to take steps to get your players ready for this season, including playing in some major tournaments against big-named teams from both North and South Carolina. What has this offseason meant for you and how has your team been striving to get better?

We played the best of the best. In South Carolina, we played W.J. Keenan High School. They had a kid there, Jazian Gortman, who's now playing with Overtime Elite at the professional level. And we played Dutch Fork High School, which has made the state championship and been the state runner-up and made the Final Four the last couple of years, this year probably making it as far. Then we played the state champion of the 5A class in South Carolina, so I did it on purpose to make sure these guys understand that this is how good we need to be.

The biggest thing that we took away from it was the weight room. We weren't strong. We weren't strong mentally or physically, so this off-season, we spent a lot of time in that weight room and it's been pretty cool to see those guys evolve in the weight room and see just how competitive they have been with each other in the weight room.



Matt Brown

ROLE: Head Coach, Men's Basketball

EXPERIENCE AT NORTHWOOD: Fifth season

NOTES:

- Led Northwood to the playoffs in three of his first four seasons
- Made two Final Four appearances, along with last year's state title game appearance, in the last two seasons as the Chargers' head coach

• FROM THE COACH: “We're trying to do it big this season (after last year's pandemic-altered season). I'm really excited and I'm hoping that Pittsboro and the Northwood community is excited for the guys and want to come in and finally watch them play.”

If one guy's lifting a certain weight, another guy wants to outdo him. Or if a guy's maxing out, everybody was around that guy clapping, hooting, hollering and cheering them on. I've never been a part of a group like this before. It's a really fun

Northwood Chargers

CONFERENCE: Central 3A

RECORD: 0-0 (season hasn't begun)

UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

- Tuesday, Nov. 23: at Seaforth, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 30: vs. Wakefield, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 1: at Jordan-Matthews, time TBA

group. And they're so young. I've got one senior this year, the rest are sophomores and juniors. And I have one freshman.

You lost four strong seniors over the offseason, all of which provided a ton of leadership on your state championship run last season. Who do you see coming in and filling those roles this year?

Our one senior, Seth Lewis, he has stepped up big time, both in the weight room and on the court. He's not a vocal guy, but I've challenged him to become more vocal and he has accepted that challenge. And then my point guard, Fred Whittaker, he's really stepped into that role of, “I'm the quarterback of this team and this is how it's supposed to go.” And then, I'm constantly trying to get Drake Powell to talk more and he has finally come around to actually understanding what it means to be a leader and to talk. And it's not just talking, it's kind of being an example

and just showing what's right. Drake is more like a lead-by-example guy.

Who do you see as some of the top returners and top newcomers that will make the largest impact for your team this season?

Obviously Drake and Fred, those two guys led us last year on our run, and then Jake Leighton, he's a newcomer, he's a J.V. guy, but I mean, Fred and Drake are pretty much our only two guys who actually got a lot of minutes last season. Kenan Parrish played some here and there and so did Griffin Hobbs, but Drake and Fred are the two guys who are returning that we're going to rely heavily on. But it's not going to be like, if they're off, then we're done. We've got a lot of other pieces surrounding them that are going to be very helpful.

Max Frazier came from Woods Charter. He's 6-foot-8, he's a junior, he's long, very athletic, great passer, great defender, an incredible shot-blocker. He's a difference maker. And Griffin played on the varsity last year, got some minutes and has really improved his game. Jake was our leading scorer on the J.V. and he's about three inches taller, more athletic, long and he can do it all. Also Koda Lewis, he was on the varsity last year, didn't get a lot of minutes, but he stepped into his role and he hit the open jumper and was great defensively, so those guys. And then obviously Kenan, who's probably our most improved player that I've ever seen. When we first got him as a freshman, he had never played basket-

ball, really, and in just three years, he has blossomed into a really good basketball player. We do miles for conditioning. His first mile, three years ago, I think was 17 minutes, 54 seconds. This year, his fastest mile was at 7:01. That kind of improvement is just unreal for anybody, but for his size at 6-foot-11 and he wears size 20 shoes. With his size, running that fast, it's pretty incredible to see.

Northwood opens the season against new in-county rival Seaforth on Tuesday. What is that on-court rivalry going to be like between those two schools?

I think it's going to be fun. It's going to be like back in the day, I guess, J-M and Northwood was a big rivalry. Really good basketball, a bunch of fans. So I feel like Seaforth's going to be kind of like another J-M, so we're going to have basically four rivalry games in a year, which is going to be a lot of fun. It gets the community together, allows us to get competitive against each other, so I'm looking forward to it. We take each game like it's just another game, so we don't hype up any other game, whether it's a rival, if it's Seaforth or Millbrook, whoever we play. It's just another game to for us to get better. That's our main focus. It's not who we're playing, it's us. And that's why I try to remind our guys that it's all about us, it's not about the other team. We kind of take that take that route to to every game.

SEASON

Continued from page B1

sense that they don't run the press throughout the game, unless necessary. While that may help to wear down opponents, it also does the same for your own players.

Instead, as was the case against Faith Christian, the Knights use their press to take a significant lead, forcing turnovers and turning them into points, then back off and settle into their defense.

In the first quarter against the Eagles, the Knights forced six turnovers en route to taking a 20-5 lead with a little less than two minutes to play in the period.

Chatham Charter was running a track meet, while Faith Christian was simply trying to hang on.

Whether it was darting up the floor after every change of possession in hopes of a quick basket or cutting gracefully — and rapidly — to the hoop off of textbook screens on offense, the Knights did all they could to catch the Eagles' defenders slacking and score most of their points in the paint.

