

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | JANUARY 20 - 26, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## TRIANGLE INNOVATION POINT OFF LIST FOR \$40B PROJECT

# Chip manufacturer says 'no' to Chatham. But officials here aren't deterred about TIP's future.

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

expansion project — dubbed "Project Autumn" by state officials — is no longer considering Chatham's TIP site as its home.

The 2,158-acre life science and advanced manufacturing park, formerly known as the Moncure Meg- asite, is located in southeast Chatham close to the Lee

County line. Its proximity to rail, U.S. 1, the I-540 loop, Research Triangle Park and airports — it's just six miles from Sanford's Raleigh Executive Jetport and about 30 minutes from RDU — has made the site, with its 47 building locations and the capacity for more than 12

million square feet of space, an attractive potential new home for business and industry. But it won't be home for Project Autumn.

In the last month, multiple media outlets, including the News + Record, Triangle Business Journal, Business North Carolina and the News

& Observer of Raleigh, cited heavy interest in the location by the yet-unidentified U.S. company. Project Autumn reportedly involves plans for a capital investment of at least \$40 billion, which would have made it among the largest economic development projects in state history. It would've helped fill the gap in a global chip shortage, which has created supply-chain disruption and adversely impacted the U.S.

See **PROJECT**, page A3



Kirk Bradley



Rep. Robert Reives II



Michael Smith

## THANK YOU FOR BEING A FRIEND

# Brewery honors Betty White on her 100th birthday



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Red Moose Brewing honored late Hollywood star Betty White on Monday.

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Brandi Morris, co-owner of Red Moose Brewing in Pittsboro, has always been a fan of actress Betty White.

She has fond memories of watching the hit TV show "Golden Girls" with her great grandmother and seeing White play the ditzy character Rose Nylund — one of White's most famous television roles.

"Knowing that her 100th birthday was coming up, we actually started talking about doing a 100th birthday party for her with a fundraiser," Morris said. "We came up with the idea of finding a local animal rescue or something because

she [White] was known to be such a huge animal lover."

White died on Dec. 31, just a couple of weeks shy of her Jan. 17 milestone birthday. Still, Morris felt it was important to host the fundraiser to honor the late television star. So on Monday — on what would have been White's 100th — Red Moose Brewing partnered with Carolina Tiger Rescue in Pittsboro for its own fundraising event.

Susan King Cope, the director of development with Carolina Tiger Rescue, located at 1940 Hanks Chapel Rd., said she quickly agreed to be a part of the fundraiser with Red Moose Brewing.

"Advocacy is something that's really important to Carolina Tiger

Rescue, and as Betty White was a lifelong advocate, we just really feel that she was somebody that aligned with our mission," Cope said. "We just thought that was a good time to celebrate the life of someone who cared so deeply about animals."

Morris and her family created a special beer for the fundraiser: a citrus and spice infused witbier named "Betty Wit" in honor of the late actress. For every pint of Betty Wit sold, the brewery will give \$1 to Carolina Tiger Rescue. Morris said this will continue until the keg of Betty Wit runs out.

Several community members

See **BETTY**, page A3

# Where do elections and redistricting stand for 2022?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Ten candidates filed for seats representing Chatham in the 2022 elections at the Chatham County Board of Elections before filing was halted and the primary election delayed until May by the North Carolina Supreme Court due to gerrymandering lawsuits on Dec. 8.

Filing for the March 2022 primary was originally set to start at noon Monday, Dec. 6, and end at noon on Friday, Dec. 17, but was halted on Dec. 8 for all candidates — not just for primaries using disputed maps — due to ongoing litigation of the state's new redistricting maps.

Now, state Senate Republicans plan on Wednesday to vote to further postpone the primary to June 7, the Raleigh News & Observer reported Monday.

On Jan. 11, three superior court judges declined to strike down the congressional and General Assembly districts enacted by the Republican-controlled legislature in November. Later that evening, the State Board of Elections said candidate filing for the 2022 primary and rescheduled municipal elections would resume at 8 a.m. on Feb. 24 and end at noon March 4. Those municipal elections, originally set to take place in November 2021, were pushed back due to the incorporation of delayed Census results.

But following the BOE's announcement, the state's Supreme Court said last Friday it would hear lawyers' arguments in pending redistricting litigation in a virtual hearing the morning of Feb. 2. This date gives the state Supreme Court little time to rule and keep the already once-delayed May 17 primary on schedule. (Primaries for November elections usually take place in March.)

Sen. Ralph Hise, a top Republican, said Monday the current schedule "is an extremely short time frame that will cause unnecessary confusion and chaos," the N&O reported.

District maps would need to be finalized no later than Feb. 18 for an "orderly preparation"

See **ELECTIONS**, page A6

# Celebrity Dairy to welcome guests for annual baby goat tours

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Brit and Fleming Pfann moved to a property on 144 Celebrity Dairy Way in Siler City in 1987, and in 1989, they started their own farm on the land called Celebrity Dairy.

Celebrity Dairy, though, isn't your typical dairy farm — the Pfanns use goats as the only source of milk for their products, and they have an inn on property where people can spend the night or hold



Contributed photo

Celebrity Dairy offers baby goat playtime for small groups.

See **GOATS**, page A3

## REFLECTION

# Celebrating MLK Day after CRT debates in schools

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

In 1964, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described the field of education as a battleground in the freedom struggle.

"It was not fortuitous that education became embroiled in this conflict," King said as he accepted the John Dewey

Award from the United Federation of Teachers. "Education is one of the vital tools the Negro needs in order to advance. And yet it has been denied him by devices of segregation and manipulations with quality."

More than five decades after his assassination, King is widely heralded and taught

See **REFLECT**, page A14

## IN THE KNOW

Leading the Charge(rs): Kenan named Northwood's football coach. **PAGE B1.**

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# 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 available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St.

## ON THE AGENDA

The **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. Monday via Zoom.

## OTHER

The Chatham County Board of Health will have a vacancy in March 2022 that must be filled by a professional engineer who lives in the county. Applicants must have a current North Carolina engineering license, but they do not have to be actively practicing. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, February 2, at 5 p.m. Board of Health meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m., with dinner provided and reimbursement for mileage. Meetings are not held in July and December. The application to serve can be completed online: <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommitteeForm>. Applicants also may contact Lindsay Ray at 919-545-8302 or [lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov) to get an email version or printed copy. Those with questions about serving on the Board of Health may call 919-545-8391.

**LCAC19 All Hands Meeting**, January 26 at 05:30 PM PT / 08:30 ET. Register at: <https://zoom.us/join/zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvf-usrDsQGN-fA6oHq38uZ5eHcy-JUspME>.

**Siler City Parks and Recreation** announces Homeschool Recess - Enjoy the Open Homeschool Recess Program (a non-structural program open for families to play and have fun). Free program - no registration is required, however a waiver must be signed at each session. Guardians must supervise their children. Program is not designed to meet official Homeschool requirements. Basketballs will be provided. Face coverings required while inside the gym. If you have any questions, (919) 742-2699, [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org), or [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org). Thursdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Paul Braxton Gym, February thru March, 2022, 115 South Third Avenue, Siler City.

**Central Carolina Manufacturing Institute** - Jumpstart your Career! No registration fee for training courses! Become a Manufacturing Technician in four weeks! Hear from local manufacturers on great jobs available now! Information sessions: In-Person meeting, Thursday, January 20, 9 a.m. at

Center for Workforce Innovation, 5910 Enterprise Park Drive, Sanford or Virtual meeting, Monday, January 24 at 2:30 p.m., <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83996370734> - Meeting ID: 839 9637 0734. Contacts: Felicia Crittenden at [fcrittenden@cccc.edu](mailto:fcrittenden@cccc.edu), 919-718-7360 or Christina Piard, [cpiard@cccc.edu](mailto:cpiard@cccc.edu), 919-718-7076.

**Chatham Resource Hub, Centro de Recursos Moviles** - Free meals provided by Pete Da Heat! Saturday, January 22 from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at the State Employees Credit Union (SECU), 1131 N Glenn Avenue, Siler City - off Hwy. 64. -- Comidas Gratis, proporcionado por PETE DA HEAT, Sabado, 22 De Enero, 12 noon to 3 p.m.

**Chatham Council on Aging:** For information or to register for these and other programs, visit website: [chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/](http://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/) - All these events will be available virtually via the Zoom platform. Thursday, January 20, Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8 a.m. and Take Off Pounds Sensibly at 1 p.m.; Friday, January 21, Body conditioning with Jackie at 8 a.m. and Strong and Fit w/Jackie at 10 a.m.; Monday, January 24, Chair Yoga w/Liz at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, January 25, Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8 a.m. , Strog and Fit w/Jackie at 10 a.m.; and Wednesday, January 26, Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8 a.m., Strong & Fit w/Olivia at 9 a.m., and Chair Yoga w/Liz at 10 a.m.

**Celebrity Dairy** announces their Open Barn and Tours, beginning February 5. Currently anticipating over 100 baby goats, we are opening the farm for others to enjoy. Visitors will get a tour of the dairy farm with a chance to frolic with, pet and snuggle with baby goats. For more information: [www.CelebrityDairy.com](http://www.CelebrityDairy.com) - or Contact The Inn at Celebrity Dairy, Attn: Bett Foley (919) 742-5176.

**Siler City Parks & Rec** launches Tennis & Pickleball Classes, partnering with Tennis Bloc. Classes are now open for enrollment and will be offered to all ages and skill-levels. All classes will be held at the Bray Park Sports Complex, 700 Alston Bridge Rd, Siler City. **Spring Tennis classes** will be offered February 28 - May 4. Lessons for ages 8 and younger will be held Mondays 5:30 to 6:30pm (beginner-intermediate), ages 9-10 will be held Mondays 4:40-5:30 p.m. (beginner-intermediate), ages 11-18 will be held Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (beginner-intermediate), and adult beginners will be held Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Spring Pickleball classes** will be offered March 5 - May 7. Lessons for ages 11-18 will be held Saturdays 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., adult beginners will be held Saturdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and adult intermediates will be held Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is now open with a registration fee of \$85 which covers the entire season. Multi-participant discounts available. To register, please visit [tennisbloc.com](http://tennisbloc.com) and search for

programs offered in Siler City. Registration will remain open until sessions are full. For more information, email [info@tennisbloc.com](mailto:info@tennisbloc.com) or contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at (919) 742-2699, email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org), or visit the Town Website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org).

**The Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center, Chatham Chamber of Commerce, and Mountaire Farms** have partnered on a new entrepreneur-development program that will introduce prospective and new business owners in Chatham County to the concepts and practices that will lead to business success. The new eight-week Chatham SPARK Program will run from March 1 through May 3 and will assist participants in developing a business plan and gaining insight into financing, legal considerations, marketing, bookkeeping, and taxes. The evening classes will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at C.C.C.Siler City Center, 400 Progress Blvd. For more information or to register for the program, visit [www.chathamcbc.com/spark](http://www.chathamcbc.com/spark) or call 919-545-8015. The application deadline is Jan. 31, 2022.

**The Central Carolina Manufacturing Institute** - Jump-start your career! You can begin great manufacturing jobs with starting salaries from \$14 an hour and opportunities to grow into high-paid, high-skilled careers. The Central Carolina Manufacturing Institute is holding two information sessions where individuals can learn more about these opportunities. Regional manufacturers will be providing insight into the many types of jobs available, how to get those jobs, and how companies support their team members in building their careers. An in-person information meeting will be held at 9 a.m. Jan. 20 at the Center for Workforce Innovation, 5910 Enterprise Park Drive, Sanford. A virtual information meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. Jan. 24. Join the Zoom meeting at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83996370734>.

For those individuals interested in manufacturing but who need to develop their core skills, **CCCC has a Manufacturing Technician class** beginning Feb. 21 and the college has scholarship funds to pay for registration and course materials. The Central Carolina Manufacturing Institute is an initiative designed to support local employers with developing their talent pipelines," said Felicia R. Crittenden, CCCC Dean of Continuing Education Operations.

**Chatham Community Library** presents Celebrating Women of Chatham: Conversations with Women Making a Difference. On Jan. 15, Chatham Community Library continues its series of quarterly discussions highlighting women change-makers in Chatham County. The series addresses areas of interest to county residents viewed from the perspective of women en-

gaged in both traditional and non-traditional careers including agriculture, entrepreneurship, education, the arts, law enforcement, and social activism. **WHAT:** Celebrating Women of Chatham series; **WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 15 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.; **WHERE:** Virtual Program. This virtual event is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants should register online to receive the meeting link. Visit the libraries' website, [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or [rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org) for more information. Carolyn Miller, Chatham County's assistant county manager for human resources, will moderate the panel. Panelists will discuss the challenges and rewards of being a businesswoman in Chatham County, among other aspects.

Join the **Community Remembrance Coalition** - Chatham & the Chatham County NAACP Branches 5377 and 5378 for a book and panel discussion of The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We

Can Prosper Together By Heather McGhee, January 20, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. NEW YORK TIMES bestseller long listed for the National Book Award. One of today's most insightful and influential thinkers offers a powerful exploration of inequality and the lesson that generations of Americans have failed to learn: Racism has a cost for everyone—not just for people of color. Presenters: Mary Harris and Vickie Atkinson, Members of the NAACP, CRC-C. Register for the zoom at <https://www.crc-c.org/>

The **Chatham County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** has scheduled its 2022 quarterly meetings at 10 a.m. and the locations will be announced on the county website at [readychatham.org](http://readychatham.org) under the LEPC tab. For information concerning hazardous material facilities in Chatham County or the LEPC in general, contact Emergency Management at 919-545-8191. The first scheduled meeting is February 10.

**Siler City Parks and Recreation - Coed Youth T-Ball** is offered to participants ages 3-6 (age determined as of May 1,

2022). The **Youth T-Ball** league introduces new and returning players to the game of baseball. The league focuses on teaching and improving fundamentals including hitting, throwing, catching, and baserunning. **Youth Coed Coach Pitch** is offered to participants ages 7-8 (age determined as of May 1, 2022). **Youth Baseball** is offered to participants ages 9-12 (age determined as of May 1, 2022) and **Youth Softball** is offered to participants ages 9-12 (age determined as of August 1, 2022). There are 4 ways interested participants can register. Registration is now available online on the Town of Siler City website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org), in City Hall (311 N 2nd Avenue, Siler City) Monday-Friday 9am-5pm, by mailing the registration form and fee to P.O. Box 769 Siler City, NC 27344, or by dropping the registration form and fee in the drop box located on the exterior of City Hall. Registration is only \$25 and the deadline to register is March 4, 2022 (or until full).--- Siler City Parks and Recreation is actively seeking volunteer coaches for the upcoming

See **CALENDAR**, page A10

## How did you LAND here?



### HAVE WE SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?

## 89 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 36 Units**

- 0 Quakenbush Road (15.584 Acres)
- 0 Arthur Minnis (54.43 Acres)
- 0 Lamont Norwood (96.37 Acres)
- 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 00 Jim Gilliland Road (35.4 Acres)
- 000 Jim Gilliland Road (18.598 Acres)
- 1431 NC 42 Hwy (23.26 Acres)
- 8457 Pike Road (22.43 Acres)
- 3097 N NC 87 (2.845 Acres)
- 0 Caviness Town Road (7.41 Acres)
- 0 Pleasant Hill Church Road (90.788 Acres)
- 69 Hazelwood (.62 Acres)
- 59 Colonial Trail (.476 Acres)
- 0 Diane Street (9.21 Acres)
- 3095 N NC 87 (2.269 Acres)
- 2453 Marthas Chapel Road (2.052 Acres)
- 419 Hickory Pond Road (3.208 Acres)
- 435 Hickory Pond Road (2.72 Acres)
- 275 George Brooks Drive (184 Acres)
- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
- 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
- 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
- 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
- 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
- 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
- 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
- 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
- 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 1447 Old US1 (.870 Acres)
- 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
- 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
- 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 7 Units**

- 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 0 Hawkins Avenue (9.7 Acres)
- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
- 38 Wade Bright Road (46.204 Acres)

0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)

720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units**

- 219 East Street (Pittsboro)
- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)
- 175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Buyers) 3 Units**

- 58 Buffalo Lake Road (Sanford)
- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)
- 175 East Salisbury Street (Pittsboro)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 19 Units**

- 22 Sycamore Lake Road (Siler City)
- 1624 Hadley Mill Road (Pittsboro)
- 11 Crosswinds Estates Drive (Pittsboro)
- 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
- 570 Abeyance Road (Moncure)
- 2221 Brisbayne Circle (Raleigh)
- 219 East Street (Pittsboro)
- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 52 Gentle Winds Drive (Pittsboro)
- 1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 550 Calle Lane (Bear Creek)
- 3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)
- 117 Foxwood (Sanford)
- 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
- 5144 Rives Chapel Road (Siler City)
- 200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
- 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
- 4283 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 8 Units**

- 1812C New Garden Road (Greensboro)
- 73 Dairymont Drive (Pittsboro)
- 40 Pinehurst Lane (Siler City)
- 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)
- 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
- 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)

### PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 Units**

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.870)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 2 Units**

- 0 Pearleman Teague Road (23.1 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

**Residential (Representing Sellers) 3 Units**

- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)

**Residential (Representing Buyers) 2 Units**

- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)

Featured You Tube Video of the week

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmUfSgLqyjo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmUfSgLqyjo)



Email your questions to [eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com](mailto:eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com)

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## Chatham News + Record

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# PROJECT

Continued from page A1

economy.

It also would have resulted in 5,000 to 10,000 new jobs, according to the Triangle Business Journal, which reported Monday that the company — widely speculated to be Idaho-based Micron — has shifted its focus to a site in Texas.

The TBJ cited sources saying cities in Arizona and California are also vying for the project.

## A myriad of factors

No formal announcement about the loss of Project Autumn has come from the state, but multiple local officials involved in the potential development now confirm the N.C. Dept. of Commerce has been officially notified.

The pieces just didn't come together as they hoped.

Kirk Bradley, the developer of Mosaic in Chatham Park and one of the investors in the site's TIP West, said a myriad of factors play into site selection, any of which can derail a project.

"In this case a big one was utilities and incentives," he said of Project Autumn. "Given the unprecedented size of this project, it required a significant amount of utilities, and they were asking for a lot of financial incentives. That's a decision at the state level as to how much they want to respond to the client's request. We had a good utility solution, albeit expensive, but I don't know about the financial incentives."

Bradley is a partner in Chatham Media Group LLC, which owns the News + Record.

Rep. Robert Reives II, who represents Chatham in the N.C. General Assembly and lives in Goldston, said both the state and Chatham County government have a strong track record when it comes to incentives.

"I'd be really surprised if that [incentives] was a problem, either at the state or the county level, to be candid with you," he told the News + Record. "If it is, it is. But I'd really be surprised. For instance,



Courtesy of the Chatham EDC

## A screen grab from a video promoting the Triangle Innovation Point.

if you go back to the Toyota pursuit a couple of years ago, we offered almost three times the amount of incentives that Alabama offered. Alabama just won out."

The TBJ cited unnamed sources who said the state's inability to come to terms with the building of a post-treatment facility, as well as an incentives request which included decades of tax credits, contributed to Project Autumn passing on Chatham County.

Even so, Bradley said the site's prospects are still overwhelmingly positive.

"I think the way to look at it is not that we didn't get it, but that we were in the hunt and a finalist," he said. "We learned things about our site in terms of readiness and requirements, and that's always a good thing. Site readiness is very important in order to be competitive in these economic development projects. The more we learn, the better we can improve."

## An 'incredible amount' of interest

Reives, too, said the news didn't make him any less optimistic about the county's potential to attract the kind of investment Project Autumn seemed to promise.

"We've had an incredible amount of interest in not only the TIP site, but also the CAM [the Chatham Advanced Manufacturing megasite, in Siler City] site," he said. "This is the same process we've already been through — we went

through this with Apple, we went through this with Toyota ... And, you know, now that the Randolph site's been taken care of, I think that makes things even better for us. And I think it allows for the state to invest even more assets and more attention towards getting these two sites developed."

Apple announced last April it would invest \$1 billion in N.C. over the next 10 years, including establishing a \$552 million campus in RTP — employing 3,000 people working on technology, including software engineering and machine learning — and a \$448 million expansion of its Catawba County data center. Just last month, Toyota announced it would build its first hybrid and electric vehicle battery manufacturing plant in North America, choosing Liberty — about 15 miles northwest of Siler City — for a \$1.29 billion project at the Greensboro-Randolph Megasite. Toyota eventually will create 1,750 jobs at the site, which will become operational by 2025.

Also, in December, a TBJ report said the rail company CSX was considering a 200-acre site in Lee County for a project that would bolster the area's supply chain capabilities as it attempts to lure big manufacturing projects.

Reives said he would have loved to have awakened on Monday knowing that a "big announcement" was imminent for Chatham, but he's not fazed at all.

"I'm incredibly optimistic about both of those sites at this

point," he said.

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne had the same sentiment.

"While we are disappointed that Project Autumn went in a different direction, Chatham County continues to demonstrate that we are very competitive in the national and global markets for such large-scale projects," he said. "We continue to receive a great deal of interest at both of our sites and are confident that the right project will select Chatham County."

Bradley and Michael Smith, the president of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, joined Reives and others involved in Chatham's economic development who continue to emphasize that the county's two megasites remain high on the lists of companies looking to relocate or expand.

"TIP is an in-demand site, I can confirm that for sure," Bradley said. "We continue to get RFIs [requests for information] and have had site visits as recent as last week. It is in the right location at the right time. It's not a question of if we get a significant project or projects, it's when. I think that will be sooner rather than later."

Bradley, whose Lee-Moore Capital Company, based in Sanford, does investment and development in retail and residential real estate holdings, pointed out, too, that the TIP site — as well as the CAM site — could land multiple projects, not just single mammoth projects like Project Autumn.

Other officials previously said the TIP site alone could generate as many as 20,000 new jobs, and Smith told the News + Record in December he expects both sites to have tenants before this year is out.

## 'Hard to keep up'

Reives wouldn't speak on the record about other ongoing contacts with active Chatham prospects, but he said he could vouch for anyone on the local or state level who says the TIP and CAM sites are popular targets.

"It's a point where — and I don't say this in a way that, 'Oh, man, we're so popular' —

but seriously, it's been hard to keep up with which project is which in the sense that we have some big projects taking a look at us," he said.

In Chatham, the prominence of the TIP site and Siler City's CAM site in state-level conversations bodes well for the county's future, Reive said. And Tim Booras, the owner of the CAM site, said he puts a positive spin on Autumn's departure.

"By virtue of the fact that North Carolina was in the hunt for Autumn, with them considering less than a handful of sites in the nation, TIP had enough 'positives' for them to take a deep dive, and I think that is validating for the site and what it has to offer," he said. "There are many more projects out there and many more to come. It is a matter of time for when North Carolina and the remaining megasites will find the right fits for symbiotic relationships."

Bradley said the TIP and CAM sites make Chatham's prospects "tremendous."

"Chatham is in a great location for doing well in the current environment for economic development," he said. "What I'm calling the great 'on-shoring' as a result of geo-political and pandemic supply chain issues will cause increased focus to be on Chatham County as these projects look to locate in the U.S., be it a domestic or international company."

The sites are unique, he said, but what they share — and what adds to their attractiveness — is their proximity to "significant workforce generation capacity, plus the ability for people to re-locate here due to new housing underway at Chatham Park," according to Bradley.

"There is no economic development ecosystem like CAM, TIP with Chatham Park in the center in the United States," he said. "Further, both sites have rail access. Lastly, the CAM site is located on future Interstate 685, and TIP is located along an interstate quality road and intersections in U.S. 1. There are no sites like this in the U.S."

# BETTY

Continued from page A1

came out to support the fundraiser on its first night. Next to the 12 beer taps, a picture of White was on display. Episodes of the Golden Girls played on each of the taproom's televisions, and Morris and her daughter wore matching Golden Girls pants.

Carolina Tiger Rescue had a table set up in the taproom at Red Moose where customers could buy CTR merchandise or donate toilet paper, sunscreen, fruit, meat and other things needed to run the sanctuary.

"It takes a lot of money to take care of a hungry tiger, and the money that we raise goes directly to support all of the care that we give to the animals," Cope said. "By enjoying a Betty Wit beer,



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

## People gathered to celebrate the life of Betty White at Red Moose Brewing with a fundraiser in partnership with Carolina Tiger Rescue.

people not only get to pay tribute to Betty White, they get to support a new organization or a new brewery in the community. It's a win-win as far as

I'm concerned." Betty Wit ended up being the most-sold beer on Monday evening, and Carolina Tiger Rescue saw several customers

buying their merchandise and bringing in items to donate.

Morris said she feels having the Carolina Tiger Rescue fundraiser in

honor of White was the perfect way to say "thank you" to the beloved star for her work and to honor her legacy as an animal activist. The Red Moose

owner hopes to make the Betty White fundraiser an annual event — as a way to memorialize the star, recognize her activism for animals and, ultimately, thank her for being a friend.

"One of the things she was most known for was her love of animals and being such a huge champion for animals, so we knew that we wanted to make this our first fundraiser," she said. "I think that she would be honored to be supporting the cats and have the funds being raised in her name."

Red Moose Brewing is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and noon to 8 p.m. on Sundays.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

# GOATS

Continued from page A1

parties and weddings.

In the years following the start of their business, the Pfanns have also allowed guests to their farm to witness the more than 100 baby goats normally birthed between February and March each year. Now, they are preparing to welcome people once again for their annual goat tours starting on Feb. 5.

"There's just incredible life and enthusiasm in the baby goats," Brit said. "They're just all over excited with the world and everything going on, and it's great to share that with people."

Each of the goats has its own unique personalities and special names. The farm's original goats were named after famous celebrities, such as Katherine Hepburn and Lauren

Bacall. Some of the goats on the farm today also have unique names, such as Bessie (because she looks like a cow), Lady Di, and Rudy (named after the subject of the highly acclaimed sports film of the same name).

The Pfanns started their goat tours as school field trips, but soon after, they shifted to an "open barn weekend" where people could come out and interact with young goats.

The tours also served as a way to help acclimate the goats to being around humans, according to Celebrity Dairy Inn Manager Marcey Clark.

"As these goats are being born, we'd like them socialized because when we go to milk them and bring them into the milking parlor, we want them used to humans, we want them to like humans and we want them to associate us with good things,"

Clark said.

Plenty of people came to the farm to socialize with the goats during these open barn weekends, according to Clark.

"People would come hundreds at a time, up to 800 people have shown up here, and they would have food, rides, games and all day with the goats," she said.