The Knights' ability to move without the ball — cutting to the basket or setting screens for teammates — is just another way this offense, which has scored at least 57 points in five out of six games, reaches its peak. And if the passing lane's not there, they won't force it for the sake of scoring quickly.

“We practice a lot and assess and try to execute those things, how to set up those screens so we can get those wide-open looks,” Messier said. “It takes execution to run those types of sets. ... Some of those sets are multifaceted, so teams may be able to stop the first option, but can you stop those multiple options that come after?”

“I thought today we were a little more patient, letting it develop,” he added.

The first half was not only a showcase for the Knights' now-veteran leaders, junior forwards Aamir Mapp (16 points, leading scorer) and Adam Harvey (eight points), but also for some of the team's most promising freshmen players.

Starting point guard Beau Harvey, Adam's brother, is a freshman with plenty of potential, Messier said, illustrated by his ability to facilitate an efficient offense just four games into his high school career.

“He's had to see different types of defenses, different lengths, and I thought he did a fantastic job today running the offense and calling sets,” Messier said. “I didn't call too much here on the sideline, I was letting him see what he saw, call some of our sets and get the ball where it needed to go.”

The team's other major freshman, Brennan Oldham, is a 6-foot-6 big man with just as much athleticism as the guards on his team; his ability to block shots, intercept passes in the press and score at the basket make him a force in the paint.

He was the team's second-leading scorer with 14 points.

“I thought Oldham had a really nice game with his inside presence,” Messier said. “He bothers people. And he's athletic enough that he can run the floor and do those types of things.”

By halftime, the Knights had amassed a 20-point lead, 40-20, and in the second half, they'd run away with it even further.

Right out of the gate, Chatham Charter started the third quarter on a 7-0 run that included buckets by Mapp and Adam Harvey, followed by a triple from Beau Harvey to make it 47-20.

Towards the end of the third period, Messier went ahead and sat most of his starters, who he didn't even bother to bring out for the start of the fourth as the

team nursed a lopsided 58-35 lead with just one eight-minute quarter to play.

Messier gave some of the Knights' younger players the floor in the fourth period, while the Eagles left most of their key players in the game.

It wasn't the prettiest quarter — the Knights turned the ball over four times and allowed the Eagles to cut it to a 12-point game — but there were some bright spots, including the play of junior Jamir Wright (eight points) and junior Cedric Schwartz (six points), each of whom had a couple of high-energy plays in the paint as the crowd got loud.

“We still have some things to work on,” Messier said. “With some of these younger guys out here, we have to understand game management, not letting teams do things that you're not comfortable with, things that we don't practice. ... They have to recognize that where we can beat them is by executing our half-court offense to get some layups and easy shots.”

The Knights' 6-0 start — which came after defeating both the Vandalia Christian Vikings and the Uwharrie Charter Eagles — marks the fourth straight season where they've been perfect through six games. In each of the past two seasons, the Knights have used their hot spot to catapult them to a conference title.

This team's level of athleticism paired with their youth — no seniors on the entire roster — is not only a mixture that has Messier excited for the team's current winning streak, he said, but also the road ahead.

“Really, we haven't even come close to our real potential yet,” Messier said. “We have a lot of upward growth to do. And we're going to get there.”

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

MULLEN

Continued from page B1

Many fans wanted Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh fired after a losing season in 2020 and now he has the Wolverines one win away from the Big Ten Championship.

DEFENSE

Continued from page B1

5-foot-9 senior, was the major contributor on offense in the second, grabbing boards and dominating in the paint, scoring six of her 12 points just before halftime.

While she didn't always score off of her offensive rebounds, her ability to give her team multiple opportunities on any given possession was extremely valuable, said Patterson.

“It's great to have an experienced post player,” Patterson said about Baldwin. “She kept wanting to play out(side of the paint) and I was like, ‘Hey, I need you on the block.’ But now, she's bought in. We've just got to get her to finish those layups.”

At the game's halfway point, the Knights led the Eagles, 24-7, and were in the midst of a 17-0 run that was capped off by a buzzer-beating corner three-pointer from senior Mackenzie Brooks.

It was a surprisingly impressive and polished quarter from a team that struggled in the opening period.

“The girls have a tendency to turn it on when they want to,” Patterson said. “But you can't always do that. You've got to come out of the gate ready to play, from the first quarter to the fourth. And that's what I'm trying to get them to do.”

After a relatively quiet first half, Knights junior guard Tamaya Walden broke out of her shell in the third quarter, scoring 13 points — including two three-pointers — and igniting the Knights' attack while continuing to play lockdown defense.

With 6:05 to play in the third, Walden intercepted an Eagles pass to the left and raced down the court for an easy fastbreak layup to give the Knights a 31-9 lead and forced Faith Christian to call a timeout.

At that point, it was all but over. “Tamaya makes things go,” Pat-

Florida has the money to continually revamp its football program to try to get back to National Championships. But after being so close in 2020, this move seems premature.

Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and [@maxbaker_15](https://twitter.com/maxbaker_15).

erson said. “As the old saying goes, she's she straw that stirs the drink. With her on the floor, things run a lot smoother. ... Right now, she's got the green light.”

At the end of the third period, the Knights had amassed a 23-point lead, 39-16, thanks to a second-straight buzzer-beating three — this one from Walden — and were just eight minutes away from continuing their perfect season.

And with 4:40 left to play and Chatham Charter comfortably ahead, 43-20, Patterson took out his starters and emptied his bench.

The Knights' bench unit turned the ball over five times and allowed an 8-2 run in the final five minutes, but it was much too late for the Eagles to mount any sort of comeback. Once the final buzzer sounded, the Knights had finished a hard-earned, 17-point victory.

Just two days later, the Knights went on to defeat the Vandalia Christian Vikings, 50-28, on Thursday to improve to 5-0, but then lost to the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 56-42, for their first defeat of the season on Friday.

With a 5-1 record and a relatively young roster, Patterson sounded optimistic about how far his team could go this year after winning the Central Tar Heel 1A conference the last two seasons.

“Barring no injuries or COVID, I feel like we should compete for the conference again, like we did last year,” Patterson said. “Our first goal is to win the conference, second goal is to win the conference tournament and qualify for the state playoffs, then we'll go from there. ... We're not going to look ahead. We take care of business here, move on and get ready for the next ballgame.”

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

EXPRESSING THANKS

Why Chatham County residents are thankful

Now that the world is beginning to return to some semblance of normalcy, what in your life are you most thankful for this holiday season?

With out a doubt, my family. In many ways, going through this has brought us even closer together and a new appreciation for how fragile we really are. I want to think in a positive way — it has helped me to slow down a bit and take note of how blessed we are.

Tim Cunnup, Goldston mayor

My family, which also includes the friends we do life with such as Church, celebrating personal accomplishments, birthday celebrations and giving back to the community together. To live in a society that gives us the freedom to do all this is such a blessing.

Steve Maynor, Chatham Sheriff's Office

I'm most thankful for my family this holiday season. I'm lucky enough to have a good relationship already with my family but the pandemic just allowed us to be so much more present in each other's lives and those memories will be nice to look back on.

Leslie Ocampo, Chatham Literacy

This holiday season I'm thankful for my immediate and extended family. We faced difficult times, but have managed to have a very supportive system to where all the love, faith and care has brought us all even closer now then what we already were. Cheers to family, friends and happiness.

Maricela Morales Torres, Chatham County Partnership for Children

I am thankful for the support of my family and coworkers who helped me move forward during the pandemic. I am very thankful for technology and how it can be used in a positive way.

Jazmin Mendoza Sosa, Communities In Schools

I am thankful for life; for having the opportunity to reconnect with people and enjoy outings.

Eva Depaz, Communities In Schools

I'm thankful when I open my eyes each morning and know God has given me another day to enjoy his many blessings. Those blessings are too many to count in one day, but here are a few: family and friends.

Carol Gene Good, Conover

I am thankful that our family of five will be back under one roof for an entire month. Our oldest left for N.C. State on August 14th and has only spent one night at home since she left. I can't wait to set the table for five again instead of four! (Although I have accidentally set it for five many times which ended up in a few tears.)

Jaime Detzi, Chatham Education Foundation

I'm thankful for our new granddaughter, Babe, in Colorado and for good health!

Jody Stevens Kulick, Pittsboro

Right now, I'm thankful for, of course family, friends ... and Mother Nature to include my hard-working, altruistic, cute honeybees.

Minta Phillips, Julian

My gratitude begins with my own family and Council on Aging family, friends and colleagues who are consistent sources of support and inspiration. As I near retirement from the Council, I

am blessed to have been part of such an outstanding organization and collaborative community in serving Chatham County seniors.

Dennis Streets, Council on Aging

This year as my family gathers together for Thanksgiving at my parents' home, I am extremely thankful that we are able to gather feeling safer than last year thanks to the vaccine. I feel very grateful that I live where COVID vaccinations are available and easy to access.

Susan Hardy, Council on Aging

I'm thankful for the ability to spend more time with others. At CORA, our interactions with others became almost transactional. Those aren't the types of relationships on which we pride ourselves. We all really enjoy establishing relationships with people. At home, I'm relieved to be able to go out with friends, enjoy live music, and spend more time with my son.

Melissa Driver Beard, CORA Food Pantry

We are thankful for the kindness and generosity of our community — for their time, support, affirmations, and for letting us give generously in return. We are thankful for the many folks who understand money and things alone can't sustain us and who know love is a practice.

Ben Shields & Patricia Parker, In Good Heart Farm

I'm thankful for life, health, strength, family — both biological and by chance — and friends. I'm thankful students are attending school, learning and interacting socially. I'm thankful for the opportunity to lead a staff that delivers high-quality school experiences to our community, which values education and whose future holds tremendous promise.

Anthony Jackson, Chatham County Schools

Carolina Cravings is beyond blessed. We are thankful for our family, friends and community who continue to support us in making our dream a reality. We enjoy serving others and we wish everyone blessings.

Carolina Cravings es más que bendecida. Estamos agradecidas por nuestra familia, amigos y comunidad que nos siguen apoyando para hacer nuestros sueños realidad. Disfrutamos servir a otros y les deseamos bendiciones a todos.

Iliana Escalante & Yeraldyn Martinez, Carolina Cravings

As I ponder over this questions there is so much in my life that I have to be thankful for, but the question is what am I "most thankful for?" I am most thankful for my health. Being a

I'm thankful when I open my eyes each morning and know God has given me another day to enjoy his many blessings. Those blessings are too many to count in one day, but here are a few: family and friends.

Carol Gene Good, Conover

I'm grateful for the growth and perspective I've gained over the last year. Never again will I take a simple smile or embrace for granted. The pandemic underscored the value of good health, a career you love, and time spent with family ... and I'm immensely blessed to enjoy all three!