The ongoing pandemic, however, forced the Pfanns to rethink how they would handle guests coming to their property. At first, Brit said, he did not anticipate being able to allow people back onto the farm to see the goats until after a treatment or vaccine was made readily available.

When people started to contact him and ask for tours again, he came up with the idea to have small group tours with no more than 15 people each.

"If you can bring a pod of people you are

comfortable with, we can schedule an hour and a half with a group of up to 15 people," Brit said, "and we'll charge you 150 bucks, \$10 a head."

And that's what Celebrity Dairy did.

Celebrity Dairy owners and staff are continuing with the small group model this year due to the Omicron variant, and they ask people to be vaccinated if they plan on coming to the farm. Face coverings are also required for children who cannot be vaccinated due to their age.

Clark said even the goats on property have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We vaccinated our goats, because they can get it too," she said. "We are trying to make it as safe as possible for everyone."

Despite the pandemic's various hurdles, the Pfanns and Clark have

managed to keep the farm and inn operational and safe, including the goat tours.

Why was it important to keep the event going?

For Clark, the goats help to provide a chance to interact with and learn about an animal in a way they may not be able to do otherwise.

"When you see a picture of a goat, it's adorable and it looks like a nice little farm animal, but for the most part, unless you grew up on a farm, you don't know when you get with these goats [that] they will play with you like a dog does," Clark said. "There is nothing more adorable than one of these goats."

For Brit, it's all about the tradition behind the tours. He said he's seen people come back again and again with their kids over the years to play with the goats. For him, it's all about giving the

community a place where they can make lifelong memories and deepen the connections between friends and family.

"That sort of continuity is a real treat to me that we have people that came out here as children themselves, and now they're bringing their own kids," he said.

"People come here to experience time together, build the bonds within the family or your group of friends, and the goats are catalysts for them I think."

The goat tours at Celebrity Dairy and Inn start on Feb. 5 and will run every weekend until Mar. 27 at 144 Celebrity Dairy Way in Siler City. Goat tours will not take place on Feb. 20 or Mar. 20 due to events happening around the farm on those days.

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

# VIEWPOINTS

## Let her play ball

My mother and father instilled gender equity in both theory and practice for my younger brother and me: When we were in elementary school, Mom earned her master's degree, then began her own career.

Yet, though I was raised in a Christian household, there were few things in my childhood as sacrosanct as this law: Baseball was for boys. Girls played softball.

I knew "separate but equal" had an egregious history in American jurisprudence, but I trusted the principle that justly pertained to the sport I loved.

Years later, I became the father of a daughter. My sacrosanct boys-only law was smashed out of sight like a home run!

As was true in my experiences with my mother and then my daughter, I have found that a personal connection most often changes my opinion. In addition to my family history, I wish to highlight the stories of two women currently in baseball.

Genevieve Beacom is a 17-year-old left-hander who is the first woman to play in the Australian Baseball League. She voluntarily forgoes her salary to play eligible for her dream of playing college baseball here in America with the boys. She would be the first woman to achieve that distinction as well.

Also this year, Rachel Balk-

ovec became the first woman to serve as manager of a professional baseball team when she was hired by the Tampa Tarpons, a minor league affiliate of the New York Yankees. The Yankees had added her to their farm system in November 2019, making her the first woman hired as a full-time hitting instructor by a big-league team.

Both Beacom and Balkovec have already made history and will likely break more gender barriers. What is perhaps even more remarkable is the lack of controversy among baseball players — the guys!

According to Kevin Reese, the Yankees' vice president of player development, the decision to promote Balkovec was easy: "Everybody was on board." Justin Huber, general manager for Beacom's team in Australia, put it this way:

"Genevieve is pitching because she can get the outs."

Reflecting on Beacom's gender, Huber noted, "It's not like Jackie Robinson who had to face down all that hatred when he broke the color barrier." Our society is in a vastly different place from the segregation of the '40s and '50s.

But I know that sexism still exists in my own profession. Not everyone plays by the same rules in the church. My clergy colleagues are blocked by a stained-glass ceiling that prevents women from certain church jobs because of their gender. Though women have made progress, plenty of Christian leaders, as well as people in the pews, still believe preaching is for boys only.

But just as Beacom can step on the mound, women should be able to stand in the pulpit.

Beacom can get the outs, and other women can bring the sermon — case in point, my wife, Rev. Ginny Taylor-Troutman! Just as Balkovec has worked her way up the professional ranks, women clergy should have the same opportunities.

I realize that not everyone agrees that baseball is America's national pastime. But I hope that every daughter will be able to follow her dreams, either to the diamond or pulpit or wherever her talent and heart lead her. I hope everyone can get on board with this ideal. Let her play ball.

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

## Understanding taxes can tax your patience

It's that time of year again. No, not June weddings or graduations or even so many shopping days until Christmas.

It's time for employers and pensions and Uncle Sam through Social Security to send out the W-2 forms and other notices of income so you can send in more money for Washington to waste.

Before you get the idea I'm not glad to be living in this country as compared to, say, Outer Mongolia or even Australia, where you can be arrested for daring to stick your nose outdoors, my concern has to do with Uncle Sam's math and how he calculates things.

Now, in the interest of complete transparency, let me go on record here as stating I do not, repeat, do not, have a mathematical mind. I know what 8 times 7 is and a few more similar problems, but anything beyond general math is also a foreign language, say, Greek, to me. I'm convinced Mrs. Johnston, in the dark days of Pittsboro High School when dinosaurs roamed the earth and I was in her 12th grade algebra-trig class, gave me a "D" so I wouldn't come back for another stab at it.

And it's when you use numbers and apply them to something called economics that I'm really in over my head. Obviously, numbers play a big role in the game of economics as do such concepts as the law of supply and demand. That's a way of looking at things that says the fewer of something there is, such as toilet paper, the more in demand it will be, thereby raising the price per piece. There are other factors that affect the price of something, such as most rolls of toilet paper are sitting in ships somewhere off the west coast — but you get the idea, even if math and economics aren't your cup of tea, which also has been in short supply.

I say all that to say this: that having come to a modest understanding of math and economics and being able to add numbers up to five digits, I am having trouble figuring out how Uncle uses numbers in his economic formula for how much money someone owes in taxes based on his income. It all has to do with what he calls benefits and taxable income. And you may be wondering, too, especially if you recently got one of those forms from Uncle that requires you to tear on three sides and then look at the numbers inside.

Let me illustrate with mine. I can't remember the exact

numbers because my family associate who keeps up with such has filed my form and hers somewhere in a stack of papers living in the recesses of a file cabinet. But for the sake of argument, I'll use random figures which still make the case, I think.

Let's suppose Uncle said my Social Security payments, which he puts into a bank account by direct deposit each month, totals \$12,000. I'm supposed to pay tax on that, which I already did when I first earned it and Uncle took it away. Then my government insurance program has a yearly total of, say, \$3,000, which Uncle took from what could have been part of the monthly deposit. Then, I have voluntary tax withheld from the monthly total to the tune of maybe \$1,500 so the April 15th jubilee doesn't eat my bank account alive.

Uncle then does his math and says I have total income and benefits of \$16,500, to which he wants to affix a tax for me to send him.

What I'd really like for Christmas this year is for someone to tell me why and how the \$1,500, which is, in my mind, money I've paid tax on twice — when first earned and when taken out of the Social Security payment each month — is yet another amount for which I should pay tax now. How is that a benefit other than the fact that Uncle says it is?

Again, I know as far as the big picture goes, I'm blessed and fortunate to have been able to work through the years and all that stuff, but to add a tax payment into income so you can pay tax again on it is a concept I can't quite grasp.

Reminds me of a poster I saw that said Uncle is coming out with a new very simple tax form this year. It has only three lines. Line A says, "How much money did you make last year?" Line B says, "How much do you have left?" And Line C says: "Send Line B."

There is, of course, no shortage of taxes — income tax, tax on money you save, tax on things you buy, yearly taxes for the privilege of owning what you've bought, taxes when you die and the list seems endless.

About the only thing that isn't taxed is my patience. That may be next if Uncle can figure out how to 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.*



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around



## How deep is our economic divide?

The term "economic divide" is commonly used today. It can refer to several aspects in our economy, such as the economic differences between urban and rural areas, the widening income and wealth

differences between high- and low-income households and different views on public policy regarding the economy.

In today's column I will focus on the last type of economic difference. For decades — including most of the four-plus decades I've been a professional economist — economists have largely agreed about key questions involving the economy. Economists believed that private decisions over buying and work decisions, combined with businesses competing for buyers' dollars and labor, led to several good things, like consumers getting what they wanted at the lowest price, and workers being paid for their skills and capabilities. Also, those willing to take the risk for big rewards would constantly be motivated to improve products and develop better ways of providing what people wanted.

Indeed, since the birth of this "free-market" economic system in the 17th century, the standard of living and the health and well-being of the average person has soared. Even households in the lowest-income categories have experienced better living standards. Supporters of the free market, including the majority of economists, used these results to — with a few exceptions — argue for limited government involvement in the economy.

Why then do more economists now support greater government intervention in the economy? Why have many in my profession apparently changed their opinion about the benefits of the free market?

The answer was actually given by a famous economist

from almost a century ago, Joseph Schumpeter. Schumpeter clearly saw the benefits of the free market delivering tremendous economic gains for the average person. But he also recognized that every person wouldn't prosper to the same degree. Some wouldn't prosper at all. Poverty would exist, and there could be large differences in economic outcomes within the population.

As the economy initially is expanding and improving, Schumpeter argued people would accept these economic differences. But once an economy reached levels of sizable income and wealth, large differences in economic outcomes would become unacceptable to more people — including economists. Also, even though Schumpeter didn't include them, those living in wealthy economies are more likely to want to address big issues, like climate change.

If the situation I've described is the one we face today, then an important follow-up question is posed. Should the economic system that developed our prosperity be discarded and replaced with an alternative? Or, should the free-market system be kept but altered to address issues like income inequality and environmental pollution?

Before addressing this important question, let me assert that a free-market approach to the economy does not imply the government has no role. There are many important functions that only a public body like the government can address. National defense, regulating monopolies (where only one producer exists), providing public safety and a court system and maintaining competition between companies and preventing collusion are some examples. Also, since the 1930s, there's been some level of a social safety net provided for households.

Many who today want an alternative economic system favor socialism. A socialist economic system moves many — if not most — economic decisions away from individ-

uals and companies to the government. The allocation of resources, the setting of wages and prices, and decisions about what innovations to pursue and fund are handled by the government, especially the national government.

Supporters of socialism argue the system will more equally allocate resources and income, thereby dramatically reducing income inequality. With guaranteed incomes, families will not worry about the needs for them and their children. Economic advantages to those with large incomes and wealth won't exist. The system will be "fair," say backers.

Yet doubters of socialism see big problems. Why should elected officials or government bureaucrats know better how to allocate resources than the millions of decision-makers in a free market? Will politics interfere in these decisions? And what about the rewards to private initiatives that motivate hard work and innovation? Will those be lost in socialism?

Fans of the free market want to keep it, but make changes to the foundation. Renewed efforts and additional resources to make sure everyone has the opportunity to develop their talents is at the top of the list. So too is support for wealth development through broader homeownership programs and other wealth-building methods. A reexamination of the social safety net to fix gaps and strengthen support is recommended, yet all the while making sure the help still leaves incentives for self-improvement and financial independence.

So yes, we do have wide differences in ideas about how the economy should operate and what fixes are needed. These differences are apparent in the public discourse and increasingly are reflected among economists. The differences lead to one key question — what kind of economic system do we want? You decide.

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Our sky was never falling

From July 2020 to July 2021, there was a net inflow of 637,729 Americans into these top-five destination states: Florida, Texas, Arizona, North Carolina and South Carolina. During the same period, there was a net outflow of 918,443 Americans from these top-five exporter states: California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Louisiana.

All five of the top in-migration states have Republican legislatures. Four of the five have Republican governors (North Carolina is the exception). On the other side of the ledger, four of the top out-migration states have Democratic governors, and four of the five have Democratic legislatures.

“That’s all you need to know!” Republicans proclaim. “That’s all just a coincidence!” Democrats insist.

You probably think I’m going to say that the truth is more complicated than either side would admit. And you’re right — but it’s not that much more complicated.

Partisan control of government is obviously not the sole determinant of where Americans choose to live. In fact, for many individuals and families seeking to relocate, whether a state has a Republican or Democratic legislature isn’t an explicit criterion at all. They’re taking new jobs, moving closer to family or other desirable amenities, or opting for warmer climes as they plan for or begin their retirement.

Indeed, if you look at the list of places experiencing a net outflow of Americans last year, it includes states such as Ohio and North Dakota with GOP governors and legislatures. And some blue states such as Colorado, Delaware, and Oregon enjoyed a net influx.

Now that I’ve done the requisite throat-clearing, however, it is simply undeniable that when it comes to relocation patterns,

politics matters. It’s not about party labels. It’s about what they signify. Generally speaking, Republican-led states tax and regulate less than Democratic-led states do. These policy choices, in turn, tend to make Republican-led states gain population faster by producing signals that prospective migrants can readily discern.

For example, if you’re weighing multiple job offers with roughly comparable salaries, you may well go where you can buy the most house for your money, which will typically be in places where property taxes are low and home prices aren’t jacked up artificially by regulatory burdens. Alternatively, if what you really want to do is start your own business rather than working for someone else, freer economies are usually the better bet.

Dozens of academic studies confirm these relationships. Places ranking higher on economic freedom tend to enjoy higher rates of job creation, business starts, and population growth. Consider

a 2020 paper in the Southern Economic Journal that used a local economic-freedom index to examine relocation patterns. It found that for every 10% increase in a metropolitan area’s economic-freedom score, in-migration went up 27%.

In a new American Business Review study of state population trends, economist Richard Cebula found that levels of both entrepreneurial activity and personal freedom are associated with higher rates of in-migration.

In the age of COVID, differences in governing philosophy came into sharper relief. During the initial lockdowns, Democratic-led states shut down quicker and longer. Republican-led states were more likely to keep schools open. Americans noticed. While most wanted their governments to take the pandemic seriously, they also wanted their governments to be reasonable.

Here in North Carolina, a flock of progressive Chicken Littles spent the past decade warning that the GOP-con-

trolled legislature was ruining our economy and reputation by failing to “invest” enough in government. Their left-wing counterparts in fiscally conservative Florida and Texas were saying the same things at the same time.

By no means have we solved all our economic problems. With regard to the willingness of individuals, families, and businesses to relocate to North Carolina and other market-friendly states, however, those Chicken-Little warnings proved to be wildly off the mark — and went entirely unnoticed by the hundreds of thousands of Americans who gladly moved here in the meantime, including 89,000 in just the past year.

Our sky was, it seems, never falling.

*John Hood is a John Locke Foundation board member and author of the new novel “Mountain Folk,” a historical fantasy set during the American Revolution (MountainFolk-Book.com).*



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

## Why we talk this way

“Prove it.” One of this column’s readers challenged me to back up my recent assertion that characteristics of some Americans could be explained by our connections to certain regions of the British Isles. I was focusing on those who are hard-nosed, sometimes rebellious, resistant to direction, suspicious of people in charge, unwilling to give up individual choice to some kind of group direction.

I wrote about the ways in which our ancestors’ folkways still influence us and play a part in the way we act and think today, but the reader was not convinced there was a connection.

My column was sparked by Joe Klein’s article in *The New Yorker* about a 1989 book, “Albion’s Seed: Four British Folkways in America,” by David Hackett Fischer. Klein says the book explains how “the history of four centuries ago still shapes American culture and politics.”

Many of the early European settlers in North Carolina were what we call Scots-Irish. But they also include emigrants from Ireland and the borderlands of Scotland and England. In these areas for more than seven centuries, there was constant fighting. People had to live in the middle of conflict. No one else was going to provide order and peace.

When they settled in North Carolina and adjoining regions, they brought that culture of violence and resistance to external control to their new homeland.

In his book, Fischer writes that these emigrants came from “a society of autonomous individuals who were unable to endure external control and incapable of restraining their rage against anyone who stood in the way.”

He quotes one settler woman: “We never let go of a belief once fixed in our minds.”

So how does Fischer prove that the descendants of the early immigrants from the British border areas are still influenced by where their ancestors came from? He builds his case by detailing the folkways

of British border areas and showing how they still exist in sections of America today.

One of those folkways is our way of speaking, the words and phrases we use and how we frame and sound them. He has a term for the way of speaking in our backcountry. He calls it southern highland speech and shows how it is related to the border speech in Britain.

He writes, “This southern highland speech has long been very distinctive for its patterns of pronunciation. It says whar for where, thar for there, hard for hired, critter for creature, sartin for certain, a-goin for going, hit for it, he-it for hit, far for fire, deef for deaf, pizen for poison, nekkid for naked, eetch for itch, boosh for bush, wrassle for wrestle, chaney for china, chaw for chew, poosh for push, shet for shut, ba-it for bat, be-it for be, narrrer for narrow, winder for window, widder for widow, and young-uns for young ones.”

Sound familiar? Once when we were living in Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia, deep in the Appalachian Mountains, my mother worried that her children would pick up the mountain dialect. As she explained to one of her Atlanta friends, “Up here they say tar for an auto tire. And they say tire for the tar to pave a road.”

Fischer concedes that the southern highland speech used in America today is not exactly the same as that spoken in Britain. But he insists that scholars agree that this language developed from the spoken language of the British border areas. It is the clear ancestor of “a distinctive variety of American speech which still flourishes in the southern highlands of the United States.”

Does this close language connection prove that immigrants from the British border brought not only their special speech ways to the southern highlands, but also their hard-nosed rebellious attitudes?

Maybe not, but the connections are more than a little thought-provoking.

*D.G. Martin hosted “North Carolina Bookwatch,” for more than 20 years.*

*To view prior programs: <https://video.pbsnc.org/show/nc-bookwatch/episodes/>.*

### An open letter from Pittsboro Youth Theater’s managers

TO THE EDITOR:

Gosh, we’re sorry about the COVID pandemic; millions dead, tens of millions hospitalized, hundreds of millions infected and our little community performance arts organization scratching out an existence for years. It is not an exaggeration to say that every person in the world has been affected.

Tammy and I determined early on and have stuck to our two most important objectives:

- cause the least harm possible, and
- continue to “improve Pittsboro’s future by enriching local children’s lives and continue Pittsboro’s rich arts heritage.”

It looks like so far no person has caught or spread COVID in any PYT/CFTA activities,

### LETTERS

and we’ve been able to keep our doors open, barely at times. Thank you for doing business with us. We have not and cannot please everyone, but we will continue to take the steps we think are best for us, our organization and our community. We hope that your family and others will recognize our precarious position and support us and our mission as and when they can in the future.

**Craig Witter & Tammy Matthews**  
Pittsboro

*The writers are managers of Pittsboro Youth Theater.*

### Still hoping for promised skate park

TO THE EDITOR:

I am responding to the letter I am only just now seeing from David Stout (“Scout asks: What about a skate park?,” Jan. 6-12 edition) about a Pittsboro skate

park. I hope David indeed does continue to research information on the issue. About 10+ years ago, there was a great effort to raise funds for a local skate park. Among much success was a concert held at the now-defunct General Store venue on the PBO circle. Included among the bands was my son’s (also now defunct), Caltrop. It rocked PBO.

Turnout was excellent, and a lot of money was collected at this event, all added to funds donated by many other sources for the skate park.

At this point no skate park has appeared, nor has all that money. I hope David’s researching can shine some light on where this money has been (collecting interest hopefully), and perhaps even result in the construction for the promised skate park.

**Kira Dirlik**  
Pittsboro

## Is justice blind?

If asked to identify a symbol for justice, most of us would



**TOM CAMPBELL**  
N.C. Spin

picture a blindfolded Lady Liberty holding aloft a balance scale in one hand and a sword in the other. The sword declares justice is worth fighting for, the scale

demonstrates justice is balanced and the blindfold signifies justice is blind to race, sex, class, nationality or partisan prejudice. The question of partisanship in our courts is frequently being raised. Time and again, you hear that a case was decided by “a Democratic court,” or a set of “Republican judges.” As one who has been following and commenting on public affairs for almost half of a century, there are an increasing number of times when I feel charges of partisanship are justified. If true, this is a sorry commentary on the state of justice.

Take the case now before our courts on redistricting. Anyone not a fervent card-carrying member of the Republican Party can look at those maps and concur that they were drawn so as to keep a large plurality of North Carolina’s congressional and legislative delegation in Republican control. A panel of three Superior Court Judges, two Republicans and one Democrat, agreed the districts were gerrymandered.

In their ruling they said, “This court has not been asked to eliminate all partisan gerrymandering, only ‘extreme’ partisan gerrymandering. In short, we are asked to decide how much partisanship is ‘extreme.’” In unanimously allowing the maps to remain,

they decided they were unable (and unwilling) to make such a declaration.

Appeals are now heading to the N.C. Supreme Court and already Republicans are screaming partisanship, since our highest court has four Democrats and three Republicans. The GOP expects the maps will be declared unconstitutional and will be required to have new maps drawn.

An initial solution to judicial partisanship would be to repeal North Carolina law requiring judicial candidates to list their party affiliations. The biggest justification given for reinstating the party affiliation was because people did not know anything about judicial candidates on the ballot and at least could vote for a member of their own party.

As an aside, Unaffiliated voters now outnumber Republicans in our state and, if current trends continue, could soon outnumber Democrats. Yet on judicial election ballots there is no way for a candidate to list he or she is neither R nor D, but is U.

I don’t want my court case decided by either a Republican or Democratic judge. I want a jurist who is blind to whatever party I might be a member and decides the case based on state law, case law and our Constitution.

Let’s not whitewash the issue of partisan courts. We are essentially reducing our courts to being yet another partisan political tool. George Washington, in his Farewell Address, warned us about the pernicious danger of political parties. Current reality is proving his admonition true.

This reopens the subject of how we put the best jurists on our bench. We are so jaundiced that we don’t trust any admin-

istration, any legislature or, for heaven’s sake, any group of currently robbed judges to make such a decision. Instead, we choose primarily by whether they have an R or D beside their name. It’s farcical.

Yes, I value and uphold the power of the public at the ballot box, but to tell the truth, we aren’t qualified to make informed selections regarding judges. For Pete’s sake, we don’t even know who they are.

We want our judges to be lawyers, to be students of the law who will research case law and to be people who are imbued with large doses of common sense and wisdom.

Thirty-nine states have some form of judicial election; in 38 they elect those on the highest court. Fourteen states have nonpartisan judicial elections. Ten states’ high court judges are selected by gubernatorial appointment. Some are appointed for life or until they reach a certain retirement age.

Another side issue: our state’s mandatory judicial retirement age is 72. That age may have been appropriate 40 or 50 years ago, but most 70-year-olds today are still very much in their prime. The mandatory age needs raising.

The real issue is North Carolina doesn’t have a good solution to judicial selection. Regardless, there’s no place on the bench for political partisanship. Bring back Lady Liberty’s blindfold.

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

# Appeal to N.C. Supreme Court expected as judges uphold political maps

BY JORDAN WILKIE  
Carolina Public Press



Screenshot courtesy of WRAL

**Left to right, Superior Court Judges Nathaniel Poovey (R), Graham Shirley (R) and Dawn Layton (D), oversee the trial to determine whether maps drawn by the General Assembly are too severely gerrymandered to be allowed under North Carolina's Constitution.**

“wrong.”

“If allowed to stand, these extreme gerrymanders would cause profound and lasting harm to the people of our state, especially hurting Black communities, by depriving voters of a voice in choosing their representatives,” said Bob Phillips, executive director of the North Carolina chapter of Common Cause, one of the plaintiffs.

N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland, one of the named defendants in the case, celebrated the ruling.

“I am pleased the trial court has ruled in our favor, upholding the maps drawn by the General Assembly in the most transparent process in North Carolina history,” Moore said.

## Secret maps and partisan intent

During the trial, Rep. Destin Hall, R-Caldwell, said he drew the maps for the state House legislative districts using “concept maps,” or maps drawn by third parties, in creating the lines — a direct contradiction of his earlier statements.

He previously told Democratic lawmakers in October in the redistricting committee that he had not looked at any concept maps in drawing the legislative districts. At that point, he hadn’t, Hall said, but he started using them shortly thereafter.

But he again told Democratic lawmakers in November, during debates before Republicans passed the maps on a party-line vote, that he did not consult any concept maps. At that point, Hall had consulted the outside maps for about three weeks, according to his testimony during the January trial.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs asked for copies of the concept maps, but Hall said they have since been lost or

destroyed. The failure to retain them could be a violation of state law.

A lawyer for the Common Cause plaintiffs, Allison Riggs, discovered the discrepancy during Hall’s deposition the week before the trial. She argued the maps could have used partisan and racial data, both of which were banned in the map-making process by the legislature’s own rules, but since they were destroyed there is no way to know.

The secret maps, misleading Democratic lawmakers and the maps’ destruction all pointed to intent, Riggs said.

In an earlier ruling, the trial court declined to impose sanctions for the failure to produce the maps, saying the assistant to Hall who had the maps is no longer a legislative employee.

## What the ruling said

Relying heavily on historical analysis, the three-judge panel rejected the plaintiffs’ claims that the new maps violated state constitutional guarantees of free elections, equal protection, freedom of assembly and free speech.

The judges also condemned gerrymandering and its ill effect on the body politic but said the courts did not have the power to interfere.

“This court neither condones the enacted maps nor their anticipated potential results,” the order said.

“Despite our disdain for having to deal with issues that potentially lead to results incompatible with democratic principles and subject our state to ridicule, this court must remind itself that these maps are the result of a democratic process.”

Lawyers for the plaintiffs argued that the legislature drew the maps with partisan intent meant to discriminate against the political interests of Democrats and Black North Carolinians.

Intent is important, according to the trial court order, but there is a lack of racially motivated action in the current map-drawing process.

“Plaintiffs have shown, and the court agrees, that a substantial number of Black voters are affiliated with the Democratic Party,” the order read.

“What plaintiffs have not shown, however, is how the General Assembly targeted this group on the basis of race instead of partisanship. Black voters who also happen to be Democrats have therefore been grouped into the partisan intent of the General Assembly.”

During the trial, the plaintiffs’ academic experts in political science and mathematics testified that the Re-

publican-drawn maps heavily favored Republican candidates.

If the maps were used, Republicans would essentially guarantee majority control over the state legislature, with a real chance at a veto-proof supermajority. Republicans would also send a disproportionate majority of the state’s representatives to the U.S. House, according to the expert testimony cited in the order.