Sara Pack, Chatham Sheriff's Office

22-year breast cancer survivor and being in this pandemic and seeing the impact that COVID-19 has had on so many people has made me appreciate life even more. A lot of times we take life for granted by wasting time on petty things, complaining, and being ungrateful. Everyday we wake up is a gift! Someone once said: yesterday is gone, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift — that's why it's call the present. Everyday is a day of Thanksgiving!

Pandora Paschal, Chatham County Board of Elections

With the holiday season upon us, it is a time to reflect and give thanks. While I'm sure that I will forget some things, I do want to give thanks to the Lord for all the many blessing he bestows upon us, including the health and prosperity of my family, friends, and the people that live in our town. I also give thanks for the opportunity to serve the Town of Siler City. I pray for his continued blessing and protection upon us as we continue to our efforts to fulfill our town's mission and vision statements.

Lewis Fadely, Siler City commissioner

I am grateful for dressing, gravy and family hugs!

Cindy Perry, Pittsboro mayor-elect

I am most thankful that many more people decided to be vaccinated. For such wisdom, I am grateful.

Fr. Julio A. Martinez, St. Julia Catholic Church

This year as we begin to emerge from a pandemic, I am thankful for health in my family — to the extent we've been able to restore it. I am also mindful that not everyone has good health. I am grateful for science, friendship and the shared values we can turn to in divisive times: Community, equality, liberty, and prosperity are values we all hold highly, and reminding ourselves of these can help us unify to tackle great challenges in rapidly changing times.

John Bonitz, Pittsboro commissioner

I'm thankful for the way the community came together over the last year to open the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club. It is wonderful to see kids in the Club learning with an amazing staff and having such a good time they don't want to leave.

Kyle Shipp, Pittsboro commissioner

This holiday season, I'm thankful for the opportunities that my role as Community Relations Manager has provided me with. Whether it's getting to know community leaders, working with great organizations with impactful missions, or helping feed those in need, it's been a humbling experience to truly make a difference in the Siler City and Chatham County com-

munities. My path has crossed so many others and I've learned so much. I'm thankful for an avenue to give back to the community and look forward to continuing that this holiday season and into the new year.

Sasha Duncan, Mountaire Farms of North Carolina

I'm thankful to be in a community that is working on its issues in an inclusive, open and reasoned way. Our citizens grasp the future potential of Chatham and are working to make it a more just society. For this we can all be grateful and inspired.

Bob Pearson, Pittsboro

I am thankful to have my health and the love of my family and friends in a multifaceted and growing community. We have multiple generations living in our home taking care of each other every day and to me that is the solid foundation upon which a community is built.

Randolph Voller, Pittsboro

I am thankful that kids are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccines.

Daniel Simmons, Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina

I'm grateful for the growth and perspective I've gained over the last year. Never again will I take a simple smile or embrace for granted. The pandemic underscored the value of good health, a career you love, and time spent with family ... and I'm immensely blessed to enjoy all three!

Sara Pack, Chatham Sheriff's Office

I am thankful to have a Savior, Jesus Christ, Who loved me when I was unlovable; Who died for me even though I brought nothing of benefit to the table; and Who saved me even though I was in a dark place spiritually and mentally and had given up hope.

Gregory E. Lamb, Ph.D., Mays Chapel Baptist Church

I am thankful to have my health and the love of my family and friends in a multifaceted and growing community. We have multiple generations living in our home taking care of each other every day and to me that is the solid foundation upon which a community is built.

Randolph Voller, Pittsboro

I am thankful for my wife. It is not often convenient to be the town manager's wife with the demands of my job, but she is constant friend, supporter, and confidant for me. She works hard as a mother and in her own job while still supporting me and my duty to our town, so she is what I am most thankful for this year.

Chris Kennedy, Pittsboro town manager

I am thankful for the love, support and the encouragement of my friends. This has been a difficult year; I lost my mother and several other people whom I was close to, however the phone calls, emails and cards from my friends comforted me

in my grief.

Mayme Boyd, Communities In Schools board member

This Thanksgiving, I'm grateful for the beautiful people I get to work with at The Plant — each customer, tenant, staff member, and vendor. All passionate about their particular place in the ecosystem. I'm grateful that I get to create meaningful experiences and events that nurture the community. It is truly a blessing.

Tami Schwerin, Pittsboro

I am thankful that this year my mother will be spending the holidays with us (the first time with my son and her), that we are healthy, and that the future, at last, looks brighter.

Judit Dorado-Zimo, Chatham County Schools teacher

I am most thankful that many more people decided to be vaccinated. For such wisdom, I am grateful.

Fr. Julio A. Martinez, St. Julia Catholic Church

One silver lining of COVID that I'm particularly grateful for is the realization of how many school activities can take place outside. This fall's weather has been kind — and seeing our students learning, playing, and eating outside has been a sweet joy!

Cotton Bryan, Woods Charter School

I am thankful for the dedicated public health and healthcare workforce. These amazing individuals have carried a load over the past 20 months, and it is an honor to work with them. I am also grateful to the Chatham community for their support and patience as we work to end the pandemic.

Mike Zelek, Chatham County Public Health Department

I'm thankful for beginning to be able to see friends and family again, and that I have a job I love in a really special community with some of the nicest, smartest people I've ever met. I'm thankful for people who have helped me and others weather the pandemic.

Nancy Wykle, Chatham County Schools

I'm most thankful that my family is healthy, safe, and will be able to be together. I've also learned many lessons over the course of the pandemic that I hope will make me more appreciative than ever of the incredible family, friends, and colleagues I'm blessed to have.

Beth McCullough, Chatham Charter Schools

I love this time of year. I am thankful for my family and friends. Not seeing them in over a year was difficult. Having the freedom to mingle is great and exciting. I am optimistically cautious with the holidays coming.

Norma E. Boone, Chatham County Schools/Siler City commissioner

I am thankful we can meet face-to-face and travel again because of effective COVID vaccines. I use the added protection of masks in public, but there is new joy being with friends and family. I gardened extensively in 2020, but less in 2021 because of more options for enjoying the company of others.

Diana Hales, Chatham County commissioner

CHATHAM CHAT | AUTHOR ANDY CLAPP

Local author's book, 'Midnight, Christmas Eve,' addresses unconditional love

Liberty native Andy Clapp is a pastor and speaker who's just published his first book, a Christmas story set in the N.C. mountains. This week, we spoke with him about the book and its origins and message.

Clapp graduated from Southern Alamance High

School and attended the University of Mount Olive, where he played tennis. He's now the senior pastor at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Liberty and is pursuing his Master's Degree at Liberty University. He and his wife Crystal have three children.

You've done a lot of writing for various publications and websites, but "Midnight, Christmas Eve" is your first book. Can you walk us through the process of the creation of this book?

The book began with an idea. I wanted to tell a story of what unconditional love truly looks

like. Unconditional love endures disappointments, pains, hurts, and so much more. As I saw the story line unfolding in my mind, I truly allowed the characters to tell the story, to let them guide the story to its end.

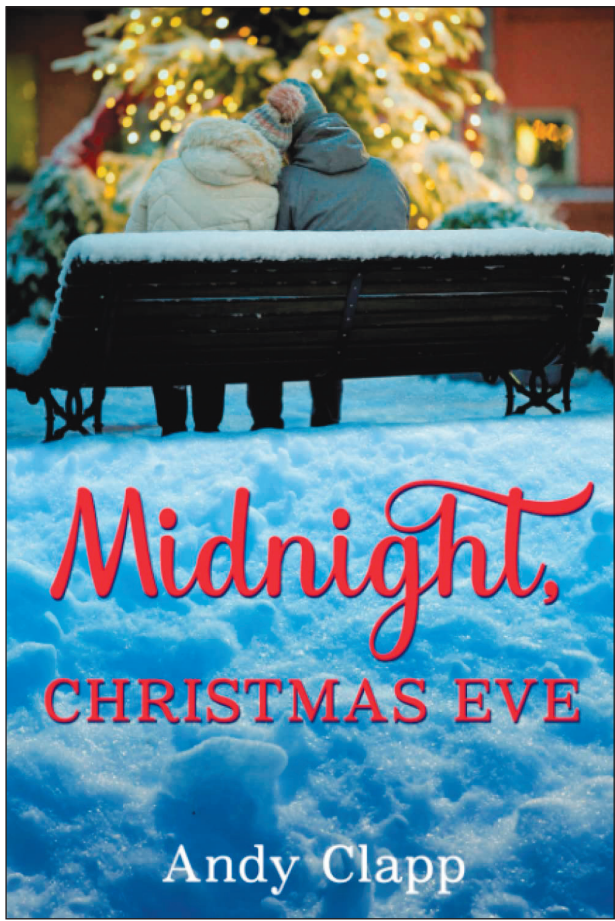
You're a N.C. native, growing up in nearby Alamance County and now pastoring in Liberty. But you've set the book in West Jefferson. What drew you to the N.C. mountains as a setting?

To be honest, I love a story that is set in the mountains. The North Carolina mountains feature numerous towns that I find inspiring. I originally took my family through Virginia, searching for the perfect setting, but failed to find what I envisioned in my mind. When we returned home, I remembered hearing that my great grandparents vacationed in West Jefferson over 40 years ago. Prior to 2017, I had never visited there. I drove up one morning and after topping the hill to descend into downtown, I knew that West Jefferson would be the setting for the book. I located the bench outside of the Old Hotel and the story unfolded from that very spot.

The book has a Christmas theme and involves a love story, but you use it as a retelling of some of teachings from the Book of Hosea in the Old Testament, which deals with subject of unfaithfulness. What prompted that?

In Hosea, the Lord tells Hosea to marry a promiscuous woman and through the events, Hosea learned of the love that God has for His people. There is a redemption aspect to the end of Hosea as well. I believe we encounter and experience conditional love more than anything else in this world. But what if there is a deeper level to the love that we show others? What if there is a love that continues even through the deepest hurt and despair? The story tells of one that learns that a love truly worth experiencing is one that endures to the end.

I wanted to write a book that is an experience of the love God has for us. And I wanted it to be as authentic/realistic as possible. Brady learns more about unconditional love with each passing day. Sarah looks for love, much like we do, in so



many different places, trying to find something that satisfies. At the conclusion of the story, though their experiences were different, Brady and Sarah are stronger people as a result of their journeys.

How did you develop the book's main characters — Brady and Sarah, high school juniors who have a chance encounter on a park bench on Christmas Eve?

Those characters are built from aspects of people I know and situations I have witnessed, to some degree. There were aspects of Brady that I saw in friends over the years. His sense of loyalty is a tribute to a few lifelong friends I have had. His job as a woodworker also comes from individuals who are a part of my life. For Sarah, she, too, resembles various women in my life, from the past to the present. Her character baffled me in the writing. I struggled to write parts of her story as I questioned why she would choose that which she chose. When I pinpointed that she was struggling to find her true value, her story developed a little easier. That fact, though, made my heart break for her while writing her story.

Both characters exhibit a growth over time. By starting their stories in high school, we see the transition that many of us endure over the years. I found it incredible to try to shift back into the mindset of that age though I am a few years removed from high school and college.