While that outcome might be natural in a heavily Republican state, Republicans actually trail both Democrats and unaffiliated voters in registration in North Carolina.

Registration is no guarantee of voting habits, but recent statewide elections suggest the state is nearly evenly split between voters backing each party in a given race. In 2020, Democrats carried the governor’s race, but Republicans had a plurality victory for president in North Carolina, while eking out a narrow win for state Supreme Court Chief justice.

## What’s next

The state Supreme Court did not set out a specific timeline for reviewing the case but required anyone wanting to appeal to do so in the next two days. The court said to expect expedited hearings.

Democrats occupy four seats of the state Supreme Court while Republicans hold three.

The plaintiffs asked Republican Justice Phil Berger Jr. to recuse himself from the case as Berger’s father is a named defendant and the Republican leader of the state Senate.

The defendants asked Democratic Justice Sam Ervin to recuse himself, as he is up for reelection this year and the decision he makes “may impact voter turnout or other factors of the general election,” according to the request.

Neither justice has yet responded. Their decisions over their own ability to rule impartially are final, according to a state Supreme Court order from Dec. 23.

Unless the justices decide to delay the state primaries yet again, they will need to make their ruling and finalize any new maps, if necessary, before Feb. 24, the date submitted by the State Board of Elections and ordered by the trial court to resume candidate filing.

The high court moved North Carolina’s 2022 primaries to May 17. Every state House and Senate seat is up for election, as are all 14 seats for the U.S. House of Representatives.

## ELECTIONS

Continued from page A1

for the May 17 primary, the State Board of Elections previously said in court filings, adding that delaying the initial primary date could impact the ability to hold run-off elections before November. If the state’s supreme court does strike down the new districts after the Feb. 2 hearing, state law says the General Assembly must receive at least two weeks to remedy maps before another plan can be imposed by the court.

Republican lawmakers want to make sure they have more time to redraw maps if they are ordered to; Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper would have to sign a bill changing the primary schedule. State Democrats criticized the Republicans’ efforts to delay the primary, the N&O reported, saying the move seems to pressure the Supreme Court into letting lawmakers redraw the map themselves if the maps are overturned, rather than the court hiring an outside expert to do it.

In Chatham, Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal confirmed hearing of the potential second delay of the primary, but said, “We are moving forward with planning to conduct the Primary Election(s) as scheduled on May 17, 2022, until we hear otherwise.”

## More on gerrymandering allegations

The 2022 filing period was fraught from its beginning.

Prior to the Dec. 8 order which halted the filing period and delayed the election, an order to temporarily block filing

for the U.S. House, N.C. Senate and N.C. House races was filed on Dec. 6 shortly before filing was set to begin. That order was reversed by that evening, allowing filing to take place for another two days before the primary was delayed until May due to gerrymandering lawsuits.

All of the new maps would give Republicans a sizable advantage in future elections even if the two parties roughly split the statewide vote 50-50, outside political analysis shows, with the new Congressional map expected to give Republicans a 10-4 or 11-3 advantage in 2022. Those who sued have alleged the maps use unlawful partisan gerrymandering and dilute the voting power of Black residents in many districts.

Republican lawmakers said the process to create the new maps was transparent and fair. The judges unanimously wrote Jan. 11 that the evidence presented in a trial the week prior showed the district lines “are a result of intentional, pro-Republican partisan redistricting,” but that such partisan gerrymandering is not unconstitutional.

“Voting rights and fair representation lost a battle today in an admittedly predictable judicial decision, but the fight continues and we should not be discouraged,” Sen. Natalie Murdock, Chatham’s incumbent representative in 2022 under the new maps, tweeted after the court’s Jan. 11 decision. “Thank you to those litigating on the side of justice as the case for fair maps now heads to the NC Supreme Court.”

Many advocates and state Democrats have urged new, fairer district lines to be drawn.

Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper previously said that the Dec. 8 court order “restore(d) faith in the rule of law.”

“...it is necessary for the Court to rule on the constitutionality of these unfair districts before the next election,” he said.

Rep. Robert Reives II, Chatham’s Democratic representative in the N.C. House, said in a release before filing was first resumed that N.C. residents deserve fair district lines and that the maps passed by legislature last month “were generally viewed as the most gerrymandered in the country.”

“I appreciate the thoughtful consideration of last week’s three judge panel and our state’s appellate judges,” he said at the time. “My hope is that this process will lead to better maps and a better opportunity for voters to participate in the democratic process.”

The trial court presiding over the Jan. 11 decision had a 2-1 Republican majority, and its ruling relied heavily on a 5-4 ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019, the N&O reported, when that court’s conservative majority reached a similar conclusion. The N.C. Supreme Court, which will hear the Feb. 2 appeal, has a 4-3 Democratic majority.

In Chatham, six Democratic candidates filed for local contests on the first day of filing, with two more candidates filing each on the second and third days. Additional candidates in state races representing Chatham filed outside of the county.

Here’s a list of candidates who either filed before the period ended, or announced their intended campaigns to the News + Record:

## State Contests

**State Senate 20:** Chatham is currently represented in the state Senate by Rep. Valerie Foushee, who has announced a bid for Congress. Following redistricting, Sen. Natalie Murdock is the incumbent for Chatham’s 2022 voting district. She filed for the office Dec. 8.

**House District 54:** Currently held by Dem. Rep. Robert Reives II, who is running again. So far, former Rep. County Commissioner Walter Petty has also announced a campaign, but not filed.

Reives filed for the office on Dec. 8, before filing was suspended. “I am proud to file for re-election to continue serving the people in House District 54. I have been humbled by the opportunity to represent my friends and neighbors in Raleigh, and I look forward to continuing that service,” he said in a release. “Chatham County is my home, and I understand the issues families are discussing at the dinner table because my family does the same. I want to serve for another term to ensure that we are creating a community and state that is better off for our children.”

**N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 03:** Dem. Lucy Inman and Rep. Richard Dietz both filed Dec. 6.

**N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 05:** Republicans April Wood and Trey Allen filed for the seat on Dec. 6, so did Dem. Sam Ervin IV.

**N.C. Court of Appeals Judge - Seats 08, 09, 10, 11:** Rep. Julee Tate Flood filed for Seat 8 on Dec. 6. Republicans Beth Freshwater Smith and Donna Stroud filed for Seat 9 on Dec. 6.

Dem. Gale Murray Adams and Rep. John Tyson also filed for Seat 10 on Dec. 6; Dem. Darren

Jackson and Rep. Michael Stading filed for Seat 11 that day as well.

**N.C. Superior Court Judge District 15B Seat 1 and 2:** Dem. Alyson Grine filed for Seat 1 on Wednesday and Dem. Allen Baddour filed for Seat 2 on Tuesday.

**N.C. District Court Judge District 15B Seat 1:** No one filed for this office during the brief filing period.

**District Attorney District 18:** Dem. Kayley Taber filed Dec. 7.

## Local Contests

**Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 3:** Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Diana Hales, who is not running for reelection. Dem. Lewis Hendricks announced a bid for the seat and filed for it on Dec. 6.

**Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 4:** Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Jim Crawford, who resigned from the board due to health reasons, effective Dec. 31. On Dec. 6, two Democratic candidates filed for the seat: Albert Reddick and Katie Kenlan.

On Dec. 7, Democrat Travis Patterson also filed for the office.

**Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 5:** Currently held by Dem. Commissioner Franklin Gomez Flores, who filed for the seat Dec. 6.

**Chatham County Clerk of Superior Court:** Democratic Incumbent Dana Hackney filed for the office on Dec. 6.

**Chatham County Sheriff:** Currently held by Dem. Sheriff Mike Roberson, who filed for the office Dec. 6. Marcus Globuschutz, a probation/parole officer for the N.C. Dept. of Public Safety, has announced his intention to file for the race. He is a registered Republican.

**Board of Education Dist. 3:** Currently held by

Vice-Chairperson Del Turner, who filed on Dec. 7. She will not be on the ballot in the primary, since the Board of Education race is nonpartisan.

**Board of Education Dist. 4:** Currently held by board member Jane Allen Wilson, who filed for the seat on Dec. 8 and will also not be listed on the ballot in the primary.

**Board of Education Dist. 5:** Currently held by Chairperson Gary Leonard.

## Delayed Municipal Elections

**Town of Cary Town Council At-Large:** Ken George and Ed Yerha filed Dec. 6.

**Delayed Municipal Elections Filing (filing was scheduled for Jan. 3, 2022, noon - Jan. 7, 2022, noon, but now scheduled to take place Feb. 24-March 4)**

**Town of Siler City Mayor:** Siler City Commissioner Chip Price announced at a Dec. 6 town meeting that he would run for mayor in Siler City’s municipal election in March.

**Town of Siler City Town Commissioner At-Large:** Price has served as at-large commissioner for 10 years. If he were to win his election bid for mayor, the seat would be open.

**Town of Siler City Town Commissioner Dist. 1:** Commissioner Tony Siler announced he would not seek reelection this year, meaning the Dist. 1 seat will be open.

**Town of Siler City Town Commissioner Dist. 5:** Lewis Fadely holds the seat.

You can view the most updated state maps and see which districts you reside in at [ncleg.gov/Redistricting](http://ncleg.gov/Redistricting).

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

# Immigrant Advisory Committee creates subcommittees to tackle BIC plan

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Immigrant Community Advisory Committee created five subcommittees during its meeting last Tuesday as a part of its efforts to help the town better serve its immigrant residents.

Those subcommittees include Business and Entrepreneurship; Housing and Public Transportation; Public Safety and Law Enforcement; Parks & Recreation and Youth Mental Health; and Communications and Leadership.

The committee also heard a presentation from UNC's Hannah Gill and the Hispanic Liaison's Ilana Dubester about the history, processes and recommendations of Siler City's Building Integrated Communities (BIC) initiative, which helped the town identify practices to serve and engage with its immigrant population.

"I've been looking forward to this evening for so long," Gill told the committee at the start of her presentation. She's the associate director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas, which oversees BIC. "I want to congratulate the board, the new board mem-

bers, and express gratitude to each of you who volunteered to serve in this inaugural immigrant community advisory board," she added. "You have clearly demonstrated leadership and commitment to the community thus far, and I know that you're

going to make a fantastic team." The committee met by Zoom last Tuesday night due to Chatham's increasing COVID-19 cases; members Carlos Simpson and Victoria Navarro didn't attend.

**What is BIC, and what did it do for Siler City?**

Beginning in 2017, the town, the Hispanic Liaison and community members — including some now leading the Immigrant Advisory Committee — participated in a two- to three-year community planning project to identify immigrant residents' needs and create a plan to address them.

Under this project, known to its participants as BIC, Gill, her colleagues and other community leaders compiled existing data about Siler City's immigrant populations and held three bilingual public meetings in which 75 people of various ages and backgrounds participated. They also interviewed nine Chatham-based mental

health professionals, educators and health care providers who work with youth.

A steering committee of key community stakeholders, town staff and nonprofits then came together for over a year to compile an action plan based on the recommendations and information they'd collected.

"What's really important about the mandate that you've been given is that it comes from the community," Gill told committee members during the meeting. "It comes from more than 200 local residents, most with Latin American ancestry ... These local residents work hand in hand with town staff ... to envision a shared future with opportunities for everybody."

Finally, in February 2019, the BIC steering committee finalized a 44-item action plan with eight key strategic objectives: communication, housing, leadership, youth mental health, business & entrepreneurship, public safety & law enforcement, parks & recreation, and public transportation. The full plan can be viewed at [unc.live/3Donqpl](http://unc.live/3Donqpl).

To execute this plan, the BIC steering committee recommended the town create an immigrant advisory committee. Town personnel turnover and the COVID-19 pandemic, however, delayed its implementation until last June.

"You're the keepers of the action plan, or the shepherds

of this plan," Ilana Dubester, the Liaison's executive director, told the committee. "You're not limited — this is not the only work you'll be doing. This is not your only mission necessarily, but this provides you a template and a guide for things that have built up to this point, and that bring the voice of our community into this table and into this conversation."

**Committee priorities**

Improving communication between the town and immigrant residents, Gill said, is one of the action plan's biggest priorities; in fact, it's the first objective to appear in the plan.

"While many Siler City residents are working hard to learn English, more than half of these residents who speak Spanish reported speaking English 'less than very well,'" Gill said, adding, "so as you can imagine, actions to enhance language access through things like translation and interpreting services, better website and social media communication, can really inform residents about local services and utilities, events, job opportunities in small business development."

To improve communication, the plan recommends that the town hire a bilingual town communications specialist, create and execute a bilingual strategic communication plan and offer pay incentives for Spanish fluency, among oth-

ers. Many recommendations to improve communication, including a 5% raise for bilingual employees, have already been implemented.

Building community trust and communication with law enforcement emerged as another key objective during the committee meeting. The BIC action plan recommended that the town implement six ideas, including a pay increase for bilingual officers, a bilingual communications and disaster relief plan for Siler City as well as adoption of the Faith ID program.

Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner — along with various other town department heads — also attended the meeting, where he expressed his hope that the committee would work with him to increase recruitment from Siler City's Hispanic community.

"We have these great incentives that no one's taken advantage of," he said. " ... I will be glad to serve as a chair on that subcommittee, or whatever the case may be, to increase our Hispanic applicants here at the police department."

The committee is scheduled to meet again at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8, in Wren Memorial Library, unless COVID-19 trends again prompt it to meet virtually by Zoom.

Reporter Victoria Johnson can be reached at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).



## Who are Siler City's Immigrant Community Advisory Committee members?

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

Seven Siler City residents make up the town's Immigrant Community Advisory Committee. Here's a little bit more about who they are and what they do:

**Hannia Benitez, president**

Born in Tecun Uman, Guatemala, Hannia



**Hannia Benitez**

Benitez moved to Siler City with her mother and sister in 1998 when she was a young child. She attended Siler City Elementary, Chatham Middle and Jordan-Matthews High School, from which she graduated in 2010. Since graduation, Benitez has worked as a nursing assistant and a property manager besides serving a three-year term as president of the Hispanic Liaison's board of directors. She now manages the Liaison's Sanford office as the nonprofit's Lee County deputy director, a role she's occupied since last January.

Save for a few years in Guatemala and Sanford, she's spent most of her life in Siler City, where she now raises her three children — "but if we want to include my fur baby and my husband," she joked in November, "it's five."

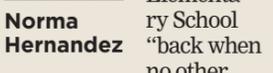
Benitez is also a DACA beneficiary.

"I'm personally invested in really giving back to the community," she said. " ... My kids go to Siler City Elementary. It's something that's dear to my heart. I really want to be able to give them a wonderful education, specifically with the dual language program. I really want them to be able to identify themselves and be proud of who they are as children of immigrants."

**Norma Hernandez, vice president**

Norma Hernandez

has lived in Siler City all her life — save for a few months in Mexico, her birth country. She attended Siler City Elementary School



**Norma Hernandez**

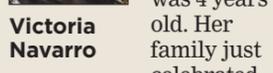
"back when no other children looked like [her]," according to her original committee application, and graduated from Jordan-Matthews in 2004.

After graduation, she attained a bachelor's degree in social work from UNC-Greensboro and worked for the school district as a parent liaison and data manager. Now, she's a social worker in Chatham County's Department of Social Services. Hernandez also manages a home renovation business with her husband.

"I've been here since before I was one, so my entire lifetime," she told the committee in November. "I call Siler City my home. My children go to school here. I work here. That's why I applied to this position also because I want that perspective, to be a voice [for Siler City's Hispanic community]."

**Victoria Navarro**

Born in Tlaxcala, Mexico, Victoria Navarro migrated to Siler City with her family in 1996 when she was 4 years old. Her family just celebrated



**Victoria Navarro**

25 years of emigrating to the U.S. last November. She, too, attended Siler City Elementary, Chatham Middle and Jordan-Matthews, from which she graduated in 2010. Thereafter, she received a scholarship to attend the University of Richmond, where she studied business administration and Latin American and Iberian studies.

"I am a DACA recipient," she told the committee. "So at the time, there weren't a lot of pathways

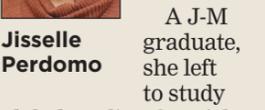
for me in higher education. However, I worked with an organization, who at the time was able to help me find a scholarship. So [I'm] one of those lucky ones — graduated from the University of Richmond in 2014, and since then, I have really kind of explored my professional career."

She returned to Siler City in 2015 and thereafter worked as a data manager for three years at Margaret Pollard Middle School. In 2019, she joined VisionPoint Marketing, a higher education-focused marketing firm in Raleigh, to help their clients reach underrepresented communities.

"While I feel fortunate to have found the connections and skills that have allowed me to feel heard in the community, I know that is not the case for many," she wrote in her original committee application. "I wish to be that voice to represent the opinions and concerns for family and friends that don't hold the same privilege as I do."

**Jisselle Perdomo**

Born in Santa Rita, Yoro, Honduras, Jisselle Perdomo first moved to Siler City in 2003 when she was 13.



**Jisselle Perdomo**

A J-M graduate, she left to study global studies, Spanish and anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill, from which she graduated in 2012. After teaching ESL at Central Carolina Community College for several years, she enrolled in North Carolina Central University's law school. She graduated in 2018.

Perdomo now works primarily as an immigration attorney at Vasquez Law Firm in Raleigh, where she's practiced for nearly four years.

"I mainly do immigration law, and a little bit of family," she told the committee. " ... At work, about 80% of my clients are Latinos, or immigrants, and are trying to find a way to

have a legal status here in the United States."

She enjoys her work, she added, because it's a way she can serve others — and that same reason inspired her to apply for Siler City's immigrant advisory committee.

"While growing up here in Siler City, I had people in my life that helped me get to where I am right now," she said, adding, "For me, it's part of giving back to the community, helping in any way I can, provide the services or improve the services that have already been established for the immigrant community. ... I'm very grateful to have been chosen, and I am confident that the work we'll do here will improve the lives of the immigrants in Siler City."

**Carlos Simpson**

Siler City resident Carlos Simpson was born



**Carlos Simpson**

in Costa Rica to Jamaican parents — though, he joked, few people believe it. "I don't look it, but I am a Latino," he told the committee with a laugh. " ... There's a small town in Costa Rica where only Black people live there, right, and in that little tiny town I was born."

He first immigrated to the U.S. about 40 years ago and spent several years bouncing around New York City. He graduated from a Brooklyn high school before leaving to attend a college in the Bronx. After two years of school, Simpson then enlisted in the military.

He served for 10 years, including during the Iraq war. Once he "came back out," he settled in Atlanta, where he soon found a job as a worker's compensation case manager, primarily for Spanish-speaking workers. In 2000, he moved to Siler City to work as a supervisor in the Townsends chicken plant.

"After the chicken plant closed, I started a

business basically doing translation, interpretation, stuff like that, and I currently still do that, but you know, for private companies," he said. "They'll just call me and send me places all over the state."

Beyond work, Simpson completed a bachelor's degree in psychology and unsuccessfully ran for several local offices, including the Siler City mayorship and a seat on the county school board.

"Then I saw this (committee) come up and I say, 'You know what? Let me give it one more try and see if anybody believes that I'm Hispanic,'" he said with a laugh. "Maybe if they hear me speak, they'll say I am Hispanic.' I thought it was a good deal to not only represent people that look Hispanic, but to let people know that also some Black people are Hispanic. So, I think that's probably what I'm doing here."

**Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez**

Born in Mexico, Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez



**Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez**

moved with her family to the U.S. in 2003, when she was nearly 10 years old. Thereafter, she was enrolled as a 4th grader at Siler City Elementary, where she learned English. She graduated from Jordan-Matthews as one of the top 10 students in her class and went on to receive her associate's degree in bioprocessing.

She now works in Chatham County Schools' Pre-K department, helping families apply for one of the district's Pre-K slots across seven schools. Like other committee members, Vazquez Rodriguez is also a DACA beneficiary and mother to a young child.

"I am DACA, too, and I know my struggles and I know that a lot of the

Hispanic families here — I don't know if they're just afraid to speak up or I don't know," she said. "I want them to be more involved in everything that's going on here, and I feel like there's not that outreach to them. That's why I applied."

**Shirley Villatoro**

Born in California, Siler City resident Shir-



**Shirley Villatoro**

ley Villatoro is the daughter of two green card holders from Guatemala. She and her family

moved to Siler City in 2001, just before she turned six.

"When I first got here, it was a struggle because at the time in California, they had bilingual schools," she told the committee. "But when I first got here, when I got to Siler City Elementary, which is straight English, I struggled learning English a lot. I was probably in the ESL program for I want to say three or four years."

After finishing elementary school, she attended Chatham Middle and graduated from Jordan-Matthews in 2013. Villatoro then spent a few years in the workforce before enrolling in UNCG, where she's double-majoring in political science and sociology.

While finishing her senior year, she's working as an office manager and legal assistant in Commissioner Lewis Fadley's Siler City law office. In her spare time, she also volunteers with Chatham County's Guardian Ad Litem program, advocating for abused and neglected children.

"I have a strong interest in immigration, and I was hoping to go to law school within the next two years, so I wanted to also not only advocate for children with the Guardian Ad Litem program, but also advocate for my community here in Siler City," Villatoro said. "I am super excited to be here."

# Siler City student chosen as a LatinxEd '20 Under 20' youth leader

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

A Chapel Hill education nonprofit organization, LatinxEd, has chosen Siler City's Kevin Manzanarez as one of 20 Hispanic youth leaders statewide to form part of its fourth "20 Under 20" youth leadership cohort.

LatinxEd received 73 applications from Hispanic youth leaders across North Carolina, according to the organization's announcement last Thursday. Just 20, including Manzanarez, made the final cut. He's the only youth leader from Chatham County in the entire cohort.

"Being chosen as Latinx 20 under 20 leader means absolutely the world to me, and now the rest of the world will be able to see what I have to offer for our community," Manzanarez, 18, told the News + Record. "Hearing the news was exciting, not only because of recognition, but as well as having the opportunity to work with other students who have similar goals and visions as I do to create change in our communities."

First launched in 2018, "20 under 20" is a yearly initiative that identifies and works to cultivate 20 young Hispanic leaders and advocates across the state.

Managed by LatinxEd, it's the only competition in North Carolina designed to elevate Latinx youth leaders. LatinxEd provides multi-year educational support to and seeks to expand educational opportunities for North Carolina's Hispanic students and immigrant families.

"A lack of representation of Latinx youth leadership has prevented strategic planning processes from being truly representative of the changing face of this state, especially when planning local and state investments and policy-making," the nonprofit wrote about the initiative on its website. "To remedy this, we seek to build a trusted network of Latinx youth leaders who are ready to take the next step in their leadership journey and join LatinxEd in advocating on behalf of the Latinx community."

The 2021 cohort selection committee sought Hispanic students and graduates who understood the barriers Hispanic immigrant families face within North Carolina's education system. Judged on valor, vision and voice, successful applicants both navigated these barriers and actively worked to expand opportunity for the state's Hispanic community through education.

"At LatinxEd, we believe that our youth are essential voices to creating positive



Submitted photo

**Kevin Manzanarez** change in our education system," LatinxEd co-founder and executive director Elaine Utin said in the organization's Thursday announcement. "The 2021 cohort represents incredible Latinx youth leadership in North Carolina, and they will be joining a powerful network of leaders eager to transform Latinx education."

A four-year veteran of the Hispanic Liaison's youth group, Orgullo Latinx Pride, Manzanarez graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School last year and now attends N.C. State, where he's majoring in agricultural education. The second oldest of seven children, he's a first-generation college student and the son of Mexican immigrants.

His experiences in high school, he said, ultimately inspired him to apply for the leadership initiative.

"I noticed that our voices wouldn't be acknowledged by

our school staff and faculty, and even if they would acknowledge us, nothing much was done to fix the problem or issue," Manzanarez said. "They would play things off as unimportant. I, for one, was tired of waiting for change that probably wasn't going to happen in our school systems, so I decided to pursue a career in education and hopefully come back to my community to advocate for these students."

His goal, he added, is to pursue a master's degree in school administration and return to Chatham County "to become one of the first Latinx principals" in the school district.

Manzanarez joins only two other Chatham County students who were chosen as 20 Under 20 leaders throughout the initiative's four-year history: Jordan-Matthews High School graduates David Gonzalez Hernandez, who now attends UNC-Greensboro, and Jacqueline Marroquin Tobar, a first year at Wake Forest University.

Both Siler City residents formed part of the 2020 cohort.

The son of immigrants from Guatemala and El Salvador, Gonzalez Hernandez formed part of the Hispanic Liaison's youth group, Orgullo Latinx Pride, with which he volunteered at various community events and initiatives.

Marroquin Tobar immigrated to Siler City from Guatemala with her family when she was 14. Thereafter, she entered

J-M, enrolled in ESL classes to learn English and created the school's first Water Bottle Recycling Project, a campaign intended to teach students about the importance of recycling and change their habits.

"It's such an honor," Marroquin Tobar told the News + Record in 2020. "... The LatinxEd '20 Under 20' is just trying to show the world what the Latinx students are doing in North Carolina ... that we are trying to give back. It's a great way to show the world, to show North Carolina, that we are doing something."

In just a few weeks, Manzanarez and his fellow leaders will begin receiving regular mentorship and attending virtual monthly workshops to develop their storytelling and leadership abilities. By the end of the spring semester, they'll have co-created a 2- to 3-minute video about their visions for promoting Hispanic student success in North Carolina.

"With the help of LatinxEd, I will be able to share my story by storytelling in hopes of advocating for my fellow peers to get the change we so wanted to see, and to make it clear that as a students of color, we shouldn't be afraid of the 'impossible,'" Manzanarez said, "because with the help and unity with others, we can very much make it possible."

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

## NEWS BRIEF

### Military exercise to be held across 25 N.C. counties

The U.S. Army will be utilizing 25 North Carolina counties for its annual Robin Sage Special Forces training exercise.

The two-week long exercise will take

place in 25 N.C. counties, including Chatham County. Other N.C. counties involved in the exercise are Alamance, Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Cabarrus, Columbus, Cumberland, Davidson, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, New Hanover, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rowan, Sampson, Scot-

land, Stanly, Union and Wake counties.

Robin Sage is a two-week long simulation for U.S. Special Forces candidates and serves as the final training exercise before soldiers can graduate from the program. The students in this training are stationed at Fort Bragg in Fayetteville.

Local law enforcement were notified of the exercise. Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner told the News + Record he received notification from the U.S. Military regarding the exercise.

"If anyone has questions, contact your local law enforcement," he said. —CN+R staff reports

## Does Your Business Have An Exit Strategy?

If you're a business owner, you've got so much to think about, and you work so hard, that it might be difficult to envision the day when you're in a different place in life. However, that day will likely arrive, so you'll want to be prepared for it, which means you'll need an exit strategy. But how do you create one?

Here are some steps that can prove helpful:

- **Start planning early.** Making a quick exit is probably not a viable strategy for most business owners. Instead, you'll want to plan far ahead for when you want to leave your business behind. This will require some thinking about the big picture: What will the company look like when you're gone? Are you essential to its survival? If not, do you want to sell it to a key employee or an outsider? Or would you prefer to keep it in the family? After you've answered these types of questions, you can then move on to consider specific solutions, such as creating a buy-sell agreement with an employee or gradually transferring the business to family members.

- **Determine how to fill a retirement income gap.** You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement – so you'll want to be sure you'll have an adequate income stream to cover all those years. You may be able to draw on Social Security and whatever retirement plan you might have established, such as an SEP-IRA or an owner-only 401(k), but these sources may still leave you short of what you'll need to live on during your retirement. However, your business will probably be your biggest asset, especially if you own some real estate connected with your operations. So, if you're planning to sell your business, how much will you need

to get for it to fill any retirement income gap you may face? Of course, it can be somewhat tricky to place a valuation on a business that may not be sold for several years, but with some research and the right forecasting tools, you should be able to develop a pretty good estimate.

- **Get professional help.** Creating and executing a business exit strategy takes time – and expertise. So, as you think about your own situation, you might want to assemble a team that includes your financial, tax and legal advisors and an expert in business valuation. This last position – business valuation professional – will obviously be particularly beneficial in estimating the value of your business for a future sale.

- **Include the next generation in your plans.** If you're planning on transferring your business to the next generation of your family, you'll certainly need to involve them in every step of the process. But even if you're going to sell the business to an outsider, or liquidate it entirely, you should keep your grown children informed of what you're doing, since they may be affected by the outcome. You also may want to include them in any meetings you have with your financial, tax and legal advisors.

Selling or transferring your business will be one of the most important financial moves you'll make – so plan ahead, get the help you need and find the exit strategy that's right for you.

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

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# OBITUARIES

## WILLIAM SILER JR.



William Siler Jr. was the oldest of fourteen children born to the late Evelyn and William "Billy" Siler of Siler City, N.C. He was born on January 2, 1940, and transcended to his heavenly home on January 11, 2022. William was educated in the Chatham County School System. He lived and worked in Peekskill, N.Y., for years, before moving back to Siler City. He owned his own lawn care business until his health declined.

He married the late Alice Faye

Foxx and to this union four children were born, Portia Moffitt (Chris) of Randleman, N.C., Melissa Abdullah (Melvin, deceased) of Kernersville, N.C., Tonya Siler of Greensboro, N.C., Kevin Siler of Siler City, N.C.; and David Alston (Sharon) of West End, N.C. He also leaves ten grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

He leaves to mourn four brothers, Jerry Siler (Natalie) of Rochester, N.Y., Sherman "Mink" Siler of Siler City, N.C., Randy Siler (Tracy) of Hampton, Virginia, Kenneth "Kent" Siler (Jen) of the Philippines. Additionally, he leaves five sisters, Patricia Newkirk (Charles) of Ramseur, N.C., Shirley Spencer (Robert, deceased) of Greensboro, N.C., Linda Price (Jimmy) of Franklinville, N.C., Emma Cheek (Waddell, deceased) of Siler City, N.C., Loretta Dale Council (James) of Durham, N.C. He is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Evelyn Price Siler; one son, William Whitaker; three sisters, Judy Siler, Evette Reives (Gary), Angel Siler Outten; and brother, Jimmy Siler.

The family received friends on Monday, January 17, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m., followed by the funeral service at 2, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home Chapel, 230 N. Second Avenue, Siler City, N.C., with Rev. Helen Glover and Rev. Victor Womack officiating. Burial was held at Gees Grove AME Zion Church Cemetery at a later date.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home assisted the Siler family.

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

## EDGAR THOMAS ROSE



Mr. Edgar Thomas Rose, 91, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Friday, January 14, 2022, at Hillcrest Convalescent Center in Durham, N.C.

Edgar was born December 10, 1930, in Durham, N.C. to the late Henry and Minnie Rose. He attended school in Durham graduating from Durham High School class of 1949. He was a veteran in the U.S. Army with a tank company in Germany during the Korean War. He was a U.S. Letter Carrier for 30 years before retiring from the U.S. Postal Service. Edgar served as an Awana leader, camp counselor and had a servant's heart by helping park cars for many years at the old Gospel Center. He had been residing at Pittsboro Christian Village since 2016 and loved the years he spent there. He had a love of baseball and putting together puzzles. He was a loving and devoted husband, a wonderful father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Edgar was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Jean, of 67 years.

Edgar is survived by his sons, Mike Rose (Vivian), Philip Rose (Donna); his daughters, Diona Overton (Steve), Joy Wilson (Tim); nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

A visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at Hudson Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held 2 p.m., Thursday, January 20, 2022, at Hudson Funeral Home Chapel with John Gordon officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions can be made to Pittsboro Christian Village, 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

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

The family is under the care of Hudson Funeral Home.

## ROBERT LEE WILLIAMS

Robert Lee Williams, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. in the Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Chapel with Matthew Place officiating. Burial followed in Cross Hill Cemetery.

He was born in Robeson County on June 24, 1949, to the late Edward and Eva Mae Allen Williams. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, Marie Cooke, Betty Clegg, Margaret Williams and Eddie Williams. Robert was retired from Pac Fab where he worked as warehouse supervisor.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Bauguess Williams; son, John Williams of Sanford; daughter, Christy Hawkinson Carrillo of Kaufman, Texas; sister, Evelyn Logan of Sanford; three grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

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

## LAWRENCE MURREACE JENNINGS

Lawrence Murreace Jennings, 42, passed away on January 12, 2022.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at the Dennis A. Weaver Civic Center, with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

## THOMAS COLEMAN DICKERSON

Thomas Coleman Dickerson, 86, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, January 10, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

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

He was born in Vance County on February 18, 1935, to the late John Thomas and Fannie Faucette Dickerson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Barbara Jean Dickerson Foushee; four sisters and two brothers. Mr. Dickerson was a self-employed acoustical tile installer.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Meeks Dickerson; son, Dale Dickerson of Elon; daughters, Mitzi Johnson, Terry Lynn Dickerson and Tonya Bourgeois, all of Sanford; brother, Tony Dickerson of Franklinton; sisters, Betty Crews and Jane Bridges, both of Franklinton; 13 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

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

## FEDERICO FERNANDEZ LOREDO

Federico Fernandez Loredó, 50, of Sanford passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## JOHN ALBERT TANNER



Dr. John Albert Tanner, PhD, 77, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, December 25, 2021, at his home in Arlington, Washington.

John was born on August 13, 1944, son of the late Catherine Maurice and Jack Tanner of Siler City, N.C. He attended Paul Braxton Elementary School, Jordan-Matthews High School, N.C. State University, George Washington University and Corbin University. John was an Engineering Manager and Research Engineer

for 33 years at NASA Langley Research Center, Virginia. He was a nationally recognized industry leader and leading expert for the Space Shuttle Orbiter Program on Shuttle brakes, tires and landing gear. After retiring from NASA, John moved to Seattle, Washington, and worked for Boeing Commercial Airplanes as an engineering research leader for 10 years.

After retiring from Boeing, John earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Corban University, Salem, Oregon. His subsequent research, spanning more than 10 years, centered on the Nativity through astronomy, archeology, ancient scientific thought, three distinct calendar systems, and scriptures. He preached and taught in eight states, plus Canada and Austria; and he authored a yet-to-be-published book, "God's Glory on Display: A Study of the Nativity through Science and Scripture." John was passionate about helping God's people recognize His sovereignty and His plans.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Maurice Tanner and brother William (Billy) Tanner.

He is survived by wife Cheri Tanner; son, Brian Tanner and wife Molly; daughters, Laura Tanner and husband Keith Taylor, Amberleigh Rodriguez and husband James, and Heather Tanner and husband Case; his sisters Carolyn Clark and husband Tom, Patty Poole and husband Russell, and Jackie Griffin and husband Bub; his sister-in-law, Maria Tanner; nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

A family remembrance was held January 2, 2022, and a Celebration of Life service will be held on a Pacific Northwest beach in the late spring or summer.

Memorials may be made through [GoshenMinistries.org](http://GoshenMinistries.org)/ donate or by mailing a contribution directly to Goshen Ministries, P.O. Box 32032, Tucson, AZ 85751.

Online condolences may be made to [jgrif20@gmail.com](mailto:jgrif20@gmail.com)

## CAROLINE BRICKER FRAZIER

Caroline Bricker Frazier, 85, of Bear Creek, passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022, at Cambridge Hills Assisted Living in Pittsboro, N.C.

Caroline was born in Frederick, Illinois, on February 23, 1936, the daughter of DeMoss Dawson and Pearl Miller Bricker. She was a member of Meroney United Methodist Church in Bear Creek. Caroline loved to go to thrift stores and see what she could find out of the ordinary. She painted beautiful pictures, and loved spending time in her garden and crocheting. In addition to her parents, Caroline was preceded in death by her husband, William Garland Frazier; sister, Pauline Hopkins; and brothers, Floyd, Harold, and Dale Bricker.

Caroline is survived by her siblings, Eileen Feltus of Minnesota, Virginia Clegg of Arkansas; several nieces and nephews; and special friend, Christine Beal and husband Greg.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at Meroney United Methodist Church Cemetery, 10568 NC Hwy 902, Bear Creek, N.C. 27207 with Rev. Linda Yow officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Frazier family.

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

## PATRICIA DAVIDSON PHILLIPS

Patricia Kay Davidson Phillips, 65, of Sanford, died Sunday, January 9, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services will be held at a later date.

She was born on April 5, 1956, daughter of the late William Davidson and Bessie Barger Lytle. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Scott Maxie. Surviving is her husband, Steven Phillips of the home; daughter, Monica Martin of Sanford; sons, Justin Monroe of Jacksonville, Florida and Jason Monroe of Seymour, Indiana; sisters, Netha Cox of Sanford, Stacie Quillen and Christine Sheffield, both of Crothersville, Indiana; brother, Mark Hensley of Florida; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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

## JAMES JEFFREY BEAL

James Jeffrey Beal, 58, of Sanford, died Saturday, January 8, 2022, unexpectedly.

A visitation service will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022, from 3 to 4 p.m. with a memorial service following at 4 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Robert Thomas presiding.

He was born in Quantico, Va. on December 4, 1963 to the late Roger E. Beal and Linda Faye Wood Beal.

Jeff is survived by his daughter, Jamie Lynn Beal of Port Richey, Fla.; and his siblings.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

## DEANA MICHELLE 'MISSY' BROWN BOCKES

Deana Michelle "Missy" Brown Bockes, 48, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, January 5, 2022, at her home.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 14, 2022, at Putnam Friends Church with Rev. Daniel Downing and Rev. Tim Cole presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Hannibal, Missouri, on July 4, 1973, to Cheryl Hill and Daniel Ray Brown. Missy was employed by Caterpillar.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her children, Erika Emmons of Bennett, Garth Stowe of Asheboro; Riley Bockes of the home; sisters, Danita Hodge and Stacy Earnhardt, both of Lexington; brothers, Scott Brown of Thomasville, Eric Brown of Lexington; and three grandchildren.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to Haven in Lee County, 215 Bracken St., Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

## WILLIAM MICHAEL KEANE

William Michael Keane, 89, of Chapel Hill passed away on January 11, 2022.

Arrangements by the Cremation Society of the Carolinas.

## ANNIE KATHERINE ALSTON NETTLES

Annie Katherine Alston Nettles, 74 of Pittsboro, passed away on Friday, January 14, 2022, at WakeMed-Raleigh Hospital in Raleigh.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## CHRISTOPHER SCOTT PREVATTE

Christopher Scott Prevatte, 53, of Broadway, passed away Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at home.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Swann Station Baptist Church with Rev. Russell Blackmon officiating.

He worked for Martin Marietta for 32 years.

Survivors include his wife, Vickie Prevatte of the home; his mother, Mary Bogan of Cameron; sons, Hunter Prevatte of Sanford and Brandon Prevatte of Chapel Hill; brother, Mike Prevatte of Cameron; sisters, Jennifer Butler of Cameron and Grace Furr of Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Arrangements are with Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

## DAVID 'DAVE' CASTRO

David "Dave" Castro 64, formerly of Ta'lo'fo'fo, Guam, residing in Sanford, passed away January 7, 2022.

The funeral service was held on Monday, January 17, 2020, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Deacon Bob Bridwell officiating.

Dave was preceded in death by his wife, Velma Bullard Castro; parents, Juan Bernardo and Rita Tudela Castro; brothers, John T. Castro, Anthony T. Castro; and sisters, Joan C. Perez, and Ellen C. Camacho.

Survivors include a son, David Michael Castro; daughter, Deanna Rodeo; and several grandchildren.

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

## MARIAN GAIL MASHBURN JOHNSON

Marian Gail Mashburn Johnson, 75, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, January 17, 2022, at SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House in Pittsboro.

She was born in Carabonton on June 20, 1946, to the late Archie and Rena Mae Purvis Mashburn. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, Donnie Mashburn. Gail retired from Pfizer after 20 years of service.

Survivors include her husband, Roger; son, Devin McCann of Chapel Hill; daughter, Lisa McCann Diekhoff of Sanford; step-sons, Randy Johnson and Jeff Johnson, both of Sanford; step-daughter, Rhonda Johnson of Sanford; brothers, Roger Mashburn of Bear Creek and Wayne Mashburn of Carthage; sister, Thelma Thomas of Olivia; four grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to Lending Paws a Hand, P.O. Box 765, Sanford, N.C. 27330 and/or Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, N.C. 28607 and/or SECU Jim & Betsy Bryan Hospice House, 100 Roundtree Way, Pittsboro, N.C.

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

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

## HATTIE MAE (EDWARDS) MOORE

Hattie Mae Moore, 79, of Carrboro, passed away on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at her residence.

Graveside service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Haw River Missionary Baptist Church, with burial following in the church cemetery.

## MARCIA ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

Ms. Marcia Elizabeth Williams, 82, of Durham, passed away Tuesday, January 04, 2022, at Duke Regional Hospital.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 15, 2022 at Mt. Zion Baptist Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

## LARRY MARSHALL MCAULEY

Larry Marshall McAuley, 54 of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at Moore Regional Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A10

# CCPHD introduces new COVID-19 information tool as virus trends continue to rise

## Testing still available across the county

From Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — Last week, more than 4,000 North Carolinians were hospitalized with COVID-19 for the first time in the nearly two years of the pandemic. Additionally, more than 44,000 positive tests were reported on last Thursday, a new record for the state.

These rising numbers, driven by the very contagious spread of the Omicron variant, heighten the importance of all Chatham County residents doing what they can to limit the spread and protect themselves and others: get vaccinated and boosted, wear a mask in crowded indoor public spaces, practice social distancing, and get tested if you do not feel well or are exposed to COVID-19.

If residents have recently been exposed to COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms, there are many testing sites across Chatham County where they can be tested. A full Chatham-specific list can be found at [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavi-rustesting](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavi-rustesting).

“More than one in five COVID-19 tests in Chatham County is coming back positive,” said Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek. “Testing options are available in Chatham, but with the rise in cases results may take longer than usual to get back. Consider asking for a rapid test to get more timely results.”

This week, the Chatham County Public Health Department published a new resource: the COVID-19 Facts FAQ. This online tool covers questions that CCPHD staff have heard many times throughout the pandemic, like:

- Why should I wear a mask if I have been vaccinated?
- Why does guidance from the CDC and other public health organizations change so much?
- How many deaths have been caused by the vaccine?
- Can't we trust our natural immunity to protect us, especially if we've already had COVID-19?

“We've received a lot of questions over the last two years, and we do our best to address these as honestly as possible while acknowledging the concerns many have,” added Zelek. “With this tool, we hope to respond to these questions with a straightforward answer while also providing background and further resources for those interested.”

Chatham residents are encouraged to check out the resource at [www.chathamcountync.gov/covidfacts](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/covidfacts). If there are any questions that the FAQ doesn't answer, residents can send them to [zachary.horner@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:zachary.horner@chathamcountync.gov) and the CCPHD will respond.

To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and find other resources, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine). To find a COVID-19 vaccine location, visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov). To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit [www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth) or [www.facebook.com/chathamhealth](http://www.facebook.com/chathamhealth).

## OBITUARIES

Continued from page A9

### PRINCE RICHMOND SWANN

Mr. Prince Richmond Swann, 83, passed away on January 9, 2022. Graveside service was held at 11 a.m., January 18, 2022, at Love Grove AME Zion Church.

### RAYNE NICOLE BRANNON-WILLIAMS

Rayne Nicole Brannon-Williams, 21, of Cameron passed away on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

### DAVID SANDERS

David Sanders, 51, of Sanford passed away on Friday, January 16, 2022, at his home.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

### RUBY MCGEHEE POUKKA

Ruby McGehee Poukka, 83, of Sanford, died Friday, January 14, 2022, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

She was the daughter of Luther Byron and Betty Lee Carter McGehee. She was preceded in death by her parents, a daughter, Sandra McKay and her eleven brothers and sisters.

Surviving is her husband of 46 years, Dennis Duane Poukka of the home; daughters, Kathy Lynn Johnson and Belinda Thomas of Sanford; son, James Edward Johnson of Charlotte; twelve grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be made in memory of Ruby to CARA - Carolina Animal Rescue or to the Lee County Animal Shelter.

Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com). Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

### DENNIS DUANE POUKKA

Dennis Duane Poukka, 73, of Sanford, died Saturday, January 15, 2022 at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

He was born on August 16, 1948, son of the late Vernon and Judy Poukka. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and his wife of 46 years, Ruby McGehee Poukka. Dennis was a Veteran of the United States Army.

Surviving is his daughter, Amy Poukka of New Mexico; step-daughters, Kathy Lynn Johnson and Belinda Thomas of Sanford; step-son, James Edward Johnson of Charlotte; twelve grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorials be made in memory of Dennis to CARA - Carolina Animal Rescue or to the Lee County Animal Shelter.

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

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

### LAURA DESOTO SPENCE

Laura Desoto Spence, 71, of Broadway, died Thursday, January 13, 2022, at her home.

The family greeted friends in the chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, from 6 to 8 p.m. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

She was born in Fresno, California, on May 29, 1950, to the late Able James Desoto and Esther Simbol Woods.

Surviving relatives include her son, Travis Spence of Broadway, daughter, Tammie Lynn Spence of Broadway; brother, Jayme David Desoto of Texas; four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

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

Arrangements are with Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

## CALENDAR

Continued from page A2

season. Volunteer coaches are the backbone to a successful program as they donate their time and knowledge to teach our young participants the values of teamwork, dedication, sportsmanship, and fundamental skills in each sport. Anyone interested in coaching, please contact Siler City Parks and Recreation at (919) 742-2699 or email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org). All volunteer coaches must submit an application for consideration. For more information, please contact Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at (919) 742-2699, email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org), or visit the Town Website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org).

• **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. St., 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](http://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](http://www.chathamCBA.com).

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

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

of Chatham Mill, Pittsboro.

**Scout News**

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

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

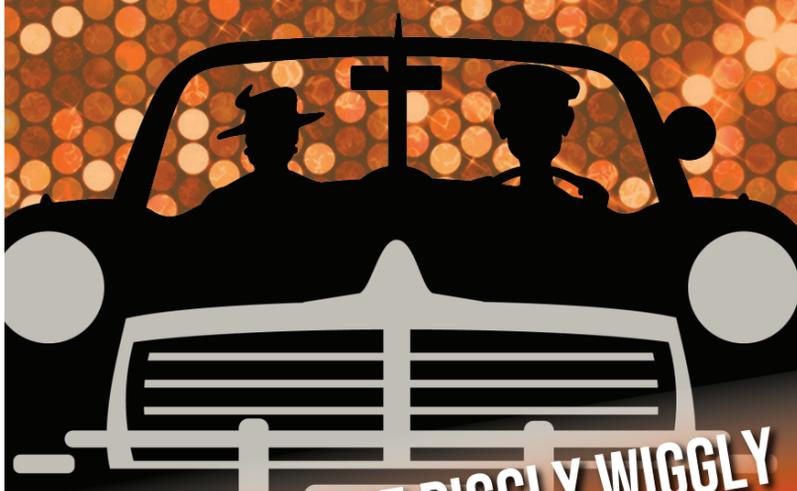
• **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.



## TEMPLE THEATRE

# Driving Miss Daisy

JANUARY 13-23, 2022



TAKE ME TO THE PIGGLY WIGGLY

919.774.4155  
TEMPLESHOWS.ORG



## Martin Allen (Marty) Loflin

October 3, 1975 - January 19, 2010

Missing you everyday!

Love you Always!

Daddy, Mama and Matt Loflin  
(Ennis, Becky and Matt Loflin)

# PLACE YOUR AD HERE FOR \$5 PER WEEK. CALL 919-663-3232

Up to 25 words — additional words 20¢ each

**PLUS: Your ad is posted on [chathamnewsrecord.com](http://chathamnewsrecord.com) for FREE!**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LEARN ABOUT LAND** - Chatham Land Experts - [www.learn-aboutland.com](http://www.learn-aboutland.com) - 919-362-6999. Jy2,tfnc

**FOR SALE BY OWNER** - 805 N Glenn Ave. Siler City NC. 2066 sq ft 3 bedroom, 2 bath home on approximately 1/2 acre lot. Awesome sunroom and large back deck. Hardwood floors. Great family neighborhood. Contact us to set up your viewing at 954-261-6181 or 336-816-1427, jn20,27,F3,3tp

## OFFICE SPACE RENT

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

## 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 Opportunity. A2,tfnc

## FOR SALE

**TV ANTENNA SALE** - Come by MacPage Communications at 102 West Third Avenue, Siler City. 919-227-6698. D30,tfnc

## AUCTIONEERS

**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, J6,tfnc

**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](http://www.JerryHarrisAuction.com), 919-498-4077, J6,tfnc

## SERVICES

**RAINBOW WATER FILTERED VACUUMS**, Alice Cox, Cox's Distributing - Rainbow - Cell: 919-548-4314, Sales, Services, Supplies. Serving public for 35 years. Rada Cutlery also available. Au26,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

**I PAY IN CASH** for junk cars and trucks. Prompt courteous service. Call 910-464-5434 or cell, 610-639-5614. God Bless! J20,1tc

**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. O21,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



## Town of Siler City POLICE MAJOR OF OPERATIONS

Performs complex protective service and administrative work, conducts internal investigations, assists with preparing budgets and reports, assists with departmental long-range planning, oversees policy compliance and risk management, oversees accreditation process, coordinates sworn personnel training and ensures all personnel are current in required certifications to meet the criteria for position held, supervises Telecommunications Supervisor and Police Property and Evidence Specialist, handles citizen's complaints, promotes community policing, serves the public with dignity and respect.

### Required Education and Experience Qualifications:

Graduation from a community college with an Associate degree in criminal justice or related field and extensive experience in law enforcement. Current certification through a Training and Standards program (transfers from other agencies or out-of-state must meet NC Training and Standards' criteria for a Police Department). Extensive experience in Patrol and Investigations. Minimum five years supervisory experience at the Command level. Successful completion of advanced leadership coursework from accredited institutions in developmental leadership, ethics, and administration. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license or the ability to obtain.

### Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in public administration, criminal justice, or related field discipline in public safety; extensive experience in law enforcement; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Graduation from a command course such as the FBI National Academy or Administrative Officers Course from Southern Police Institute. Possession of DCI I certification upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish.

### Additional Employment Requirements:

Must obtain DCI I certification within six months of hire and maintain certification without a lapse during the course of employment.

**Annual Hiring Salary \$66,491**

Please refer to our website for full job descriptions.

### To Apply:

This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required for consideration. The application may be found on our website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org) or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to [dritter@silercity.org](mailto:dritter@silercity.org). Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE.

The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status.

The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts.

The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or [nhannah@silercity.org](mailto:nhannah@silercity.org) for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al [nhannah@silercity.org](mailto:nhannah@silercity.org) o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.



**Career Opportunities Available**

Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.

## Join the News + Record's Team

# HELP WANTED

## Delivery Drivers

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

Please email resume and references to Jason Justice at [jjustice@chathamnr.com](mailto:jjustice@chathamnr.com)

# Chatham News + Record

EOE

## HELP WANTED

Chatham Monument Co. has an opening for a monument installer. Work involves working in Siler City and surrounding area installing monuments as part of a 3-person team.

**Apply in Person, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. 227 N. 2nd Ave. Siler City, NC 27344**

## PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up. 400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5410 TDD 1-800-735-2962 Email: [pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com) EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

## HIRING CNA's

### 2ND & 3RD SHIFT

CALL: 919-542-3151 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview. Pittsboro Christian Village 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

**LEGALS**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 HAVING QUALIFIED as Administrator CTA of the Estate of **MARGIE BRAY PHILLIPS**, 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 31st day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 21st day of December, 2021.

Amanda Oldham, Administrator CTA of The Estate of Margie Bray Phillips  
 1624 Siler City-Glen-don Road  
 Siler City, North Carolina 27344  
**MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE**  
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
 BOX 1806  
 PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312  
 (919) 542-5605  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E732**  
 All persons having claims against **BETTY MITCHELL JOHNSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 21st day of December, 2021.

Rodney V. Goldston, Administrator  
 2503 Fernwood Dr  
 Greensboro, NC 27408  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E494**  
 All persons having claims against **ALCA F. OLDHAM**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 30th day of December, 2021.

Jeffrey Berry Oldham, Executor  
 1328 Henry Oldham Rd  
 Bear Creek, N.C. 27207  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 750**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **JOSEPH EARL THOMAS**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 229 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 30th day of March, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This 22nd day of December, 2021.

Joseph Edward Thomas  
 229 Hillsboro Street  
 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312

**GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC**  
 P. O. Box 880  
 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E715**

All persons having claims against **STANLEY REICHARD THOMAS SR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 30th day of December, 2021.

**LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION**

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & 10% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

WE INSTALL YEAR-ROUND!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

Promo Code: 285

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

1-877-649-1190

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

Jeffrey E. Manor, Executor  
 840 Polks Landing Rd.  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

The undersigned having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **ROBERT JAMES BELL**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina hereby notifies all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate to present such claims to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 30th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in the bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment. This the 30th day of December, 2021.