The book earned accolades before it was even published. As a first-time book author, what was that experience like?

Absolutely amazing.

I entered the story into a contest at a writer's conference in 2019. To be honest, I doubted it would even place. I entered it just to give myself a standard by which to evaluate my writing career. When it won first place, I was blown away. At the same conference, I submitted the screenplay for this novel, and it won first place for the screenwriting contest.

The success of the novel and the script adaptation of the novel provided me with the hope that it would one day be published. For writers, any glimmer of hope pushes us to keep writing, to refuse the urge to scrap a project and begin a new idea. To be honest, the awards came at a time when I needed reassurance and it gave me that reassurance.

What do you hope readers will take away from the experience of reading the book?

First, I hope they like the story. The earliest readers enjoyed the story and have requested a sequel, which may be in the works. I jotted down some ideas for the next part of the characters' story.

From the book, I want readers to understand their value. Regardless of the mistakes we make or what we endure in life, we hold value. Sometimes, it takes a journey for us to see that truth, but it is my hope that each reader knows they are valuable.

Lastly, I hope it challenges the readers to love others deeper. As we look at the reality of the world today, loving unconditionally is a powerful choice we can all make. When we love unconditionally, others feel the effect and others find inspiration to love likewise.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On November 17, Dustin Wayne Gillum, 41, of 847 Pilson Road, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on December 15.

On November 17, Deme-tris Christian Goins, 25, of 19 William Goins

Drive, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for assault on a female. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 5.

On November 17, Edu-ardo Vaquez, 23, of 260 Airport Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for child sup-port violation. He was is-sued a \$300 purge fee and is scheduled to appear in

Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on December 17.

On November 17, Than-ny James Cillpam, 33, of 3909 Gilmore Drive, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for going armed to the terror of the people. He was issued a \$700 secure bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in Greens-boro on December 2.

On November 17, David Mitchell Henderson, 34,

of 121 Williams Pond Road, Pittsboro, was ar-rested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for stalking. He was placed on a Domes-tic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Moore County District Court in Carthage on

December 2.

On November 18, Patrick Alexander McNair, 43, of 709 Chatham Street, Apt. 3, Sanford was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for malicious conduct by a prisoner, assault/phys-

ical injury to a detention employee, injury to real property, and resisting a public officer. He was issued a \$25,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 2.



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NEWS BRIEF

Chatham Charter gathers more than 6,000 items for food drive

SILER CITY — During a November food drive, Chatham Charter stu-dents, families and staff donated 6,203 nonperish-able food items that were given to the West Cha-tham Food Pantry.

The effort spanned several weeks and culmi-nated last Friday, the last day school was in session before the Thanksgiving break.

Though the drive was school-wide, two elemen-

tary classes, a kindergar-ten and 4th grade, took the competitive spirit to heightened levels by being extra competitive against each other. In doing so, the two classes led the school in donation quantities. The Powell/ Scheidt kindergarten class ended the day with 1,835 in donations while

the Marsh 4th grade class collected 1,683 items.

“What a fantastic way to leave for the Thanksgiving break by coming together to give back to our community. Everyone outdid them-selves their generous donations,” said Dr. John Eldridge, Head of School.

—CN+R staff



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-Carla N.

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N L J I G F S W D C A P Y E T

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: CHICKEN NOODLE —

Beans	Gasoline	Pringles	Trash
Beer	Oil	Sardines	Tuna
Coffee	Paint	Soda pop	Water
Corn	Peas	Tennis balls	

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2		3		5	
4			6		3		
	7			9			8
	3		9			7	
		6	1		5	4	
7				6			9
		1		5		8	
	4			6			7
5			8			1	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Before the full moon

News + Record photographer Kim Hawks captured this colorful fall picture, complete with the reflection of a near-full moon in a pond, in Chatham County last week.



Zoom screen grab

Students in Jilin University professor Zhang Siqui's journalism class in China wave goodbye after attending a Zoom class lecture last Thursday morning on 'The Rise and Fall—and Rise—of Community Newspapers in the U.S.'

CN+R publisher, Kentucky professor inspire journalism students in China

BY BUCK RYAN & DOU YUANYUAN

Special to the News + Record

CHANGCHUN, China — The distance between Pittsboro and this capital city of Jilin Province is only 6,725 miles, but the two communities felt a lot closer last week.

That's because Bill Horner III, publisher and editor of the Chatham News + Record, set up shop behind a computer screen Wednesday evening and conducted a lecture — along with a University of Kentucky professor — for journalism students at Jilin University with a 13-hour time difference.

Their presentation, entitled "The Rise and Fall — and Rise — of Community Newspapers in the U.S.," was held over Zoom for about 100 students, about half of whom attended the lecture in person as part of a 9 a.m. Thursday journalism class.

"I am deeply impressed by the professor's research on American community newspapers," said Zhang Zhe, 22, a journalism major in the School of Journalism and Communication, whose hometown of Datong, in Shanxi Province, is 13 hours away by car from his university. "With the development of the Internet, although the paper media is increasingly declining, people's need for information about economy, politics and social life will never weaken."

The lecture, the second in a Cultural Integration & Academic Cooperation Lecture Series, was hosted by not only Jilin University's journalism school but also the College of Humanities and the Institute of Chinese Culture, and co-organized by the North Carolina Chinese Scholars Sino-US Exchange Association.

Jilin University journalism professor Zhang Siqui is a past president of the North Carolina scholars association, serving as vice president and president in 2019-2020 when she was a visiting scholar at Duke University.

The first lecture in the series was given by Duke professor Kang Liu on "Chinese Problems of Western Theory: The Development Venation of Journalism and Communication in China."