Suzanne A. Bell, Personal Representative  
 5835 Pittsboro Rd  
 Henderson, NC 27537  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E364**

All persons having claims against **JACQUELINE BOWEN BEZA**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of March, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 30th day of December, 2021.

LISA DYMENT, Executrix  
 275 Seven Island Road  
 Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 D30,J6,J13,J20,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E737**

All persons having claims against **ROBERT H. CHASE, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of January, 2022.

Anne Catherine Chase, Executrix  
 42 Beverly Dr  
 Durham, NC 27707  
 J6,J13,J20,J27,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E713**

All persons having claims against **MELVIN TOTTEN aka MELVIN LEE TOTTEN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 6th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 6th day of January, 2022.

Sabrina Person, Administrator  
 401 East 4th Street  
 Siler City, NC 27344  
 J6,J13,J20,J27,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21E742**

All persons having claims against **THOMAS BABER CALLAHAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of January, 2022.

RODGER W. HAMRICK, Executor  
 2191 Bonlee Bennett Rd  
 Siler City, NC. 27344  
 J13,J20,J27,F3.4tp

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Special Proceedings No. 20 SP 127**

Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass  
 Date of Sale: **January 25, 2022**  
 Time of Sale: **3:00 p.m.**  
 Place of Sale: **Chatham County Courthouse**  
 Description of Property: See Attached Description  
 Record Owners: Heirs of Ricky

T. Beck  
 Address of Property: 18831 NC 902 Hwy, Bear Creek, NC 27207  
 Deed of Trust: - Book : 01783  
 Page: 0212 and modified by that Corrective Affidavit in Book 1801, Page 887  
 Dated: February 12, 2015  
 Grantors: Ricky T. Beck  
 Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union  
 CONDITIONS OF SALE: Should the property be purchased by a third party, that person must pay the tax of Forty-five Cents (45¢) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1).

This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. Dated: 12/28/21

Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee  
 Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.  
 Posted on 12/28/21  
 Exhibit A - Lying and being in Bear Creek Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake in the edge of the field, a new corner Earl Beck's Southwest corner of this lot; thence North 5 deg. East 19 poles and 9 links to the center of Highway #902; thence with the center of said Highway North 83 deg. East 14 poles and 6 links to a point in the center of said Highway; thence South 5 deg. West 20 poles to a stake with a pine pointer; thence South 85 deg. West 14 poles and 6 links to the BEGINNING, containing 1.72 acres, more or less.

PIN: 8666-00-65-5935  
 Property Address: 18831 NC 902 Highway, Bear Creek, NC 2720  
 J13,J20,2tc

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

Special Proceedings No. 20 SP 105  
 Substitute Trustee: Philip A. Glass  
 Date of Sale: January 25, 2022  
 Time of Sale: 3:00 p.m.  
 Place of Sale: Chatham County Courthouse  
 Description of Property: See Attached Description  
 PIN: 8772-00-91-5156  
 Property Address: 1299 Stage Coach Rd. Siler City, NC 27344  
 Record Owners: Robey Lee Burke and Melissa M. Burke  
 Address of Property: 1299 Stage Coach Road, Siler City, NC 27344  
 Deed of Trust: Book : 01546, Page: 0312, Dated: December 17, 2010

Grantors: Robey Lee Burke and Melissa M. Burke  
 Original Beneficiary: State Employees' Credit Union  
 CONDITIONS OF SALE: Should the property be purchased by a third party, that person must pay the tax of Forty-five Cents (45¢) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) required by N.C.G.S. §7A-308(a)(1). This sale is made subject to all unpaid taxes and superior liens or encumbrances of record and assessments, if any, against the said property, and any recorded leases. This sale is also subject to any applicable county land transfer tax, and the successful third party bidder shall be required to make payment for any such county land transfer tax. A cash deposit of 5% of the purchase price will be required at the time of the sale. Any successful bidder shall be required to tender the full balance of the purchase price so bid in cash or certified check at the time the Substitute Trustee tenders to him a deed for the property or attempts to tender such deed, and should said successful bidder fail to pay the full balance purchase price so bid at that time, he shall remain liable on his bid as provided for in North Carolina General Statutes Section 45-21.30 (d) and (e). This sale will be held open ten (10) days for upset bids as required by law.

Residential real property with less than 15 rental units, including single-family residential real property: an order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement by providing written notice of termination to the landlord, to be effective on a date stated in the notice that is at least 10 days, but not more than 90 days, after the sale date contained in the notice of sale, provided that the mortgagor has not cured the default at the time the tenant provides the notice of termination. Upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. Dated: 12/28/21

Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee  
 Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.  
 Posted on 12/28/21  
 Exhibit A - Lying and being in Bear Creek Township, Chatham County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows: BEGINNING at a stake in the edge of the field, a new corner Earl Beck's Southwest corner of this lot; thence North 5 deg. East 19 poles and 9 links to the center of Highway #902; thence with the center of said Highway North 83 deg. East 14 poles and 6 links to a point in the center of said Highway; thence South 5 deg. West 20 poles to a stake with a pine pointer; thence South 85 deg. West 14 poles and 6 links to the BEGINNING, containing 1.72 acres, more or less.

Dated: 12/28/21  
 Philip A. Glass, Substitute Trustee  
 Nodell, Glass & Haskell, L.L.P.  
 Posted on 12/28/21  
 EXHIBIT A - BEING ALL THAT 5,000 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS DESCRIBED ON A PLAT ENTITLED "PROPERTY OF DANIEL A. EVERWINE AND WIFE, BLANCHE G. EVERWINE", DATED NOVEMBER 22, 1983, PREPARED BY VAN R. FINCH LAND SURVEYORS AND RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 37, PAGE 30, CHATHAM COUNTY REGISTRY, TO WHICH PLAT REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE FOR GREATER CERTAINTY OF DESCRIPTION.  
 PIN: 8772-00-91-5156  
 Property Address: 1299 Stage Coach Rd. Siler City, NC 27344  
 J13,J20,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 10**

All persons having claims against **MARJORIE STAMM REMICK**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of January, 2022.

LYNN WEBSTER, Executrix  
 467 Chatham Drive  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
 J13,J20,J27,F3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 748**

All persons having claims against **PATRICIA ANNE WILL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of January, 2022.

Theodore J. Will, Administrator CTA  
 38 Henrys Hill Lane  
 Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 J13,J20,J27,F3,4tp

**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.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 16**

All persons having claims against **CLIFFORD BRYCE HOLT AKA C. BRYCE HOLT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 13th day of January, 2022.

George Michael Holt, Co-Executor  
 1508 Old Coleridge Rd  
 Siler City, NC 27344  
 Bobby T. McDaniel, Co-Executor  
 20 Shetland Rd  
 Rougemont, NC 27572  
 J13,J20,J27,F3,4tp

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO**

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearing on Monday, January 24th, 2022 at 7:00 o'clock via Zoom to con-

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6208-0721

sider the following items:  
**1. Proposed Rezoning:** 45 The Whites Way (REZ-2021-07) Rezoning request for parcel 67905, totaling 5.61 acres, located along US 64 Business East just past the intersection with Chatham Parkway, to change from R-A (Residential Agricultural) to M1-CZ (Light Industrial Conditional Zoning). The purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendment may be made following the public hearing. The meeting will be held via Zoom, a teleconference software. The Zoom link can be found on the Town's website under Agendas & Minutes, then by selecting the Meeting Materials for the January 24th meeting. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov by 4 p.m. on January 24th, 2022.

J13,J20,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **GEORGE R. RAMSTAD**, late of Chatham County, the undersigned, Paul B. Ramstad, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corpo-

rations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to Wayne R. Hadler, Attorney for the Estate of George R. Ramstad, Beemer, Hadler, Willett & Lin, P.A. 1829 E. Franklin Street, Suite 800-B, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, on or before April 30, 2022, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the estate are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor. This the 13th day of January, 2022.

Paul B. Ramstad, Executor of the Estate of George R. Ramstad  
 Wayne R. Hadler, Esq.  
 Beemer, Hadler, Willett & Lin, P.A.  
 1829 E. Franklin Street, Suite 800-B  
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514  
 (919) 929-0391

J13,J20,J27,F3,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **HUGH C. FRIEL** a/k/a Hugh Charles Friel, late of Chatham County, the undersigned, Nancy Elizabeth Friel Hornik, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to Jenna T. Hornik, Attorney for the Estate of Hugh C. Friel a/k/a Hugh Charles Friel, Beemer, Hadler, Willett & Lin, P.A. 1829 E. Franklin Street, Suite 800-B, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514, on or before April 30, 2022, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors

of the estate are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor. This the 13th day of January, 2022  
 Nancy Elizabeth Friel Hornik, Executrix of the Estate of Hugh C. Friel a/k/a Hugh Charles Friel  
 Jenna T. Hornik, Esq.  
 Beemer, Hadler, Willett & Lin, P.A.  
 1829 E. Franklin Street, Suite 800-B  
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514  
 (919) 929-0391

J13,J20,J27,F3,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY File No. 21 E 703**  
 Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **MARGARETTE ANN DANSBY**, late of Chapel Hill, Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Davis Humbert Law, Attorneys for the Estate, 200 West Center Street, Mebane, NC 27302, on or before the 20th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 20th day of January, 2022.  
 Curtis Dansby, Administrator of the Estate of Margarette Ann Dansby

Davis Humbert Law, Attorneys for the Estate  
 200 West Center Street  
 Mebane, NC 27302  
 J20,J27,F3,F10,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 18**  
 All persons having claims against **GENE AUTRY HEADEN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 13th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 20th day of January, 2022.  
 Tammy Mauldin, Executrix  
 409 Major Lee Rd  
 Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 J20,J27,F3,F10,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **STANLEY IVAN CHEREN**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 20th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate

will please make immediate payment.  
 This 20th day of January, 2022.  
**BARBEL BESSEYRE, EXECUTRIX**  
 ESTATE OF STANLEY IVAN CHEREN  
 Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC  
 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
 J20,J27,F3,F10,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **KIMBERLY WEHNER CAMPBELL**, deceased of Chatham County, N.C. are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. This the 20th day of January, 2022.  
 Lonnie Allan Campbell, Administrator  
 c/o The Walls Law Group  
 5511 Capital Center Dr., Ste 180  
 Raleigh, NC 27606.  
 J20,J27,F3,F10,4tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE LEASE OF COUNTY PROPERTY**  
 The Board of Commissioners of Chatham County intends to enter into a lease agreement for the following County-owned property: **STATE EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION** installed a kiosk Automatic Teller Machine ("ATM") at the location in the Chatham County Annex campus shown on Exhibit A under a prior License

J20,1tc

# Home-school recess returns to Paul Braxton Gym

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
 News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — It'll soon be time for recess at Paul Braxton Gymnasium in Siler City, with the town's Parks and Recreation department bringing back its Home-school Recess program starting Feb. 3.

Home-school families will be able to utilize the historic Paul Braxton Gym from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday mornings at no charge so kids can have their own "recess" period — with the supervision of their caretakers — during their home-school days.

Some activities provided include basketball, frisbee throwing, a giant parachute and more. Families are also encouraged to bring whatever games or equipment they want to use from home, according to Parks and Recreation Administrative Support Specialist Daniel Spivey.

Spivey helped put together

the original home-school recess program in early 2019 when parents approached his department with a request for indoor space in the colder months.

"We had some families contacting us, expressing the need for an indoor location during the winter months that families that home-school their children to be able to come and cut loose, play and have some fun," Spivey said.

Spivey said the first winter of home-school recess was a success, and parents were excited to return the next year. But the COVID-19 pandemic forced the department to stop all of its programs and offerings — including Home-school Recess.

As the virus has continued to spread, several families have opted to take their children out of public school and put them in home-school programs. According to the 2020 U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey,

the amount of households home-schooling their children more than doubled from 5.4% to 11.1% in the 2020-2021 school year.

Because of this increase in home-schooled households, Spivey said the recess period for them needed to make a return once it was safe enough to do so.

"It provides a great way for these families to connect with one another because they have something in common — they are home-schooling their children," he said.

The home-school recess program is free of charge for families to bring their children to "cut loose and have fun," according to Spivey. The only requirements to be able to participate is to sign in upon arrival and to wear a face mask at all times in the gym, per Siler City town facilities' mask mandate.

Spivey said one of the major reasons for having the

recess program is to allow for home-schooled children to have a space to connect with one another and have a space to play and socialize with each other.

"Socialization is one of the key components of this program because it brings them into a space where they are also getting to meet other people," he said. "It definitely provides exercise and promotes health and wellness in our community and in these families."

For Spivey, he still remembers playing in the jungle gym with his friends, connecting with them over a game of basketball or running around on the playground playing a game of tag. The home-school recess program will allow these home-school children to have the same heartwarming memories of recess and interacting with their friends.

"One of the best parts of the school day was always hearing

the bell and getting to know that I am about to head out to the playground or play in the gym with my friends," he said. "That was one of the best parts of my school day, and knowing that these kids are going to be able to grow up and remember coming to Paul Braxton Gym and cutting loose and having fun with friends or meeting new people, that's what this is all about."

The first home-school recess session will take place from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Feb. 3, at Paul Braxton Gym, located at 115 S. 3rd Ave. in downtown Siler City. You can find more information on the Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.silercity.org/parks-recreation> or by emailing the department at [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org).

Reporter Taylor Heeden can be reached at [theeden@chathamnr.com](mailto:theeden@chathamnr.com).

# Superintendent Jackson reflects on first six months, moving forward, at BOE retreat

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
 News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — In addition to extending universal masking and approving two COVID-related funds last week, the CCS Board of Education also discussed Superintendent Anthony Jackson's first six months on the job, the development of the district's next strategic plan and staffing shortages at the system's schools.

Jackson, former superintendent from

Vance County Schools in Henderson, was selected as CCS's permanent superintendent in May — six months after former superintendent Derrick Jordan announced his departure to the Department of Public Instruction after 12 years in Chatham. He was replaced by Randy Bridges, a long-time educator and superintendent, who was hired to serve in an interim role until the board found a permanent superintendent. Jackson began July 6

— starting as superintendent ahead of the third school year impacted by the pandemic, and the first in which students would attend in-person class five days a week.

"I so look forward to today. I know with everything going on it sometimes gets very hairy around what we do, but I've been here six months and I know it feels longer — some days it feels longer to me, some days it feels shorter," Jackson told the board at its mid-year retreat last

Tuesday. "Today is really that opportunity for us to begin to talk about who we are and why we do what we do, but more, how we build a relationship between me and you. ... We can't do good work unless we're comfortable with one another."

The meeting began with a nearly four-hour executive leadership training for board members and Jackson, led by Larry Coble, the managing associate of On Track Press Inc. Among many things, the training included discussion and individual reflections on powerful learning experiences, understanding Myers-Briggs personality types and identifying and understanding basic motivating drives. (Fun fact: four of the board members are introverts, though the identities of those four were not revealed at the meeting. Jackson is an extrovert.)

The board then heard an "entry report" from Jackson regarding his first six months on the job. He discussed feedback he heard from the community during his listening and learning tour, areas of focus for the district moving forward and plans for the district's strategic planning process.

During the 2015-2016 school year, Chatham County Schools developed the current Strategic Plan called Flight Plan 2020. Last year, the board of education approved the extension of the plan for one year. That process for the



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. He began the role July 6.**

new plan, "One Chatham," started this month with the BOE retreat and is expected to be completed prior to the 2022-23 school year.

The full cost of the strategic planning process is unknown at this time, the district said, but the process usually utilizes local professional development, with the district funding any expenses needed to support activities.

"This is an ambitious timeline," the meeting agenda item said, "but we would like to align this process with the accreditation process that will take place that year as well."

Moving forward, Jackson said the district will emphasize: better communication between district and its stakeholders, prioritizing student health and safety, improving school equity, articulating a clear school vision and aligning opportunities with access and resources as the school system grows.

Jackson also discussed the challenges CCS is facing regarding staffing shortages. In 2021-22, 187 employees resigned and 35 retired, up from 123 and 25 in 2020-21, respectively, according to district data. This year, there are 88 vacancies, as of the January presentation, including 23 instruction assistants, 12 elementary teachers and 11 school nutrition assistants, among others. The district has approved recruitment and retention bonuses using COVID-relief funds, but even with extra COVID-19 funding, finding new employees 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 emphasized such factors. At last week's retreat, Jackson stressed that neighboring districts were all competing for the same employees, some of whom are leaving education all together for better pay and benefits.

"COVID has changed us, but have we changed? That becomes the real question," he said. "We will have to come to terms with whether we are trying to maintain a pre-COVID school system."

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

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# REFLECT

Continued from page A1

about in schools as an important and beloved civil rights hero. Indeed, King's modern approval rating is above 90%, and the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday included tributes to King from most organizations and public officials. But in 1968, the year King was killed, a Harris poll found that 75% of Americans disapproved of his views and advocacy — up from 50% in 1963.

Many advocates and historians attribute that faltering public approval to King's pursuit of more expansive and aggressive socioeconomic and political policies in the last years of his life. Such work, advocates and King's family say, is often not included in public tributes and school lessons.

"We must study him beyond the end of 'I Have a Dream,'" said Bernice King, King's daughter and the CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center, on Twitter Monday. "And that's taken out of context, too."

This year, MLK Day came after Republican legislators across the country introduced, and sometimes passed, legislation last year to limit the use of critical race theory in schools. CRT is an academic concept more than 40 years old

that has been widely criticized and incorrectly or vaguely defined by some vocal conservatives. A core tenet of the concept is that racism, though a social construct, is embedded in legal systems and policies — including America's.

In North Carolina, Republican lawmakers passed a bill ultimately vetoed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper that would've limited how teachers could discuss race and history in the classroom. As was the case in many other states, CRT was not explicitly mentioned in the N.C. bill, but included in discussions by lawmakers.

The introduction of the bill followed a larger statewide debate on how to teach history, including the passage of new social study standards last year and Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson's creation of a task force in March to collect complaints from parents, students and teachers in public schools statewide about classroom "indoctrination" — including "pseudo-science social justice initiatives like the '1619 Project' and 'Critical Race Theory,'" which Robinson said teach people that "the systems of our Republic and the history of our great American experiment are shameful."

The 1619 Project, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones as an ongoing initiative from The New

York Times, explored the legacy and history of Black Americans and slavery and won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Commentary. The project marked the 400th anniversary of the beginning of American slavery. Many historians and educators have crafted lessons and curriculum to teach about 1619 since the project's August 2020 publication — a move many Republicans have opposed.

King himself frequently mentioned the year 1619 as a pivotal moment in American history; his "I Have a Dream" speech during the historic march for jobs and freedom at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963 was all about the continuation of racism in the United States beyond the end of slavery.

On Monday, several state Republicans who'd previously supported anti-1619 bills wrote tributes to King. This included U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, who co-sponsored a bill last summer to prohibit elementary and secondary schools nationwide from using federal funds to teach the 1619 project, and representatives Ted Budd and Dan Bishop, who co-sponsored a companion bill introduced in the U.S. House.

Some on social media criticized the lawmakers and urged them to honor King by protecting voting rights; they also called attention to the state's contested political maps and

attempt to change how schools teach history.

On Monday, N.C. Superintendent Catherine Truitt also posted a tribute to King on Twitter that received backlash from some educators.

"Today, we honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," she wrote, adding a quote from King. "'The complete education gives one not only power of concentration, but worthy objectives upon which to concentrate.'"

Truitt previously fought against the inclusion of phrases like "systemic racism," "systemic discrimination" and "gender identity" in the state's social studies standards last year, and expressed opposition to CRT.

"As your superintendent, I will continue to do everything I can to stop CRT and eradicate it from classrooms," Truitt said last summer. "Republicans in N.C. are united on this."

North Carolina's new social studies standards, implemented in fall 2021, include teaching students about the civil rights movement — by talking about how the experiences and achievements of minorities contribute to the protection of individual rights in high school American History, for example, or in 1st grade, explaining why national holidays such as MLK Day are celebrated.

In light of recent

curriculum bills, teaching such social studies standards could lead to confusion and challenges for districts, CCS's Amanda Moran previously told the News + Record.

For example, in 3rd grade, students learn about the lasting impact historical events have on local communities and must demonstrate how the event continues to affect that community — with history like the Civil War, 1898 Wilmington Massacre and Greensboro Sit-ins. In light of pushback to the 1619 project, which explores the legacy of slavery today, such an educational objective could create challenges for teachers, particularly if new legislation is introduced.

Chatham Central history teacher Amy King previously told the News + Record teaching "hard history" is an important part of learning accurate history. King emphasized her lessons — on lynchings, segregation or exclusionary immigration laws — rely on facts and primary documents, not political opinions or agendas.

Primary documents mentioned by Amy King could include diaries, letters, photographs or speeches created from the time of study — speeches or letters given by Dr. King in full, for example, rather than short snippets or inspirational quotes.

"We teach about politics, all throughout history. But we don't teach students how to think, we teach them to think," Amy King said. "We teach them to think about these complex issues, and to see that many of these complex issues have long stories behind them. We want them to recognize those stories, to be informed and for that to help them make informed choices and decisions."

Dr. King himself stressed the importance of education to teach people "to think intensively and to think critically."

Bernice King joined many advocates Monday in asking people to educate themselves on what her father really said and taught.

"Tomorrow, there will be people tweeting about my father and MLK Day who are complacent in, complacent about and/or a part of cultivating some form of injustice," she tweeted Sunday. "... Let's channel our love-centered energy into defeating injustice, living and speaking truth (and not just to power), and working for justice, about which my father said: 'Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.'"

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

## NEWS BRIEF

### CCS closed to staff on Tuesday due to potentially unsafe roads

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools closed for staff on Tuesday "out of an abundance of caution and due to very likely potential for unsafe road conditions," the district said in a release Monday after-

noon. Tuesday was originally scheduled as an optional teacher workday, including Chatham Center for Innovation (CCI) staff; Wednesday is a required teacher workday for high school staff, including CCI, and required staff development for K-8 staff.

Students and staff alike are off Monday in observance of

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, with students off until Thursday due to the teacher workdays.

"Information related to the makeup schedule will be communicated by district and building-level supervisors once we have returned to our normal operational schedule," said Nancy Wykle, CCS public information officer.

Though students already had

Tuesday off, the district recently presented its plan for remote learning expectations in the event of inclement weather at a Dec. 13 board of education meeting.

CCS can offer remote learning options during inclement weather days for students, the district said, but teachers are not required to hold live Zooms, meaning work can be asynchronous. Due to the dis-

trict's 1:1 initiative, every student has an electronic device assigned to them. Still, some students don't have reliable access to internet. To account for that, students have five days after an inclement weather day to turn in work.

The state allows for up to five remote learning days in the 2021-2022 school year calendar.

—CN+R staff reports



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SEAFORTH WRESTLING

# ‘We secured it tonight’: Hawks benefit from 24 forfeits in 3-team sweep to claim conference title

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record  
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — “Once you’ve wrestled, everything else in life is easy,” legendary Olympic champion and record-setting former University of Iowa wrestling coach Dan Gable once said. The motivational quote hangs on posters in mat rooms around the world.

As coach of the fledgling Seaforth High School wrestling team, one of Ryan Armstrong’s jobs in building a program from the ground up this year has been introducing his young grapplers to the blood, sweat and pain intrinsically linked to an ancient sport not intend-

ed for the timid. An equally formidable task was not just inspiring his novice athletes to dream big, but to pin those dreams down.

The Hawks coach and his brawny understudies are accomplishing both of those goals, as evidenced by a trio of home victories last Friday to capture the regular season Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference title. The new kids on the block defeated Graham, 60-15, Chatham Central, 54-24, and Voyager Academy, 66-18.

“We wrestled hard, we wrestled physical,” Armstrong said, with a squad depleted by concussion protocols and sickness, but no COVID cases.

“Knock on wood,” he said.

“The big thing we were looking for was getting wins out of some kids tonight. We wrestled a lot of our J.V. kids.”

Claiming conference bragging rights would seem to be an unlikely grail for a new school to pursue in its debut wrestling campaign.

“We were going after a conference championship, that was our goal. We secured it tonight,” Armstrong said with a twinkle in his eye, and presumably a broad smile beneath his mask. It was the culmination of many challenges, not the least of which was putting his troops through rigorous physical demands.

See **HAWKS**, page B4



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Seaforth grapplers huddle to ignite a fiery mentality prior to the action among four teams on Friday night. The Hawks swept their competition, 3-0, to claim the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference title.

‘READY TO ENJOY THE RIDE’

## Leading the Charge(rs): Chris Kenan, 3-time district winner, named Northwood’s next head coach

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — It didn’t take long for Northwood to find its guy.

Less than three months after the sudden resignation of Cullen Homolka in October, the Chargers’ search for a new head football coach is officially over.

The school announced last Friday that it’d named Chris Kenan, former district-winning head coach at Neal Magnet Middle School in Durham, to lead the Chargers’ football program in 2022.

“When we started the interview process, we had criteria in our next head coach that went beyond X’s and O’s,” Northwood’s Director of Athletics Cameron Vernon said in a press release last Friday. “Coach Kenan checked off most, if not all, of those boxes.”

Kenan has spent nearly a decade coaching football at both the middle and high school levels, including his three-year stint as head coach at Neal Magnet, where he led the Eagles to three straight Durham Athletic Conference titles.

“As a middle school coach, there’s things you have to do that a high school coach wouldn’t be asked to do,” Kenan told the News + Record on Sunday. “You have a bare minimum staff and you have to make it work ... and the seasons are shorter, so you’re asked to do a lot in a little bit of time.”

“Building that winning tradition into a program,” he added, “that’s something that I can carry on from Neal to Northwood, teaching the guys how to win again.”

He mentioned that there were other coaching jobs on the table, but he chose the Chargers because he admired “the tradition and rich history of Northwood football ... and it was something that my family wanted to be a part of.”



Submitted photo

Northwood announced the hiring of Chris Kenan as their next head football coach on Twitter, accompanied by this graphic that reads ‘The Next Chapter.’

### Coaching in the Bull City

Kenan’s football career was both created and molded in Durham.

He attended Southern Durham High School, where he played guard and tackle before graduating and going on to play center for his hometown Eagles at North Carolina Central University.

His playing career in college lasted just two seasons due to the birth of his daughter. In order to support his family while still in school, he decided to take a job at Northern Vance High School in Henderson in 2009, where he was the J.V. head coach and the varsity’s run game coordinator.

That’s when Coach Kenan was

born.