Horner's lecture, following a PowerPoint designed by UK journalism professor Buck Ryan, traced the rise of newspapers in America from Colonial times to the 20th century, then a

dramatic fall in the last 15 years, and now the promise of a rebound through innovations modeled by the Chatham News + Record.

Among those innovations are a Spanish-language newspaper, La Voz de Chatham (The Voice of Chatham), the "Carpool" parenting newsletter, and a collaboration with a local coffee roaster to sell The Chatham Brew, also the name of a thrice-weekly email newsletter. The lesson included vocabulary, such as "UX," referring to Horner's efforts to improve the "user experience" of his newspaper's website.

"The graphs and charts of the lecture are very rich, and the expressions of the two speakers are humorous and easy to understand," said Gao Shurui, 23, a journalism and communication major from Tieling, Liaoning Province.

Her province borders North Korea and is known for its coal mining. She said she aspires to be an editor like Horner some day.

For Cong Shan, 24, a journalism and communication major from Harbin, the most interesting part was "what Professor Buck Ryan told about the history of American newspapers, especially about the Civil War and World War II," and the wars' effect on newspaper growth and circulation increases.

Cong's hometown of Harbin, in Heilongjiang Province, is known for its winter festival with massive, illuminated ice and snow sculptures to warm your heart amid the below-zero temperatures.

Zhang Zhe, whose dream job in the future is to be an editor or a teacher, saw hope for local news.

"Through the lecture, I realized that the audience cares more about the news facts close to them," he said. "From this perspective, community newspapers are high-quality media surrounding people, and they have a promising future."

About the authors: Buck Ryan, director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of the University of Kentucky's Scripps Howard First Amendment Center, is conducting "a participatory case study" of the News + Record, which he views as a national model for a community newspaper. Dou Yuanyuan, 22, one of professor Zhang Siqui's star students at Jilin University's School of Journalism and Communication, hails from Dingzhou, a city about the size of Dallas, Texas, in Hebei Province. She wants to be a journalist in the future.



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Communities In Schools Chatham County

Our Mission

The Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC) mission is to surround students with a network of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

More explicitly, Communities In Schools Chatham County (CISCC) aims to provide assistance in five critical areas; a one-on-one relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to learn and grow, a marketable skill to use upon graduation, a chance to give back, and a healthy start for a healthy future.

Our programs target and provide support to referred students with the highest risks for underachievement due to poverty and instability by attending to the holistic needs of the individual youth which are required to overcome adversity and find success through sustained resiliency.

Wish List

Menors, Lunch/Reading Buddies, Tutors, Sustaining donors, Resource Providers and Partners, Increased funding to expand services to more students and schools in need of support across Chatham County.



Background

Since 1989, CISCC has made a positive impact on the lives of 1000's of Chatham County youth and families through our 7 unique school and community based programs. We fuel personal potential, so every student can take charge of their story and define their success for life. We sustain our mission by supporting all referred youth in reaching their full potential by:

- 1. Unlocking Potential:** we help every student see their potential so they can fearlessly unlock it in ways big and small.
- 2. Building Relationships:** we amplify the power of each student's potential by fostering transformative relationships in their lives.
- 3. Breaking Down Barriers:** we empower students to break through any personal challenges in their lives so they can define the future they want.

Brag Lines

CISCC continues coordination of whole child and family supports in the form of basic needs (food, toiletries, clothing), academic enrichment and tutor, bi-lingual programs and services for parents and schools, mentoring, safe spaces to learn and grow, mental and physical health, and restorative justice programs to build sustained resiliency and social emotional connectedness. Our data driven programs use evidence based curricula to achieve consistent outcomes for program participants based on their individual needs and goals.



Upcoming Event

Help us reach our End of Year Fundraising Campaign goal of raising \$40,000 to expand services in Chatham County!

Make your donation before December 31, 2021 to have your contribution matched up to \$10,000!



919.663.0116 • www.cisatham.org
208 N. Chatham Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344



GIVE BACK: HERE'S HOW CHATHAM HELPS OUT

GIVE BACK | PRIMROSE SCHOOL

'We believe who children become is just as important as what they know'

Describe the give-back program of Primrose School:

Community giving is a pillar of our business that is demonstrated by the many ways we contribute time and financial support to local charity. Each year, our center hosts a variety of initiatives that benefit non-profit organizations. Since 2017, we have donated \$25,000 to Chatham Education Foundation, Chatham County Partnership for Children, Communities In Schools, and other programs focused on benefiting children.

What has motivated you to give back and spurred you into action?

When we started the business, it was important that we leverage our personal resources and the resources of our customers to positively impact all children in our community — not just those enrolled at our center. We believe who children become is just as important as what they know. For this reason, we strive to give children experiences that enable them to learn the importance of helping others. Through our character development program, children participate in initiatives like an annual book drive that has donated 3,800 books to Chatham Reads, and a food drive which has donated 5,500 items to local food banks. We are proud to provide a platform for ongoing charitable contributions from our Primrose family.

Did COVID-19 affect how you think about giving back to the community?

While our ability to contribute financially did decrease slightly, we have focused on other ways we can impact the community. Our customers led a supply drive for Communities In Schools of Chatham County and a toy drive for Chatham County DSS. Our children made cards for first responders and exchanged letters with residents of a local nursing facility.

How has this program changed you?

Our greatest reward is seeing the children we care for demonstrate kindness and a sense of pride when they help others. Our fondest memories are times when our school family has gathered for charitable endeavors. A culture of giving back has forged a strong sense of community and loyalty with our customers. This aspect will continue to be an integral measure of our business success.