His path led him back to Durham in 2011, when he took a job at Hillside High School as its offensive and defensive line coach, followed by a stint at Riverside High School before being named the head football coach at Neal Magnet, where his three-peat began. (Technically, the team claimed four straight district titles while he was there, but in 2019, he was more in a “co-head coaching” role instead of being the full-on head coach.)

His success with the Neal Eagles came down to three of his program’s most crucial mainstays: a

See **COACH**, page B2

## Recency bias was the real winner of Super Wild Card Weekend

If you woke up on Monday morning and turned your TV to ESPN’s “First Take” or FOX Sports’ “Undisputed,” I’m sure you heard one (or more) of the hosts with the following takes:

- Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts might not have what it takes to lead an NFL team, after all.

- Patriots quarterback Mac Jones may not be New England’s second coming of Tom Brady.

VICTOR HENSLEY  
Sports Editor

- The Cowboys — despite all of their talent on both sides of the ball — kinda stink.

I’m sure I got at least 75% of those guesses right, despite me having not listened to or watched a single sports talk show on Monday. How, you might ask?

Because all of these takes stem from one of the biggest problems sports fans, analysts and bettors suffer from on a daily basis: recency bias.

Recency bias is the idea that one formulates an opinion by overweighting recent trends and ignoring long-term evidence.

And it’s affected all of us at some point in our sports-loving lives.

An Oct. 2021 study — titled “Patience is a Virtue: Exploiting Behavior Bias in Gambling Markets” — authored by Kevin Krieger, Justin Davis and James Strode and published in the Journal of Economics and Finance, found that sports bettors’ decision-making is widely influenced by a team or player’s recent performance rather than their body of work as a whole.

Essentially, if a team does poorly one week, then bettors will often bet against that team accordingly the following week. And vice versa.

It’s a concept that can not only cost you money — and even sometimes affect the lines that oddsmakers publish — but can also make you look ... a little ridiculous.

The NFL, in my opinion, is the absolute worst sports league for recency bias.

It really is a week-to-week league. When a team stumbles for a week or two — which is inevitably going to happen over an 18-week season — many people write that team off, at least for a little while.

When a team gets hot for a game or two, it’s

See **WEEKEND**, page B4

## A little advice to college seniors

On Tuesday, I began my final semester of undergrad at the University of Missouri.



MAX BAKER  
CN+R Intern

As of now, I’m not planning on attending graduate school, so this could be it.

Wow. That’s wild for me to wrap my head around.

Typically, I’m nervous on the first day. I never feel confident about where my classes are or the types of professors I may

have.

Tuesday was no different, except the nerves weren’t the same. I couldn’t fall asleep on Monday night. My head was filled with thoughts about my future. It was a feeling I’ve dreaded for a while. Life is just so hard to picture after school and it’s impossible not to think about.

Will I ever see some of my college friends again? What kind of job will I find? Will I even find a job? How do adults make friends?

School has always been a safe haven for me. It’s where I feel most comfortable meeting new people. In five months,

that will all be over.

This semester, I decided to pack a lot onto my plate. I offered to TA a class, I’m an Involvement Ambassador, a St. Louis Post-Dispatch intern and I’ll still be running the social media accounts for the News + Record. Maybe it’s too much for me, but it feels like I should try to do as much as I can in these last four months.

Over Winter Break, I told myself I was going to avoid the news and spend time with my family in Florida. That idea was short lived as our trip was canceled when COVID-19 reached new heights. It was

the right decision, but hard nonetheless.

Now, I’ve got some new advice for myself and other college students, maybe feeling the same way. Try to enjoy these last five months in whatever way it may look. Obviously, it’s OK to look for that cool new job or opportunity. But these last few months can be really meaningful. There were classes before us that lost this opportunity because of COVID-19 and while we’re still in-person, we should take advantage of seeing the people around us. Try to form some meaningful

relationships, maybe ones that won’t collapse when you go your separate ways. Talk to that person sitting next to you in class. There’s nothing to lose. And don’t stress too much about what’s to come. As we’ve learned from the past two years, things are always changing.

Maybe I’m writing this column with the hope that I will listen to myself. I often have a hard time doing that, but hopefully, I will.

Max Baker can be reached at [max@chathamnr.com](mailto:max@chathamnr.com) and @maxbaker\_15.

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

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

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

We've got an absolutely jam-packed slate this week. After weeks of dealing with the holiday break and exams, we're back to having a fully normal schedule this week as basketball, swimming, track and wrestling start to take off as we get closer to the postseason. From here on out, we'll see plenty more in-conference rivalries, a lot more close matchups and likely some of the best action we've seen all year. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, January 19**

Basketball: Chatham Charter vs. Triangle Math & Science Academy (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Eastern Randolph (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Northwood vs. Western Alamance (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews at Bartlett Yancey (Chatham Central and Cummings also participating), 6 p.m.

**Thursday, January 20**

Wrestling: Northwood vs. Western Alamance, 6 p.m.  
Wrestling: Seaforth at Graham (North Moore also participating), 6 p.m.

**Friday, January 21**

Basketball: Chatham Central vs. Graham (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews vs. North Moore (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

Basketball: Northwood vs. Walter M. Williams (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

Basketball: Seaforth at Cummings (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

Basketball: Woods Charter vs. Chatham Charter (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

**Saturday, January 22**

Track: Northwood at Champion Fast Track Invitational (hosted at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem), 8 a.m.

Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews vs. Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference (including Seaforth and Chatham Central; Conference Tournament), 8 a.m.

Wrestling: Northwood at Central 3A Conference Tournament (hosted by TBD), 8 a.m.

Track: Seaforth at East Chapel Hill, 4:15 p.m.

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central (women at 5 p.m., men at 6:30 p.m.)

Basketball: Northwood men vs. Seaforth, 7 p.m.

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, January 10**

No events scheduled.

**Tuesday, January 11**

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men dominated the winless Clover Garden Grizzlies, 63-22, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Brennen Oldham (21 points, 10 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 blocks), junior Adam Harvey (14 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal) and junior Aamir Mapp (10 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women narrowly defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 65-60, in their first conference game of the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were sophomore Delana Loflin (28 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal), senior Alexis Baldwin (13 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks) and junior Tamaya Walden (11 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 1 block).

Basketball: The Woods Charter men lost to the River Mill Jaguars, 67-39, to stay winless on the season.

**Wednesday, January 12**

No events scheduled.

**Thursday, January 13**

Wrestling: The Northwood Chargers defeated the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 42-36, to keep themselves alive in the Central 3A conference race. Winning their matches for the Chargers were Coltrane Northington (120 lbs.), Aiden Vigus (126 lbs., forfeit), Ron Walker (145 lbs.), Cliff Davis (170 lbs., forfeit), Ryan Brinker (182 lbs.), Angel Becquer-Ramos (195 lbs., forfeit) and Jake Dunning (220 lbs.). See match report in this week's edition.

**Friday, January 14**

Basketball: The Woods Charter women defeated the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 55-41, to improve to 8-1 on the season.

Basketball: The Woods Charter men fell to the Triangle Math & Science Academy Tigers, 59-31, to remain winless on the year at 0-9.

Wrestling: The Seaforth Hawks won all three of their matches over the Chatham Central Bears (54-24), Voyager Academy Vikings (66-18) and Graham

Red Devils (60-15) to claim the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A regular-season conference title. Chatham Central also won its other two matches against Voyager (30-18) and Graham (33-24). See match report in this week's edition.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men thrashed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 88-15, to improve to 16-1 on the year. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Brennen Oldham (23 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal), junior Aamir Mapp (16 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals) and junior Adam Harvey (12 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals).

Basketball: The Northwood women defeated the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 41-33, on the road to improve to 15-1 on the season.

Basketball: The Northwood men defeated the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 69-47, to improve to 11-3 on the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Drake Powell (20 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals), sophomore Griffen Hobbs (16 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block), and junior Max Frazier (14 points, 12 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block).

**Saturday, January 15**

Basketball: The Seaforth men defeated the Arendell Parrott Academy Patriots, 46-35, at the Brandon Ingram MLK Showcase in Kinston. Leading the Hawks on the night were sophomore Jarin Stevenson (19 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 blocks) and sophomore Tyshawn Davenport (11 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal).

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

## COACH

Continued from page B1

consistent work ethic, a commitment to being an all-around student-athlete and a desire to represent the community with pride.

"You get in and you get to work immediately and build a program that's 365 (days a year)," Kenan said. "You want to build a program where your athletes are playing more than one sport and monitoring their academics year-round so the kids don't have to worry about eligibility. You want to build a program that's something the community can be proud of. ... When the community's behind a program, it makes everything a lot easier."

And in Durham, competitive football is a community staple.

Football is one of 11 middle-school sports offered by Durham Public Schools, allowing students to begin playing organized football at a much younger age than they can in Chatham County, which has no school-sanctioned middle school football programs.

In Durham, Kenan said that high school coaches will often attend — sometimes with their full teams — middle school games and get into "recruiting battles" with other coaches for certain players.

"You can kind of see, two or three years out, what teams and what crews you're going to get (in high school)," Kenan said. "You just start seeing (which school) is going to run Durham for the next couple of years."

But the absence of middle school football doesn't make the Chatham football any less competitive than its Triangle counterpart.

"With Northwood, they don't have middle school football, but it's still competitive with Seaforth, Chatham (Central) and Jordan-Matthews so close," Kenan said, "so it's going to be a lot of work. Good work, but I just don't know what to expect. ... I'm just ready to enjoy the ride."

**Charging toward change**

In February 2020, Ahmaud Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was shot



Submitted photo

**Chris Kenan coaches on the sideline in a game with the Hillside Hornets during his two-year tenure as the school's offensive and defensive line coach. Kenan has coached at both the middle and high school levels over the last decade-plus.**

and killed by three white men while jogging in Satilla Shores, a suburban neighborhood in Brunswick, Georgia, not far from his home.

For Kenan and his wife, Tangelia, who jog in their neighborhood on a nightly basis — especially during the height of the pandemic — Arbery's tragic death hit a little too close to home.

"She was just terrified," Kenan said. "She couldn't believe what had happened and she wanted to raise some awareness and try to do something in the community because she knew that I ran every night and she would hate for me to get cut off and trapped when I was tired."

Then, after the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer just a few months later, it was time to take action.

"We had a strong community here with the athletes, so we got all of the athletes to know — pop warner, middle school, high school, college — and went to the courthouse," Kenan explained. "I asked my good friend, Sherriff (Clarence F.) Birkhead, to come out and ask some questions to the athletes to see how we were feeling."

Kenan said it was important for athletes to lead the way in the discussion because of how often they exercise, which includes running/jogging outdoors, just like Arbery, who was also a high school football player.

This prompted Kenan

to found Building Leaders for a Solid Tomorrow (BLAST), an organization that focuses on creating programs throughout communities to help build young leaders and give "proactive training" to students on how to better interact with the police to allow them to feel safer in their own neighborhoods.

BLAST has since changed its name to 5K Foundation, but Kenan has helped put on plenty of tutoring sessions for students (both in-person and virtual), back-to-school drives, fitness & wellness events and one of his staples, "Safe Zone Fridays," hosted at different apartment complexes, where police officers and children gather for an evening without violence.

"They help give the kids something to do during the summer on Friday and Saturday nights, where we know that this crime-infested, drug-infested neighborhood is safe this night," Kenan said. "It's guaranteed that kids can come outside that night. ... They usually don't get to come outside and play so freely."



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Submitted photo

**Chris Kenan, Northwood's new head football coach, speaks to players on the sideline during his tenure as Hillside's offensive and defensive line coach from 2011-2013.**

was that you can paint the picture as pretty as you want it, as light as you want it, as heavy as you want it? So, I embrace that opportunity to give the kids their football experience, which is all Coach Kenan-taught, so I feel a lot of confidence in that."

He said he wants his team to be physical, fast and versatile, putting major emphasis on the weight room and his players taking part in other sports, such as track and field.

"We want to build student-athletes, not student-football-players," Kenan said. "Each sport translates to each other and I feel like the more you play, the different movements translate to and enhance other movements."

He's inheriting a football program coming off of two straight playoff appearances, including a mostly down year last season, which ended with its head coach, Homolka, resigning before the post-season in the midst of a three-game losing streak.

While his eyes are on the state championship

for his first-ever season as a high school head coach, Kenan said he knows a ton of work needs to be put in before he can make that a reality.

And it starts now. Kenan said the over the next couple of months, the team will begin its spring development season, which will include 7-on-7 ball. Then, it's onto 10 days of spring football, off-season workouts, training camp and officially gearing up for the start of the season in August.

He said he also has plans to host youth football camps for elementary-aged students this summer as part of a four-week series.

"If we're not doing well, it won't be because we're not trying," Kenan said. "We're going to be a hard-hat, blue-collar team, a hardworking team that's going to give everything they've got every Friday night."

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



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**NORTHWOOD 42, EASTERN ALAMANCE 36**

# Chargers rally for comeback win vs. Eagles as 9-year dual-team postseason drought nears its end

**BY DAN E. WAY**  
News + Record  
Correspondent

MEBANE — Northwood 182-pound wrestler Ryan Brinker knew what he had to do when he stepped onto the mat against Jackson Fulcher of Eastern Alamance.

Like a big constrictor, he slithered his bulging biceps around his opponent's torso, stepped to the side, locked his hands and squeezed against a quickly yielding rib cage. Hard. You could feel Fulcher's pain from the stands.

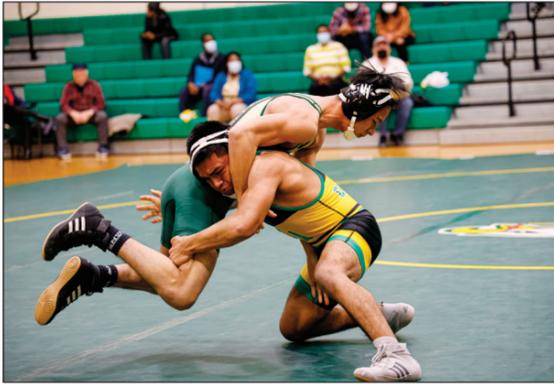
And with a mere 40 seconds elapsed in the first period, Brinker got the pin, helping to propel the Chargers to a 42-36 comeback victory in an away match at Eastern Alamance last Thursday. The win put the Chargers one step closer to potentially landing one of two Central 3A conference postseason berths in the NCHSAA state duals tournament.

"The team got me ready, and I went out there and got the fastest pin I've had all season," Brinker said. "(I like) any type of squeeze. I saw my opportunity, I got in there and I just bear-hugged him. As soon as he started to bend over, I knew I could get him over, and I worked from there and got the pin."

Brinker, a sophomore, thanked his teammates for the win.

"I'm only a second-year wrestler and they've taught me everything I know," he said. "I'm working hard and it's paying off."

Brinker saw the match's momentum shift at 160 pounds, where, coincidentally, teammate Ethan Kuball lost. At that point, the Chargers were



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Northwood's Sunday Oo (green bottoms) sprawls and slips in an undertook in an attempt to block a deep double-leg takedown shot by Eastern Alamance 113-pounder Willfen Lopez during the Chargers' 42-36 win over Eastern Alamance last Thursday.**



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Northwood's Ryan Brinker puts the squeeze on Eastern Alamance's Jackson Fulcher, crunching him with a bear hug to record a fall in just 40 seconds of their 182-pound match during the Chargers' 42-36 win over the Eagles last Thursday.**

down 30-18, but Kuball's hard-fought match against highly regarded returning state qualifier Julian Rodriguez motivated the visitors, Brinker said.

The Eagles had a 6-4 edge in wins for matches wrestled, but Northwood picked up three of the four forfeit wins, which proved to be the deciding factor. Eastern Alamance had a 27-24 point separation in bonus point matches, notching three pins, a technical fall and major decision, while Northwood scored four falls. Eastern Alamance showed superiority on its feet, with a 16-6 lead in takedowns.

"Some places where we got pinned they could have fought off and just lost by points, but other than that they did pretty good," Northwood Head Coach Joe Harris said. "I feel good. Our team's doing good. They're holding on strong, they're putting in the work, busting their butts all the time in practice and on the mats."

"They're a tough team, we did a lot better than I thought we would," Eagles Head Coach Bruce

Watson said. "We had to give up three weight classes because I've got so many people in quarantine, so we gave them 18 points and lost by 6. I can't complain too much."

Watson said he was proud of his grapplers, who give up mat experience to every team they wrestle.

"We're the only team in Alamance County (and surrounding counties that don't have middle school wrestling," he said.

Kaitlyn Watson got Eastern Alamance started with a forfeit win at 106 pounds, and Willfen Lopez decked Northwood's Sunday Oo with a reverse half at 113 pounds to give the Eagles a 12-0 start.

Oo had Lopez on his back and in trouble in a 6-6 first period, but couldn't nail him flat.

Northwood 120-pounder Coltrane Northington grabbed a quick takedown, slapped on a half nelson, switched to a reverse half and converted that into a full body press to clamp Leo Wise in the first period. Northwood's Aiden Vigus then

received a forfeit at 126 pounds and the score was knotted, 12-12.

Northwood's Asher Rockriver drove Carson Gardner to the mat with a double leg takedown at 132 pounds, but got too high on his ride. Gardner latched onto Rockriver's head and leg and rocked him backwards for a reverse cradle fall at 1:24.

Eastern Alamance returning state qualifier Ivan Benitez then dispatched Andrew Kimbrel in a 17-1 tech fall at 4:54 in the 138-pound bout.

Northwood's 145-pounder Ron Walker stuffed a takedown attempt by Jahzion Patterson, spun behind for the takedown and stacked him up like cordwood for a 43-second fall to narrow the Chargers' deficit to 23-18.

But 152-pounder Damien Beaver piled up a 19-7 major decision over Northwood's Ian Morrison before Rodriguez out-

pointed Kuball, 4-2, at 160 pounds to give the Eagles a 30-18 advantage. Rodriguez scored takedowns in the first and final periods; Kuball had a takedown in the middle frame.

Northwood's Cliff Davis picked up a forfeit at 170 pounds, Brinker got the pin at 185 pounds and Northwood's Angel Becquer-Ramos got a forfeit at 195 pounds to give the Chargers their first lead of the night, 36-30.

Jake Dunning secured the win for Northwood at 220 pounds, pinning Hakim Thompson for a 42-30 lead.

"I went out there like I always do," Dunning said. "Did my little stretch before I go out there, get those quads nice and warm, went out there, shook his hand, hit my snap-down — which is my go-to move — spun around and got two points. I flattened him out with what I always do, slipped the power half in.

He turned and that was the extent of it."

In the final match of the evening, Eastern Alamance 285-pounder Christopher Gonzales-Turner used his massive size difference to pin Isaac Laccone with a single leg trip and power half. Laccone weighed in at 184 pounds; Gonzales-Turner tipped the scales at 282.

But it was Dunning who helped to rally the Chargers to their comeback after they dropped behind 30-18.

"I got them all in a huddle, and I talked to them and I said, 'We need to pull this together and we need to pull through and win this because now we only have to beat Western Alamance and we go to states as a team,' which is something we haven't been able to do since 2012," Dunning said.

The Chargers host Western Alamance on Thursday night.

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# Dal Langston named CCCC volleyball coach

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Dal Langston of Sanford is the new volleyball coach at Central Carolina Community College. He succeeds Bill Carter, who retired from coaching after 13 years of leading the CCCC volleyball program.

Langston has been serving as Fayetteville Technical Community College assistant coach since the school's inaugural volleyball season in 2018. In addition, he is currently serving as a coach with the Sandhills Volleyball Club.

Prior to his coaching stint at FTCC, he served three years as volleyball

coach at Chatham Central High School. His Chatham Central teams won two conference championships and one conference runner-up — and he received two Conference Coach of the Year awards.

He previously coached club team volleyball, including time with Brick City Volleyball and L2 Volleyball. His teams won various tournaments, was a National Qualifier in 2014 and qualified twice for the Girls Junior Nationals.

Langston said he is excited about the opportunity because he loves both coaching and teaching.

“My philosophy is fun, fast and fearless,” Langston said. “We need to have fun ... it is just a game, after all. We need to be fast because it's more fun, and, as you play at a higher level, the speed of the game gets faster. And fearless because you have to play with-

out being scared to make a mistake. I believe to be great you have to do more than that is required.”

His coaching philosophy includes:

- to compete without sacrificing class or integrity.
- to compete while developing a team-first/maximum effort atmosphere.
- to compete while helping young people be good people as well as good athletes.
- to compete while still caring more about the person than the athlete.

A graduate of East Carolina University, Langston holds the USA Volleyball Coaches Accreditation Program II certification.

He and his wife, Cara, have three grown daughters — Dallas, Evan and Katy.

“We are very excited to add Coach Langston to our staff,” CCCC Athletic

Director Jonathan Hockaday said. “His experience at the high school, club and community college levels made him a perfect fit to lead our volleyball program. He is equally committed to the development of our student-athletes both on and off the court.”

This year's CCCC fall 2021 volleyball team finished the season on a high note, winning six consecutive matches before falling to Sandhills Community College in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 10 Tournament Championship.

The spring 2021 team won six of its eight matches and claimed the NJCAA Division III Region 10 regular season and tournament titles.

For more information on Central Carolina Community College, which is dedicated to providing pathways to achievable dreams, visit [www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu).



## Just the five of us

Last Friday, the Woods Charter women's basketball team played its first conference game of the season against the Triangle Math & Science Tigers with just five healthy players. The shorthanded Wolves went on to win, 55-41, behind 24 points from sophomore standout Lexi Smollen and 23 points from senior Emi Hutter-Demarco. Here, the Wolves (from left to right: head coach Princess Alston, assistant coach Sharon Bynum, Smollen, junior Avis Lavinder, Hutter-Demarco, freshman Brylee Downs, sophomore Kate Murphy) line up in front of their bench ahead of last Friday's conference matchup with the Tigers.

Submitted photo

## WEEKEND

Continued from page B1

typically the same way.

Take the Buffalo Bills this season, for example.

Heading into their Week 9 matchup with the then-1-6 Jaguars, the Bills were 5-2, sitting atop the AFC East and looked to be a Super Bowl favorite, especially with the defending AFC Champion Chiefs, another early-season victim of recency bias, seemingly on the ropes.

But then, the Bills lost a 9-6 snoozer to the Jaguars in an uncharacteristically poor performance, followed by three more losses in the next five games to the Colts, Patriots and Buccaneers, all of which were among the league's hottest teams.

It was at that point that the Bills became an afterthought. When talking about the contenders in the AFC, many people left them off the list, despite their talent and how polished they looked early in the year.

Fast forward to the end of the season, when the Bills rattled off four straight wins, including one against the Patriots that effectively helped them lock up the division for the second season in a row before ultimately thrashing them again in the Wild Card round this past weekend, 47-17.

In short, the Bills had never lost their footing in the AFC (nor did the Chiefs). But because they weren't always perfect, people were quick to write them off. And now, as I mentioned earlier, those same people look ridiculous.

Recency bias was on full display this past weekend during a less-than-stellar Super Wild Card Weekend. And it wasn't just the Bills.

A little over a week ago, people around the sports world were praising Hurts for leading the Eagles — a team that, realistically, shouldn't be playing in mid-January — into the postseason.

Then, Hurts went 12-of-26 for 115 yards, a TD and an interception in a 31-15 playoff loss to Brady's Buccaneers

(in Hurts' first-ever playoff start, mind you) and those same people were tweeting that he “can't throw” during Saturday's game.

The same could be said for Jones, who led his Patriots squad to the postseason as a rookie and is the very possible Offensive Rookie of the Year (though Bengals' wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase likely, and deservedly, wins it).

In the 47-17 loss to the Bills, he was 24-of-38 for 232 yards, 2 TDs and 2 picks. And he didn't look great.

So, naturally, despite him being a rookie with no prior playoff experience, he was roasted for the way he played, with many people already forgetting the impressive regular season he had in his first year as an NFL quarterback.

The issue I have with these takes is not that they exist — I, naturally, have had my own doubts about both Hurts and Jones well before their playoff stinkers — but that they're mostly coming out as a direct result of one bad game.

That's not only unfair, it's absurd.

By the time next season rolls around, fans will likely choose to remember Jalen Hurts' and Mac Jones' poor playoff performances and set expectations accordingly, rather than remember all of the positives from 2021.

Then, if next year's anything like this year was, they'll be proven wrong and biting their tongues by the end of the season.

It's a tale as old as time. We've seen recency bias negatively (and positively) affect star quarterbacks, rookies, injured players and teams as a whole over and over and over again over the years. Hurts and Jones won't be the last.

Next time, let's try and judge players (and teams) with a telescope, not a microscope.

Or else you might end up looking a little ... ridiculous.

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

## HAWKS

Continued from page B1

“Getting them to understand what the discipline (is) that they need to put into the sport” was the biggest hurdle, Armstrong said.

“This is the first sport that a lot of these kids have played that requires them to manage weight, come to practice, work out two and a half hours strong, and turn around again and do it the next week, then you factor in you've got winter break, factor in you've got exams” that interrupt the training regimen and continuity of skills work, he said. “They don't see that with football.”

There were the blind-sides he wasn't anticipating.

Like the departure of 106-pounder Josh Miller, a state runner-up for him as a freshman at Northwood last year and potential state champ this year. Miller was a foundational pillar in Armstrong's building architecture, but transferred to SPIRE Institute and Academy in Geneva, Ohio. He was recruited there to wrestle by three-time Olympian Kenny Monday, who had been head coach of the Tar Heel Wrestling Club at UNC the past few years.

That left Armstrong's son, Layne, as the only Hawk with significant wrestling experience among the all-freshmen-and-sophomore team.

Layne is ranked 7th in the state with a 21-2 record, and has now dropped from 120 pounds to 113.

Armstrong thinks the Hawks could land a berth in the upcoming NCHSAA state team duals. And he expects his son, Lockard Bowen at 120 and Judge Lloyd at 152 to be strong contenders to qualify for the individual state championships at the 2A Mideast Regional Tournament, which Seaforth will host Feb. 11 and 12.

But on Friday night, it was strength in numbers that carried Seaforth to victory. The three visiting teams' lineups were riddled with vacancies. Seaforth had men on the mat in 38 of 42 total possible matches. They won 24 of those with forfeits. The Hawks were 6-8 in the 14 matches actually wrestled. Against Chatham Central,



Seaforth's Cole Ballard (left) works to complete a stand-up escape as Chatham Central's Steven Stilhan attempts to maintain control from behind in their 195-pound match last Friday. The Hawks defeated the Bears in their dual-team match, 54-24.

Staff photo by Simon Barbre

120-pounder Caden Brewer was leading 4-0 in the second period when he applied a bar/half nelson to clamp Brady Phillips at 2:30. Collin Evans evened the score, 6-6, for Chatham Central when he picked up his second takedown of the first period, threw in leg grapevines and underhooks and decked Seaforth 126-pounder Maddock Cody at 1:07.

After Seaforth picked up a string of forfeits, Mitchel Mason showed the Bears' Nicolas Rinell the lights at 170 pounds after nearly getting pinned himself. Rinell tossed Mason to his back with a 5-point headlock, but overextended himself. Mason rolled him through, cranked a half nelson and got the pin at 1:25, widening the lead to 36-6.

Chatham Central's Steven Stilhan pinned Cole Ballard with a power half at 1:44 of their 195-pound match, and teammate Jarrett Mashburn used an underhook/reverse half to pin the Hawks' Michael Amatucci with just 59 seconds elapsed at 220 pounds.

In the final bout wrestled, Armstrong stuffed a first period takedown shot by Chatham Central 113-pounder Sabastian Demian, spun behind and slapped on a cradle for a fall at 1:34.

Against Graham, the Hawks won two of five contested matches. Ballard headlocked Graham 195-pounder Hector

Perez at 1:15, throwing him to the mat with a thud and a pin. Armstrong walked a bar arm around Oscar Tello's head, cranking the Red Devil 113-pounder to his back for a pin at 3:15.

Graham's Jonathan Betram piled up a 15-0 tech fall against Jason Antley at 145, needing just 2:29 to end the bout. Red Devils' 106-pounder Abdiel Moreno used a half nelson on Seaforth's Brennan Luster, and the ref slapped the mat for the fall at 5:08. Graham's Maximum Profit scored three takedowns, a reversal and twice picked up back points for a 16-4 major decision against Cody.

The Vikings lost all three contested bouts against Voyager.

The Vikings' Logan McElroy squeezed a front headlock and spun behind Travis Greene for a takedown, then ripped a half nelson for a 59-second fall at 138 pounds.

Jordan Ruedi did away with Seaforth's Mitchel Mason in 30 seconds at 170 pounds, converting a high crotch single leg takedown into a crossface cradle. At 182 pounds, Voyager's Jed Rose hit a high crotch single and a power half to deck fall Ethan Budlong at 1:35 of the first period.

Seaforth takes the mat again on Thursday at Graham, where the Hawks will wrestle against both the Red Devils and the North Moore Mustangs.

CHATHAM CHAT | TYCH COWDIN, COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS

# \$100K donation comes in recognition of CIS's work in Chatham

A national organization chose Communities In Schools of Chatham County as its fiscal beneficiary this past year, making a donation of just over \$100,000 in recognition of CIS's contributions to Chatham County.

This week, we speak with CIS's executive director, Tych Cowdin, about the grant and the work the organization continues to do in Chatham County.

Cowdin says that in late 2020, staff at a national organization — which asked not to be identified — reached out with an offer to coordinate a fundraising campaign making CIS its fiscal and service projects beneficiary for 2021. On Dec. 17, at The Alliance in Siler City, the year-long project culminated in a virtual check celebration and donation of just over \$100,000 in recognition of CIS's contributions to Chatham County. The donation, the single biggest one-time contribution in the local nonprofit's 32-year history, offers CIS a special opportunity to build on their mission to surround youth and their families with a network of community support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

Communities In Schools of Chatham County, located in downtown Siler City, supports Chatham County students (between the ages of 5-19) and their families through seven versatile school and community-based programs, including the longstanding mentoring program, which has served as the agency's cornerstone since 1989.

Cowdin began his tenure with CIS as a student support specialist in 2014 and entered his current role in April 2020. He arrived in North Carolina from Topeka, Kansas, after completing his undergraduate degree at the University of Kansas in 2008 and his Master of Business Administration at Washburn University in 2011.

He's held a wide variety of roles throughout his professional career and joined the CIS of Chatham County team after two years as an operations assistant with the University of North Carolina football team. Cowdin has been a teacher, coach and mentor, and is excited for the opportunity to use his people skills and passion for community development.

In his free time, you can find him firing up the grill, cheering on the Jayhawks, and enjoying the outdoors with his wife Courtney.

**How did this grant — and we understand they've requested not to be identified — come about? And how will it be used?**

First off, endless gratitude to the many generous community members who have and continue to make this critical work possible. Not only through financial contribution, but through their gift of time. Roughly 100 individuals give thousands of hours annually to help support our work. We are a part of a special community, and we are very fortunate to be connected to so many wonderful individuals who, both past and present, have given a significant amount of themselves to this work.

One consistent goal over the years has been to build sustainable capacity, and to develop



Courtesy of Communities In Schools

**CIS volunteer Pete (left) and his mentee, Pascual, during one of their visits together.**

**We know that many students and their families have a hard time accessing and navigating the maze of public and private services. There may be ample resources in a community, but rarely is there someone on the ground who is able to connect these resources with the schools and students that need them most. We bring resources into the schools to empower student success.**

**TYCH COWDIN, Communities In Schools of Chatham County**

opportunities to serve more students. This goal remains. We know that many students and their families have a hard time accessing and navigating the maze of public and private services. There may be ample resources in a community, but rarely is there someone on the ground who is able to connect these resources with the schools and students that need them most. We bring resources into the schools to empower student success.

We intend to utilize this funding to grow our impact by hiring, training, and placing additional student support specialists in Chatham County Schools (CCS). We will be working with CCS administration and our six current partner schools over the next several months to bolster and deepen our efforts to support additional students this summer and throughout the 2022/2023 school year.

**Looking back on 2021, what are some accomplishments from CIS you'd like to highlight?**

We do our best to place students and their families at the center, surrounding them with a caring community of support, and by cultivating access points to critical resources like food and basic needs, mentoring, counseling, tutoring, enrichment opportunities, and remote technologies so they can take charge of the future they want for themselves, their communities, and each other. Our deep-rooted relationships and partnerships across the county have enabled our programs to persevere and serve as a critical lifeline to many.

Together, we were able to serve 203 students with individualized integrated supports, and an additional 1,100 community members (additional CCS students, siblings, parents/guardians, extended family, other community members) with targeted resources. These students achieved a great deal over the course of last school year, including an 89% success rate for school program participants who met or made progress toward their attendance goal for the year.

These partnerships and relationships with local resource providers continue to have a major impact on our ability to stay connected. These efforts included weekly

food distribution and coordination, toiletry and COVID care package delivery, facilitation of both in-person and virtual mentoring and tutoring, serving as a liaison for mental health and wellness resources, school supplies, coats and clothing, bilingual parent and family engagement, student advocacy, digital literacy, and crisis management. We are proud of the work we were able to accomplish in 2021 and even more excited about the opportunities in the year ahead.

**What were you able to learn throughout 2020 and 2021 that you will apply in 2022?**

The last two years have taught us many valuable lessons. Despite the obstacles that have redirected how many of us live and work, the resilience and perseverance of our staff, community members, and more importantly, students and their families, is inspiring and really stands out. One motto across the CIS network is "we are all in for kids," and to us, this means that we will do whatever it takes to connect community resources, enhance educational success, and provide every student an opportunity to help shape their own bright future.

Of course, this hasn't come without lessons along the way, but kindness, consistent and dependable support, positive communication, and gaining understanding by meeting people where they are, has always been, and continues to be, a key ingredient in our daily approach.

Additionally, our network of volunteers, partners, and funders who continue to sustain our work, have really stepped up and played a significant role in helping CISCC serve as a bridge to address identified service gaps that many in our community face. This collaboration has been made possible by both individual and group efforts that remain flexible, value self and community wellness, and find joy in all of the small and big wins we experience each day.

**What's your outlook for 2022? What are CIS's biggest challenges, opportunities and goals?**

As exciting development continues to boom across Chatham County, bringing new business,





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To surround students with a network of support empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

**OUR PROGRAMS:**

CIS programs offer children and youth ages 5 to 19 the promise of individualized, accessible, and sustained supportive relationships with adults in schools and community settings to help them realize their full potential. Trained professionals and qualified volunteers work with youth to address their individual academic, emotional, and basic needs with evidence-based methods in partnership with schools, health providers, and other community organizations. All services are free of charge including support of Spanish speaking bilingual staff.

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Courtesy of Communities In Schools

**Part of the CIS's annual impact report provided to supporters.**



Courtesy of Communities In Schools



Courtesy of Communities In Schools

**In the photos above, Communities In Schools employees and board members gathered in December to hear news about a donation the organization would receive from a national association and shared a meal together.**

new homes and new community members, we will continue to advocate for and lift up those in need of our support and connection. Continuing to remain flexible and nimble to meet the many challenges that have shaped our current environment will remain critical. We look forward to the challenge and opportunity of building on our past successes to meet the needs across our richly diverse community as a dependable resource provider and bridge builder.

Looking ahead to the summer and next school year, our intention will be to add at least one model school site at a Chatham County elementary, and continue to build and grow support for our mentoring and general youth services programs. This includes recruiting and training new volunteer mentors, and growing our footprint at our current school sites. Our long-term goals of raising

awareness and resources to sustain our mission and grow our impact will always be top of mind.

**We know students have struggled in the pandemic — what motivates CISCC to stay positive?**

Where the struggles of many in our community continue to be felt and documented, there have been countless small wins and meaningful successes along the way. None bigger than the impact of mentors and their gift of time and energy as evidenced through their stories.

Nearly all CISCC success stories begin and grow with the development of meaningful relationships. Volunteer Peter and his mentee Pascual are no different. Throughout the past year, their relationship has blossomed through their committed efforts to stay consistently connected. So far, they have enjoyed numerous fun activities, including

cooking pasta and pizza, grilling hot dogs, golfing, gardening, carving pumpkins, building bird houses, puzzling, going to football games, making an iMovie of their experiences, and most importantly building the foundation for a lasting relationship that will continue to grow for years to come.

Pascual's mother recently reached out: "I wanted to say 'thank you' for having Pascual with Mr. Pete. Pascual gets very happy when he sees him, he enjoys every little minute."

This message, and the many others like it, will continue to drive us in our efforts to close the gap for students and families, supporting them in their journey to unlock their full potential in school and in life. You can check out a video about their time together here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymFYVahSjI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymFYVahSjI4)

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

# La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet performs free public concert as part of JMArts jazz clinic

From JMArts

SILER CITY — Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet will perform a free public concert at Jordan-Matthews High School at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, to conclude an afternoon jazz clinic for student musicians.

Gelb is a professional saxophonist, clarinetist, jazz composer and jazz band leader who leads The Heart of Carolina Jazz Orchestra and has performed with many different groups, including the North Carolina Symphony. He currently directs the award-winning Triangle Youth Jazz Ensemble, which has been selected five times for the finals of Jazz at Lincoln Center's Essentially Ellington competition and festival, and has served as an interim assistant professor of jazz at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C. State and UNC Greensboro.

La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet includes players from North Carolina, one of whom is originally from the Dominican Republic. The ensemble teaches jazz history, the improvisation process and performs at events all across the state — drawing for its repertoire on music by jazz greats Louis Armstrong, Tito Puente, Mongo Santamaria, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Chick Corea and Horace Silver.

Scheduled to perform in the 75-minute concert are Steve Anderson on piano, Andy Kleindienst on bass, Beverly Botsford on percussion, Ramon Ortiz on drums, Andrew Sanchez on trumpet and Gregg Gelb on saxophone. Some of the group's featured tunes are



Courtesy of Gregg Gelb

Members of La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet perform a free, public concert on Jan. 28 after providing a clinic for members of the JM Jazz Ensemble and selected 8th-grade musicians.

“Cape Verdean Blues,” “Oye Como Va,” “Mambo Inn” and “Son de la Loma.”

Because of the recent pandemic surge, indoor performance and school policy, masks must be worn while in the building and attending the concert.

The concert wraps up an afternoon clinic attended by members the JM Jazz Ensemble and selected 8th-grade musicians from Chatham Middle and

Silk Hope schools, with sessions led by members of the sextet for trumpet, trombone, woodwind and percussion musicians. During the concert, student musicians will perform one number with La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet.

Both the concert and jazz clinic are supported by the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the

Arts. The 2021 Grassroots Arts Grant for \$1,550 covers half of the program cost; the rest will be matched by JMArts through member contributions and fundraising projects like the sale of JMArts greeting and holiday cards.

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

## RESIDENTS GIVE COUNTY A ‘B+’

# 2021 satisfaction survey reveals positive feedback from residents

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County staff presented results of the 2021 Biennial Resident Satisfaction Survey to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners at their annual budget retreat Jan. 14 in Pittsboro. The feedback from residents was positive with the county earning an overall grade of B+.

The random phone survey of 401 Chatham County residents over age 18 was conducted Oct. 30 through Dec. 5. It consisted of about 40 core questions and related sub-questions regarding satisfaction about Cha-

tham County as a place to live and work, ways people get information on county government, and feedback on services and how well staff provided them. Participants also were asked open-ended questions to get more detail where low marks were given and to gain insight on the most pressing or challenging issues facing Chatham County.

The 2021 results were very positive overall with more than half of the grades in the A-B range. The services offered by all the county departments examined in the survey earned a B+, and the overall grade for county staff was an A-.

“The survey is a great opportunity for us to hear directly from the people we serve regarding the services they receive and their satisfaction with living here in Chatham County,” said Karen Howard, the chairperson of the board of commissioners. “Despite the many challenges the county faced with the COVID-19 pandemic and a cyber incident, the positive feedback from residents is encouraging. My fellow board members and I are pleased with the results and look forward to working with county staff on potential areas for improvement.”

The following areas were named as the most pressing issues or challenges

facing Chatham County in 2021:

- Controlling rapid growth/development
- Water issues
- Nothing/can't think of anything
- High taxes
- Not sure
- Infrastructure issues with growth
- Chatham Park concerns
- Improve schools/education
- Affordable housing
- Traffic

The results of the 2021 Biennial Resident Satisfaction Survey, along with previous surveys, can be found online at [www.chathamcountync.gov/biennial-surveys](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/biennial-surveys).

# Siler City's Parks & Rec launches tennis, pickleball classes

From Siler City Parks & Recreation Department

SILER CITY — With the rapid growth and interest in the sports of pickleball and tennis, Siler City Parks & Recreation is partnering with TennisBloc, a North Carolina-based company specializing in professional instructional programming, to offer spring tennis and

pickleball classes in Siler City in 2022.

Classes are now open for enrollment and will be offered to all ages and skill levels.

TennisBloc's programs bring the perfect balance of fun and development with an emphasis on building a positive tennis community right here in the heart of Siler City. All classes will be held at the Bray Park Sports Com-

plex (700 Alston Bridge Rd.).

Spring tennis classes will be offered Feb. 28 through May 4. Lessons for ages 8 and younger will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays (beginner-intermediate); ages 9-10 will be held 4:40 to 5:30 p.m. Mondays (beginner-intermediate); ages 11-18 will be held 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays (beginner-intermediate),

and adult beginners will be held 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Spring pickleball classes will be offered March 5 through May 7. Lessons for ages 11-18 will be held 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays; adult beginners will be held 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturdays, and adult intermediates will be held 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays.

Registration is now

open with a registration fee of \$85, which covers the entire season. Multi-participant discounts available. To register, please visit [tennisbloc.com](http://tennisbloc.com) and search for programs offered in Siler City. Registration will remain open until sessions are full.

Siler City Parks & Recreation looks forward to partnering with

TennisBloc to offer these professional programs to the community at the Bray Park tennis courts this spring.

For more information, please email [info@tennisbloc.com](mailto:info@tennisbloc.com) or contact the Siler City Parks & Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org), or visit the town website at [www.siler-city.org](http://www.siler-city.org).

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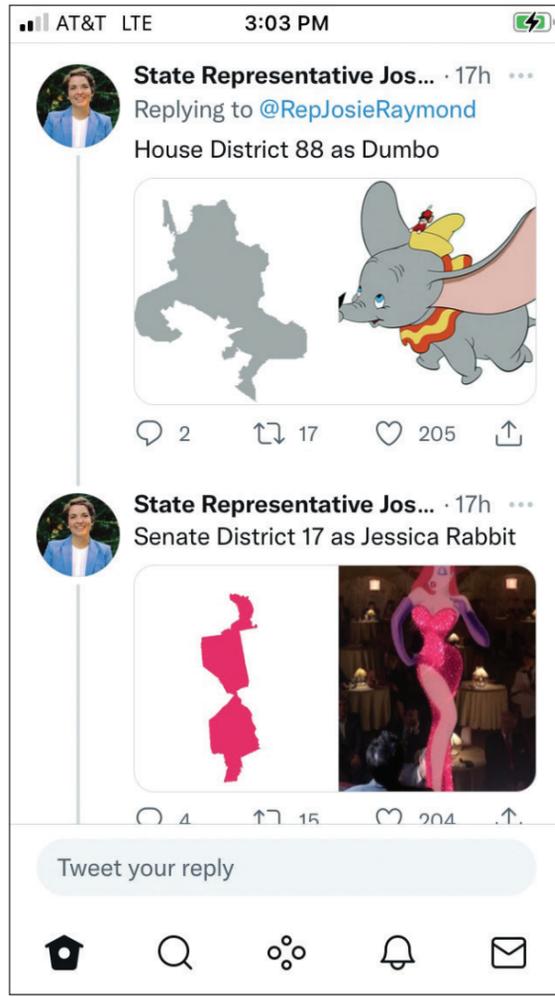
Rotary  
Club of Pittsboro

# If you think democracy is in peril, take a breath and study U.S. history

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO  
Special to the News + Record Staff

*Editor's note: Journalism professor Buck Ryan at the University of Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao at Wuhan University of Technology in China team up again to offer a cross-cultural perspective on current events — this time, January 6th.*

“Gerrymander, for the win!”  
“Wait, Buck, that’s not a word. I never heard of it.”  
“Aw, Lei, we’re not playing Words With Friends. This is a serious discussion about democracy.”  
“Yes, serious like my mom, Buck. This year she’s voting for different levels of representatives, like the provincial, municipal, district levels, and representatives from business, industry, academia and agriculture.”  
“Whoa, that’s a lot of candidates!”  
“Yes, Buck, about 2,300 delegates will be chosen from 38 electoral units across the country for the 20th National Party Congress, which will convene in October. Those sessions happen every five years.”  
“So I wonder why President Biden didn’t invite China to the Summit for Democracy in December?”  
“Don’t get me started, Buck. The State Department was partying like it was 1949, playing the T-card.”  
“Oh, you mean Taiwan, which was invited. I forgot, Lei, what does China call Taiwan?”  
“China.”  
“Oh, I see the rub.”  
“Buck, history matters. It all goes back to 1972, President Nixon and the Shanghai Communique when the U.S. adopted the ‘One China’ policy, stating that Taiwan is a part of China.”  
“I get it, Lei. Freedom House scored the State Department’s summit guest list of 100-plus countries as ‘free’ and ‘partly free’ democracies, and even ‘not free’ ones — Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq.”  
“Buck, I just got a knock on the door the other day asking me to vote in an upcoming election in Wuhan. Trying to divide the world into ‘democratic’ and ‘undemocratic’ camps will end badly for everyone.”  
“The U.S. is ‘very democratic,’ Lei. Take gerrymandering, for example.”  
“There’s that word again! Sounds like someone’s name.”  
“Well actually, Lei, you



Images used with permission

**‘Tis the season for redistricting, which raises the ghost of ‘gerrymandering’ in state legislatures across the country. Kentucky State Rep. Josie Raymond, a Democrat, saw some humor in what her majority Republican colleagues proposed.**

got that half right. Governor Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts is associated with twisting a new voting district map into the shape of a salamander in 1812 to favor his political party.”  
“Oh, I get it now: gerry + mander. But that doesn’t sound fair.”  
“Well, Lei, it’s part of a little something called ‘redistricting’ when the political party in power in state legislatures redraw districts so they can ‘pick their voters,’ as the saying goes.”  
“What?! Buck, that sounds downright corrupt!”  
“Lei, remember what Winston Churchill said: ‘Democracy is the worst form of government — except for all the others that have been tried.’”  
“Buck, China riffs off that with its official position: ‘Democracy takes different forms, and there is no perfect system of democracy in the world, nor is there a political system that fits all countries.’”  
“Well, Lei, I guess we can agree on one thing — Democracy is in peril!”  
“Right, Buck. I heard your Vice President the other day liken January 6th, 2021, to Pearl Harbor, December 7th, 1941.”  
“There you go, Lei. Democracy is in peril.”

“But, Buck, if I remember my history right, 2,403 Americans died at Pearl Harbor and that attack launched your country into a world war. Sounds to me like no comparison.”  
“I see.”  
“And after the January 6th riot, Congress got back to work and certified the election results, right?”  
“Right. A victory for democracy.”  
“And then she said January 6th was like September 11th. If I remember my history, Buck, nearly 3,000 people died and ...”  
“Stop right there, Lei. I know where you’re going.”  
“Buck, January 6th was a bad look, but it was nothing like December 7th or September 11th. History matters and words matter.”  
“I know, Lei. The January 6th riot was very outrageous and very sad, and I feel sorry for all those who suffered, or were traumatized, or who lost loved ones.”  
“And there was one more casualty, Buck — America’s reputation. Here it played right into the hands of China’s pundits who want to portray the U.S. as an arrogant hypocrite. You know, the beacon of democracy and all that.”  
“President Biden didn’t hold back, either, saying

he fears ‘a dagger at the throat of democracy.’”  
“So, Buck, is American democracy really in peril?”  
“No, Lei, democracy itself is perilous. If it’s in peril, that’s nothing new. Let’s say we’re not in any more peril than in the War of 1812. And I don’t mean Gerry’s political one.”  
“You mean when British soldiers burned Washington, D.C., including the White House and the Capitol building, and captured and occupied your capital in 1814.”  
“Right again, Lei.”  
“That 1814 occupation lasted about 26 hours, Buck. That compares with 14 hours on January 6th, when police declared a riot at 1:49 p.m. and Congress certified the Electoral College Vote at 3:41 a.m. on January 7th.”  
“Wait, wait, Lei. You’re missing a big point.”  
“What’s that, Buck?”  
“The symbolism of a peaceful transfer of power. That was shattered.”  
“Oh, yes, like the Election of 1876.”  
“You’re too good, Lei! I know, that’s when Republican Rutherford B. Hayes lost the popular vote by 252,000 to Democrat Samuel Tilden, yet became president because of a compromised Electoral College vote of 185 to 184.”

“Don’t forget this part, Buck: There were charges of election fraud — 101% of eligible voters had their votes counted in South Carolina — and there was violence against Republican voters. One more thing: the winner of Florida was too close to call after the election.”  
“Some things never change, Lei, and history does matter. As Peter Baker reported in the New York Times on January 5th, 2021: ‘Allies of Mr. Trump, led by Senator Ted Cruz, Republican of Texas, have latched onto the resolution of the 1876 dispute as a model, proposing that Congress once again create a 15-member commission to decide the validity of various states’ electors. We should follow that precedent,’ Mr. Cruz and 10 other new or returning Republican senators wrote in a joint statement over the weekend.”  
“I guess you’re right, Buck. As Mark Twain put it: ‘History doesn’t repeat itself, but it often rhymes.’”  
“Yes, Lei, the antidote to hyperventilating about ‘democracy in peril’ is knowing your history and checking your facts. You can’t always take people at their word.”  
“Buck, I hear some red states are passing new laws to restrict voting rights of minorities. Or as President Biden said, the new Georgia law is an atrocity akin to ‘Jim Crow in the 21st century.’”  
“Yes, Lei, democracy is in peril again.”  
“But, Buck, did you read Russell Berman’s piece in The Atlantic in April? Get this, the Georgia law is less restrictive, with more options to vote before Election Day, than President Biden’s own state of Delaware. As Berman put it: ‘Few states have more limited voting options than Delaware ... where one in three residents is Black or Latino.’”  
“I think you are seeing through the fog, Lei.”  
“You mean the fog of a political war?”  
“That’s right, Lei. To the winners go the spoils. That’s why elections can be dirty street fights that open the door to fraud. There needs to be enough people with integrity — a critical mass of good citizens — to keep the grand experiment of democracy afloat.”  
“Now you’re taking about THE BIG LIE!”  
“No, Lei, the Stop the Steal people are going to

keep believing whatever they want to believe, and candidates will raise money off of it. Facebook isn’t helping when its attorneys argue in court that its ‘fact-checks’ are really just opinions protected by the First Amendment.”  
“Is there any hope, Buck?”  
“Don’t despair, Lei. We survived a Civil War with a president who said: ‘You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time.’”  
“Ah, yes, Buck. Abraham Lincoln, whose assassination put democracy in peril.”  
“Indeed it did, Lei.”  
“So, Buck, what’s your point about election fraud?”  
“It’s always been part of the game in American democracy. When The New York Times publishes headlines like this one — ‘The Times Called Officials in Every State: No Evidence of Voter Fraud’ — it just loses all credibility.”  
“So, Buck, you mean the question is not IF there was fraud, but if there was ENOUGH fraud to make a difference.”  
“You got it, Lei.”  
“So how did you come around to your thinking about election fraud?”  
“A book, ‘Deliver the Vote: A History of Election Fraud, an American Political Tradition — 1742-2004,’ published in 2006 by history professor Tracy Campbell.”  
“Oh, interesting.”  
“Here was the wake-up call, Lei.”  
“If elections are the lifeblood of democracy, then the United States is a sorely ailing body politic. From ballot stuffing and intimidating voters to suppressing turnout, buying votes, and manipulating returns, Deliver the Vote is an intensive examination of the corrupt underbelly of American politics.”  
“Our elections are often held up as the model for the world’s budding democracies to emulate. But after two of the most bitterly contested presidential elections in American history, this book shows how our democratic house has never been in proper order.”  
“Oh gee, Buck. And he was talking about the U.S. elections of 2000 and 2004.”  
“History matters, Lei.”  
“I’ve got an idea, Buck. It’s the very best way to keep democracy out of peril.”  
“Oh, yeah?”  
“I think everybody should subscribe to their local community newspaper. After all, they call journalism ‘history in a hurry,’ right?”  
“Right, Lei. Or should I say, ‘Word!’”