Primrose Schools is national family of accredited early education and care schools serving infants through kindergarten, after-schoolers, their families and communities. Chatham County's location is at 81 Falling Springs Drive, Chapel Hill. For more information, call 919-441-0441 or go to primroseschools.com.



GIVE BACK | BOLD CONSTRUCTION

'When we invest locally, we build a prosperous community and social well-being for all'

Describe the give-back program of the Foundation of Bold Construction:

At BOLD Foundation, we believe that every child deserves a joyful holiday season. Each December, BOLD Foundation coordinates with the Chatham County School District to gift underprivileged children new winter coats, toys, books, bikes, and additional items off their holiday wish lists.

Did COVID-19 affect how you think about giving back to the Chatham Community?

COVID-19 has shown us the importance of investing locally now more than ever. Chatham County is a community that is slowly bouncing back from a year of unexpected turns. Local families and businesses still need our support. When we invest locally, we build a prosperous community and social well-being for all. Support local!

What's unique about your program?

BOLD Foundation and our give-back programs are funded by donations from the BOLD family of companies. The employees of these companies run the organization at no charge to the foundation, and all money raised goes directly to our cause.

Any memorable experiences to share?

Last year, we provided gifts to more than 150 children that may not have had the chance to experience holiday joy otherwise. We hope to do the same this upcoming holiday season.

How has this program changed your business?

Our Holiday Cheer program is an event our team looks forward to each year. The humbling experiences we have shared through our Holiday Cheer program and other charitable initiatives have taught us the gift of giving back to our community.

How can our readers support you and your program?

Readers can support BOLD Foundation and our Holiday Cheer program by making an online donation at beboldnc.org/donate. We appreciate anything you can give!

How can our readers get involved?

Readers are invited to take part in our one-day shopping opportunity on Friday, December 3rd, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at info@boldre.com for more information.



GIVE BACK | CT WILSON

'A community service mindset instilled in each generation'

Describe the give-back program of CT Wilson:

Serving the community is integral to everything that we do at CT Wilson Construction. This is enhanced by the fact that over 60% of our clients are non-profit entities. Beyond building, we support our clients through sponsorships, donations, and service activities. There is not one specific "give back" campaign.

What motivated you to give back and spurred you into action?

Our company founder instilled a community service mindset into each subsequent generation. Support from the private sector — and companies like CT Wilson — are crucial to making a difference.

What's unique about your program?

Our industry is exposed to a wide variety of social issues. Buildings and structures are the place where human experiences occur. Housing and food insecurity, preservation of natural and historic resources, environmental impact, accessibility and equity, education, religion, etc., are all impacted by architectural design and construction.

Any memorable experiences to share?

One of the most unique community service projects we did involved resounding some of the big cat enclosures at the Carolina Tiger Rescue in Chatham County. Another memorable project was the Habitat for Humanity Playhouse Build, which involved building a playhouse to be donated to a local family and/or an organization that serves children. In late 2020, we polled hundreds of our past and present clients to designate how we would spend our holiday gift budget. We gifted \$6,000 to 10 organizations across the state to assist with their service-oriented missions. We're a regular supporter of TROSA, which is now expanding westward into the Triad region. Lastly, our biggest sponsorship of 2021 was the Eno River Association's EnoFest. CT Wilson's matriarch was on the original board for the Eno River Association, which continues to hold a special place in our hearts.

What do your customers say about it?

Our customers know that they are working with a company that cares, one that is trustworthy, and one that is looking out for the interest of the client.

How can readers support you and your program?

Reach out to marketing@ctwilson.com for ideas, opportunities, or requests. CT Wilson Construction Company Inc.
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GIVE BACK | COUNCIL ON AGING

'A pandemic powerhouse' for COVID-19 response

Did COVID-19 affect how you think about giving back to the Chatham community?

"I am very proud that United Way of Chatham County called our Council on Aging 'a pandemic powerhouse' for how we responded to COVID-19 and continue to assist seniors, their families and the overall community," remarked Dennis Streets, director of the Chatham County Council on Aging.

After closing its two centers to in-facility programming on March 6, 2020, the Council focused on new ways to deliver programs while still providing necessary assistance. It expanded community partnerships, created virtual programming, maintained frequent participants and helped a growing number of seniors with meals, home care, supplies and much more.

What's unique about your program?

While many organizations touch the lives of older adults, the Chatham County Council on Aging has a distinguished history of serving as the primary portal for seniors seeking information, assistance, and social engagement. Since 1974, when three African-American community leaders founded the Council as a nonprofit, it has been driven to help seniors stay healthy, active and able to live safely at home. Never has this mission been more important than under COVID-19. While the breadth of its programs responds to the needs and interests of all seniors, the Council emphasizes serving those who are socially and economically needy.

How can readers get involved in the Council's mission?

In undertaking its ambitious mission, the Chatham County Council on Aging depends on many sources of support, including its ongoing 2021 annual appeal. As it does not charge fees for any services, the Council depends on volunteers, donors, consumer contributions, and sponsors to supplement its public funding. The Council especially appreciates the County's support and awareness of the importance of senior services. Older adults represent more than a third of Chatham's population, with the fastest growing age group those aged 85 and older. "Help us continue to make a positive difference," Streets said.



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chathamhealthalliancenc.org/storycircles

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- What home looks like for you in Chatham
- What your life looks like in Chatham
- What you think is the best of Chatham
- How you see yourself reflected in Chatham

chathamhealthalliancenc.org/chathamsnapshots

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