*About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, is doing a “participatory case study” of the News + Record, which he considers a model for community newspapers nationally. Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, began her collaboration with Ryan on News + Record articles to advance cross-cultural understanding with a March 6, 2020, story about her family’s lockdown in Wuhan during the pandemic and most recently with their tale of Spider-Man vs. China in a global box office battle. You can read those articles here:*

• <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/for-the-people-of-hubei-province-the-c-in-covid-19-stands-for-courage,4770>

• <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/2-blockbusters-fight-a-box-office-war-across-a-us-china-political-divide,11950>

## Chatham Charter School

Chatham Charter School is now accepting applications for openings in kindergarten and limited openings in first through eleventh grade for the 2022-2023 school year. Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age on or before August 31, 2022. The application period ends on January 28, 2022. Applications may be submitted online ([www.chathamcharter.org](http://www.chathamcharter.org)) under the “Admissions” link, at the school (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) or by calling (919) 742-4550.

*Chatham Charter School is a nonprofit, nondenominational public school providing quality education for children of all races, creeds, handicaps, and national origins.*

## La Escuela de Chatham Charter

La Escuela de Chatham Charter ahora está tomando aplicaciones para espacios del kinder y algunos espacios desde el primer grado hasta el grado once para el año escolar 2022-2023. Los niños que asistan al kinder deben tener cinco años de edad antes del 31 de agosto, 2022. El periodo de aplicación termina el 28 de enero, 2022. Puede completar una aplicación al Internet ([www.chathamcharter.org](http://www.chathamcharter.org)) al enlace Admissions, a la escuela (2200 Hamp Stone Road, Siler City) o por una llamada (919.742.4550).

*La Escuela de Chatham Charter es una escuela pública, multidenominacional, y no lucrativa que provee una educación de la calidad para los niños de todas las razas, los credos, una condición de discapacidad, y los orígenes nacionales.*

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Courtesy of Carolina Public Press

A sign displays drive-thru testing services at a pharmacy in Cary.

# Making sense of COVID testing in NC in 2022: An FAQ

Find answers to common questions about coronavirus testing in North Carolina

BY LAURA LEE  
Carolina Public Press

None of the information provided is medical advice, and individuals should consult their providers with medical questions.

## What are the testing options?

Two kinds of tests are available for current infection with the COVID-19 virus: Rapid tests and PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests.

PCRs are molecular tests administered by a nasal swab. The results typically take 24-72 hours. PCR tests are highly accurate, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

Rapid tests, or antigen tests, also use a nasal swab but results are available in about 15 minutes, according to Yale Medicine. They can be self-administered. Medical experts recommend taking two rapid tests, hours apart. Some experts have suggested swabbing both the throat and nose for at-home tests, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not advise it, and directions for the tests are limited to nasal swabbing.

## Who should I get tested and when?

Anyone with symptoms should get tested. The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's list of potential symptoms includes:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

People who do not have symptoms but have been exposed to someone with the infection should also get tested. Any unvaccinated person with a known COVID-19 exposure should immediately get a test, according to the CDC, while a vaccinated person with a known COVID-19 exposure is encouraged to test five to seven days after close contact with an infected person.

The CDC also recommends "using a self-test before joining indoor gatherings with others who are not in your household."

## Will the tests detect omicron variant?

Early studies show the tests likely detect infection with the omicron variant but only if a person's viral load is high. The FDA warned that at-home tests may have reduced sensitivity but

research is ongoing. PCR tests are very accurate at detecting omicron.

## Will I know which variant I have if I test positive?

It is unlikely. Rapid test and PCR test results indicate whether a person is infected. Labs and the CDC test samples using genomic sequencing to determine what variants are present, but individuals do not receive those results.

The recommendations for isolation and masking are the same for any infected individual, regardless of variant.

## How much are tests?

Free PCR testing is available throughout North Carolina. Find a free community location through the DHHS site. Through a partnership with LabCorp, the Department also offers tests-by-mail in limited quantities. In addition, some rapid tests may be purchased at local pharmacies and other retailers. Beginning Saturday, Jan. 15, private health insurers are required to reimburse the purchase of up to eight tests per insured person per month, according to a White House announcement.

The federal government is providing 50 million free, at-home tests through Medicare-certified health clinics and community health centers. The government is also purchasing 500 million tests for free distribution through a website set to launch Wednesday.

## Where in North Carolina can I find a PCR testing location?

The NC Department of Health and Human Services offers a free online test site finder.

North Carolinians may also request an at-home PCR test kit through a partnership between the state and Labcorp. After a request through the site, recipients are sent a self-collection test kit via FedEx Priority Overnight shipping. After collecting a sample, recipients return the kit with a pre-paid FedEx label. Results are available online.

## If I get a negative test but I have symptoms, what should I do?

The CDC recommends that individuals who test negative but have symptoms isolate and re-test a few days later. It is possible to be infected but not yet test positive, and some studies indicate that people are highly contagious in the first few days after contracting the virus.

## What do I do if I test positive?

The CDC changed guidance for positive tests, prompting some

employers to reduce paid sick leave. Individuals are no longer asked to isolate for 10 days, but may instead isolate for 5 days and wear a mask for 5 additional days.

People with positive tests should also ask their medical provider about possible pharmaceutical interventions such as monoclonal antibodies.

## Do I need to test again at the end of isolation?

The CDC guidelines do not require additional testing at the conclusion of the isolation period, but some health care officials, including the American Medical Association, disagree with this guidance.

"A negative test should be required for ending isolation after one tests positive for COVID-19," American Medical Association President Dr. Gerald E. Harmonsaid. "Reemerging without knowing one's status unnecessarily risks further transmission of the virus."

## If I had a positive at-home rapid test, do I need a PCR?

State guidance does not recommend a PCR following a positive rapid test, but a spokesperson for NC DHHS said individuals should consult their medical providers concerning what treatments might be available depending on their symptoms.

Long COVID can be recognized disability under federal law, according to the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Some disability rights advocates have suggested that individuals who test positive on a rapid test also get a PCR as documentation for any future disability claims.

## Can children get tests?

Yes. Children may be tested with the same tests as adults, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Do I need a test to fly?

International flights require individuals 2 and older to show proof of a negative PCR test within 24 hours of flying or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days, according to the CDC.

Domestic flights do not require testing or vaccination.

## What is wastewater testing?

NCDHHS takes samples from wastewater treatment plants across the state to look for evidence of the COVID-19 virus. This testing helps state experts analyze viral spread at the community level.

# Last week's Chatham commissioner retreat marks start of budget development

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners met last Wednesday and Friday for its budget retreat, kicking off the county's formal budget development for the next fiscal year.

Only four members were present, as a replacement has not yet been appointed to replace former Commissioner Jim Crawford, who resigned effective Dec. 31.

Budgeting is a year-long process, county staff stressed throughout the retreat, but the January retreat is a chance to collaborate in depth regarding budget decisions. Each year the county must finalize the budget for the next fiscal year by the state's June 30 budget adoption date; the county manager typically recommends a budget to the board at the beginning of May.

"The purpose of our budget is to forecast our revenue and expenses," Budget Analyst Lisa West told the board last Wednesday. "We want to make sure that nothing blindsides us, that we've done the due diligence and nothing comes up that says, 'Oh, you didn't consider that.' We want to do our homework."

To start the process, commissioners formulate budgetary goals, then adopt the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the county's long-term plan for large financial projects, and identify any preliminary budget problems to allow staff enough time to solve potential issues.

Then the county holds a budget retreat at the beginning of the calendar year to set budgetary parameters, review trends and current year actuals compared to those budgeted, take a preliminary look at the bottom line and, of course, hear guidance from commissioners.

Following the retreat, staff works on developing the next year's budget.

Last week's retreat included updates from the county's departments ahead of their actual budget requests, including one from Chatham County Schools, which can fund more than 80 teachers outside what the state allots due to local funding.

"Over half the districts in North Carolina don't get any teachers from local funding," Tony Messer, CCS's chief finance officer, told the board.

CCS ranks seventh in the state for local funding and 49th overall.

Local budget funds amount to around \$40 million of CCS's current

budget, up 6% from last fiscal year and 37% of the district's total budget, up from 33% the year prior. The increase is due to the opening of Seaforth High School and an anticipated increase in employee salary supplements. Though local counties can supplement the money the state provides for operations, they are responsible for funding school construction and maintenance.

"The relationship between the board of education and this board of commissioners is the envy of this state," Superintendent Anthony Jackson said. "I've been to many different places where this does not occur, and so for that I thank you for receiving this information and considering it fully."

On Friday, the board also discussed making Chatham County Council on Aging a county department, at the request of the organization and in light of director Dennis Streets' impending retirement.

Lee Worsley, executive director of Triangle J Council of Governments, told the board the relationship between the COA and county was very positive, and stressed the transition was a collaborative effort, not a "hostile takeover."

Commissioners unanimously said staff could move forward with transitioning COA to a county department, which means the current COA Board of Directors will become an advisory "friends" board that would remain a nonprofit and act as its fundraising arm. The county also moved from a minimum to a partial implementation to reduce pay compression for employees.

"There's a lot of work to be done, but I think it can happen in a pretty seamless way," Streets told the board.

The retreat concluded with commissioners discussing their goals for the budget process. Conversations included the creation of a map of conserved land in Chatham, future public transportation plans, a continued increase in affordable housing, county tax rates, a minority business assessment and ways the county can contribute to Pittsboro's infrastructure improvements.

"Thank you for that," County Manager Dan LaMontagne said before the board moved into closed session. "It gives us good direction on open lands and land conservation for sure."

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



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

January 20th through January 26th

**Thursday, January 20th**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly](#) at 1:00 PM

**Friday, January 21st**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM

**Monday, January 24th**

- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM

**Tuesday, January 25th**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM

**Wednesday, January 26th**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM

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

The COA has temporarily suspended in-person activities and classes through Friday, January 28. All listed programs will be available virtually via the Zoom platform. Registration is available through the Council on Aging's website.

### The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at [chathamcoa.org](https://chathamcoa.org) or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

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

# A squirrely adventure

This squirrel, captured on film by CN+R photographer Simon Barbre at his Chatham County home, might be looking for a morsel of food during Sunday's brief snowstorm.

Staff photos by Simon Barbre



## Experts say Black lawmakers are sure to lose seats under new NC legislative maps

BY LYNN BONNER  
NC Policy Watch

Two Black incumbent senators in eastern North Carolina have no chance of winning reelection in their newly drawn districts, according to an analysis by UCLA political scientist Jeffrey B. Lewis, who testified for Republicans in the Superior Court redistricting trial this month.

Sen. Ernestine Bazemore, a Democrat from Bertie County, is in a new 10-county district. According to Lewis, the candidate from that district whom Black voters prefer would win the Democratic primary nearly all the time but would have no chance of winning the general election.

The same would happen in the newly reconstituted district where Sen. Toby Fitch, a Wilson Democrat, lives.

The newly drawn districts would prevent Black voters who live in parts of North Carolina's Black Belt — counties with fertile soil worked by enslaved Africans and their descendants before the Civil War — from electing their preferred candidates to the state Senate.

Black residents are the majority in some of those counties, including Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, and Northampton. They are part of a rural stronghold for Democrats in statewide elections.

Losing Black representation in the legislature could be devastating, said Syene Jasim, a Black Voters Matter organizer in northeastern North Carolina.

"Having someone represent our interests — not only being Black. That's really the biggest thing," Jasim said in an interview.

States are required to draw new election districts after every census to account for population shifts, growth and decline. In North Carolina, legislators draw plans to benefit the party in power.

### A 'painfully obvious' change

The Southern Coalition for Social Justice is representing Common Cause and the state NAACP in the redistricting lawsuit that claims legislative plans dilute Black voting power. The civil rights groups are suing several Republican lawmakers who drew the maps, claiming the plans are extreme gerrymanders that lock in GOP majorities and intentionally discriminate against minority voters. The Common Cause case is combined with redistricting lawsuits filed by two



Courtesy of NC Policy Watch

Sen. Ernestine Bazemore and Sen. Toby Fitch

other sets of challengers.

The challengers lost at the trial court level earlier this month. Though they agreed that Republicans intentionally drew partisan maps to benefit their party, the three presiding Superior Court judges said they couldn't stop it. The constitutional questions raised in the lawsuit don't apply to redistricting, they wrote, and there were no facts pointing to intentional racial discrimination.

The challengers are appealing to the state Supreme Court.

Before North Carolina legislators draw districts, the state map is broken into "county clusters" based on population. Republicans had two options for clusters in northeast North Carolina.

In October, lawyers with the Southern Coalition for Social Justice warned legislators that they were using the option that was "obviously worse for Black voters." Republicans say they did

not use partisan or racial data in drawing the new maps.

But in an Oct. 25 letter, the Southern Coalition for Social Justice lawyers wrote that the 10-county cluster legislators were using "most certainly destroys the ability of Black voters to elect the candidate of their choice," something that "would have been painfully obvious to anyone with a passing familiarity with North Carolina's political geography."

Republican legislators drew the 10-county district in order to keep together four counties in the state's northeast corner, testified Sen. Ralph Hise, a co-chairman of his chamber's redistricting committee, this month.

Before they began working on the new plans, Republicans rejected repeated requests from Democrats to study racially polarized voting in the state. Hise testified that they did not commission such a study because

the U.S. Department of Justice no longer reviews North Carolina redistricting plans.

For many years, the federal Voting Rights Act required states and counties with histories of racial discrimination in elections to get approval from the Justice Department before new districts were used or new voting laws went into effect, a process called "preclearance." The Justice Department could reject discriminatory election laws or redistricting maps that took away Black or Latino voters' power.

In 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states subject to that preclearance requirement no longer had to do it.

Legislators needed a study of racially polarized voting in 2011 to comply with preclearance, Hise testified. But since the 2013 decision, "we are no longer under preclearance for redrawing the map," he said.

### A national trend

Legislatures around the country are diluting the power of Black and Latino voters under the guise of race-blind redistricting, said Kathay Feng, national redistricting director at Common Cause. "We are definitely seeing a playbook that is being carried out in state after state where legislators are pretending to ignore race even as they embed racial dilution behind closed doors," she said.

Civil rights groups are suing South Carolina elected officials in federal court over that state's new state House redistricting plan, claiming it intentionally dilutes Black voting strength.

Federal lawsuits also claim that Georgia's new congressional and legislative districts dilute Black voting power, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution.

Texas legislators are facing a blizzard of lawsuits claiming their redistricting plans discriminate against voters of color.

And the Ohio Supreme Court last week threw out that state's legislative and congressional redistricting plans, saying they violated state constitutional limits on partisan gerrymandering, according to the Ohio Capital Journal.

"If you don't have people in the state legislature who are listening to and truly representing every constituency of the state, you will see a return to white supremacy," Feng said. "It's a real concern."

### Advocates reject GOP claims of colorblindness

Keisha Dobie of Elizabeth City said legislators' claim that they worked without using information about race was not a legitimate or sensible way to draw districts. "I don't know how you can ignore what race people are and where the majority

of those people reside," she said. "I believe they had a plan."

Dobie is a doctoral student and former teacher who learned about redistricting from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. She talked to other residents about filling out the census, voting, community issues and the process of drawing new districts.

Dobie said in an interview that the new districts legislators enacted point to an even greater need for public interest in redistricting, including among high school and college students.

"We need a different mindset," she said. "Grassroots organizations have to play a different game and have a different level of response."

Jasmin, the Black Voters Matter organizer, said the job of redistricting should be taken out of legislators' hands. Giving the job to an independent observer would be the fairest way to redistrict, he said.

"I don't understand how gerrymandering is legal," Jasmin said.

The voting rights bill sitting in the U.S. Senate would ban gerrymandering in the drawing of congressional districts and it would effectively restore the requirement for some states and counties to have new districts precleared by the U.S. Justice Department.

The bill is not expected to overcome a Senate filibuster.

# CHATHAM IS BOLD!





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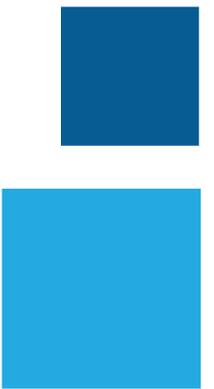
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## Popeye would approve

Last week, I had an awful day. Cruelty is the worst, but when it comes from someone you didn't think was capable of it, it breaks you a bit and shakes the earth upon which you stand.

**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

By the time I got home, I was wishing my mom was visiting so that I could put my head in her lap and sob.

Luckily, a friend was visiting who talked me down and I felt much better. I'd invited her for dinner, and by the time I was able to cook, it was late and we were both starving. I was going to make something that was pretty labor-intensive and took a while to prepare.

Change of plans, obvi. So, I went freezer spelunking and found a bag from Trader Joe's. It was fettuccine with mushrooms and a light sauce. It's delicious, but it's really a side dish and not enough for supper for two women who'd just successfully finessed 83 crises.

In the fridge, I had some shredded white meat chicken — score!

But I wanted to add some actual veggies, so I grabbed a big bag of spinach that was on the verge of being on the verge (you know; not rotten, but not quite right—and I know, I went to school with a kid like that).

I tossed the bag of pasta into a skillet along with the whole bag of greens. I knew they would cook down to a very little bit, even though in the pan at first they dwarfed the pasta by about nine to one.

I cooked the pasta according to directions but left out the recommended

**Sautéed Garlic Spinach**

1 large bag of raw greens per diner, roughly chopped  
4 cloves of garlic per bag of spinach, roughly chopped  
1/2 tablespoon of any type of cooking oil

you have per bag  
Splash of water per bag  
Freshly cracked black pepper to taste  
More kosher salt than you think you'll need

In a very large pot with a lid (with spinach for a crowd you may need two pots to fit in all the raw greens) heat oil on medium-low. Add chopped garlic and cook until the garlic is fragrant and has softened, but not browned.

Add the spinach to pot and add a splash of water per bag. Cover and cook for about two or three minutes or until the spinach has begun wilting and released some liquid (the water will stop the garlic from browning or burning).

Cook, uncovered until the spinach has cooked down and almost all the liquid has cooked out. Season with salt and pepper and remember, greens need a lot of salt so add and taste, add and taste until it's right.

Serves one per bag.

water. All that space that raw spinach takes up is just water.

When the pasta was cooked, the spinach was perfect. I added a couple of tablespoons of heavy cream to extend the sauce and when it was hot, added the chicken to heat through but not get dry and stringy.

It was delicious, there was plenty, and it was comfort food without too much guilt (hey us hungry women think about nutrition, too).

Yesterday at work I kept thinking about dinner. I decided to make orzo, a rice-shaped pasta that I love and The Kid hates (it's a texture thing), and mix it with another frozen bag from Trader Joe's.

This was elote.

Elote is Mexican street corn. The ear's put on a stick and roasted in the husk so that the kernels get all charred and extra sweet. Then the husk is taken down to use like a hilt, and the corn is rolled in mayonnaise with a bunch of lime in it and sprinkled liberally with chili powder and cotija cheese, kind of a cross between goat cheese and Parmesan.

Well, my culinary crush Trader Joe made elote, but off the kernel, and in a bag, frozen and just waiting to be devoured. I knew that delicious, unctuous corn and pasta would be both delicious and for me, the texture would be awesome.

But of course, it was also as healthy for me as a big bowl of blue box mac with a handful of corn thrown in — not very. Then I remembered the second bag of spinach.

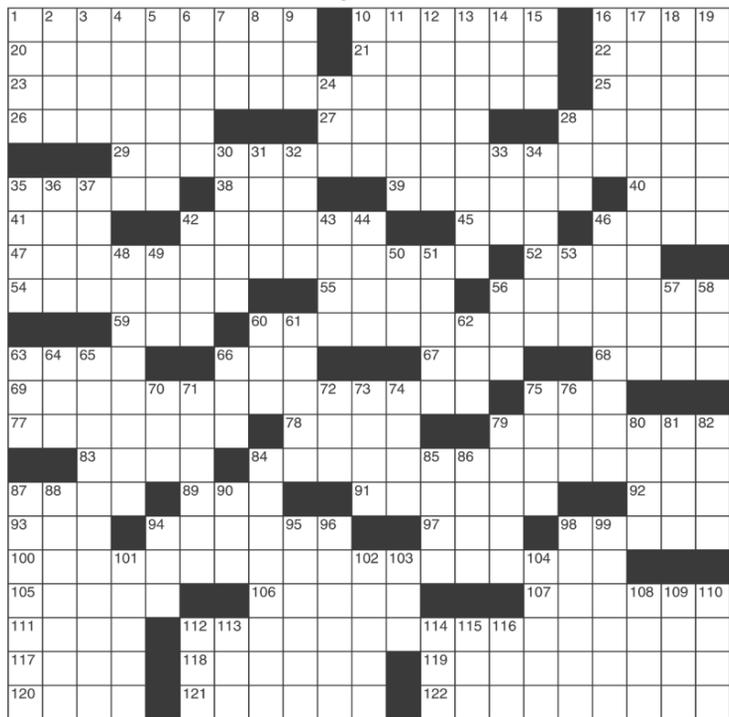
So, this time I wilted the spinach in the microwave before adding it. The pasta and the corn get ready (but in separate vessels) in about the same amount of time, so I nuked the spinach earlier. Later it would be ready for me and cool enough to handle.

I squeezed out as much water as possible and gave it a rough chop before throwing it in the skillet of corn where I had also added the drained orzo.

So, if you have an overindulgent or just plain boring dish and the odd bag of greens (not just spinach) that is on the verge of being on the verge, think about using it to add texture, flavor, color, and enough iron to beat up a cartoon bully.

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sports events played by visiting teams
  - 10 Obeys reluctantly
  - 16 Boho-chic Aussie boots
  - 20 Arched shoe part
  - 21 Part of U.K.
  - 22 She talks on iPhones
  - 23 Parasites plaguing the Cheshire cat?
  - 25 A party to
  - 26 Everlasting, poetically
  - 27 Above ground
  - 28 Bedazzled threads
  - 29 Worked to get a different reward?
  - 35 Pizza base
  - 38 Tic-tac-toe win
  - 39 Geometry assignments
  - 40 "Dr." who raps
  - 41 Above, poetically
  - 42 Yard separators
  - 45 Prefix with cyclist
  - 46 Combat vet's affliction, for short
  - 47 One giving technical advice to wizards?
  - 52 Bull in a ring
  - 54 Structure near a tonsil
  - 55 "Othello" adversary
  - 56 Relatives of alpacas
  - 59 Adversary
  - 60 City area where lots of radiators are produced?
  - 63 Sword variety
  - 66 Medic
  - 67 Hiking aid
  - 68 Disgusting
  - 69 Untwisting threads overseas?
  - 75 "I think —!"
  - 77 Mobile's state
  - 78 Smell horrible
  - 79 Big ape
  - 83 Hoofbeat
  - 84 Math student doing sums correctly?
  - 87 Mötley —
  - 89 — hub (tech device)
  - 91 Widely known
  - 92 "Nope"
  - 93 Narrow estuary
  - 94 Guinea pig's cousin
  - 97 Ring legend Muhammad
  - 98 Speechify
  - 100 Clock setting at the rear of a ship?
  - 105 Makes grimy
  - 106 Eye color, e.g.
  - 107 Non-Spanish spelling of an Arizona tribe's name
  - 111 Pack neatly
  - 112 Trim request ... or what this puzzle takes, based on what its missing letters spell?
  - 117 Sicilian peak
  - 118 Use a hammer to fix, perhaps
  - 119 Angry cry to a captor
  - 120 Promising
  - 121 Lacey's partner on TV
  - 122 Hugh Jackman film about robot boxing
  - 4 Certain plows and tractors
  - 5 Give a smile
  - 6 Ed of "Gus"
  - 7 Trim grass
  - 8 "Do Ya" rock gp.
  - 9 Wash, bigwig
  - 10 Good, in Spain
  - 11 Freeway access point
  - 12 More shrewd
  - 13 Begin
  - 14 "X" number
  - 15 Eccentric
  - 16 Consuming
  - 17 Popular highball
  - 18 Gardeners, farmers, etc.
  - 19 Well-muscled
  - 24 Affront, in rap
  - 28 GEICO's bus.
  - 30 Incessantly
  - 31 Geologic spans
  - 32 Lead-in to drama
  - 33 Sweetie pie
  - 34 Should that be the case
  - 35 Super-deep sleep
  - 36 Skim, say
  - 37 Spur (on)
  - 42 Pâté de — gras
  - 43 Hollywood's Kazan
  - 44 Eye color, e.g.
  - 46 Itchy, medically
  - 48 Make weak
  - 49 Pigeon sound
  - 50 Geologic span
  - 51 Shearer of "A Free Soul"
  - 53 Sept. follower
  - 56 Bigwig
  - 57 Comic strip cry of dismay
  - 58 Sloppy farm area
  - 60 Animal in a 58-Down
  - 61 Greeting with a GIF, maybe
  - 62 June honoree
  - 63 Geologic span
  - 64 Chum
  - 65 Pre-hurricane orders
  - 66 Stuff in the gene pool
  - 70 Thai language
  - 71 Oppose as false
  - 72 Snoozing site
  - 73 Atoll feature
  - 74 Sticky pod in Cajun cuisine
  - 75 Entre — (between us)
  - 76 Tolkien beast
  - 79 Astronaut's wear
  - 80 "Girls" creator Dunham
  - 81 Legal exam, for short
  - 82 Former court king Arthur
  - 84 Lying adjacent to
  - 85 Epps of "Scream 2"
  - 86 Give up a poker hand
  - 87 More boorish
  - 88 Trattoria rice dish
  - 90 Distress call
  - 94 — Antiqua
  - 95 Plaid design
  - 96 Even-scored
  - 98 Nebraskan Native Americans
  - 99 Reinstated in an office
  - 101 1999 Super Bowl MVP John
  - 102 Humdinger
  - 103 Wolfed down
  - 104 Spying info
  - 108 To — (perfectly)
  - 109 Living space
  - 110 German car company
  - 112 Circle part
  - 113 Rural stretch (between us)
  - 114 Rink legend Bobby
  - 115 Stipend or toll
  - 116 St. Pete loc.



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

PREZ JOCKEYS WELK DRJ  
 REDO INASNIT OXENRIA  
 EPIC MONTANE VIVACITY  
 RATON IAM NAES VELEZ  
 EVERYLETTEROF TCELL  
 QED ULA ELK LASER TAX  
 SKOSH IOWAN MYHERO  
 JERK SEANN AGAPE MANX  
 ARIANA RIGBY GIN OMOO  
 XACTO ESQRIG QTR  
 THEALPHABETISUSEDAT  
 MIO BIV NNE TOQUE  
 WALK TCM JESSE ADJUST  
 AROO CHAPO QUAFF OAKS  
 WOWZER ISUZU DOFFS  
 ADV SIGMA OAS CIA TWA  
 OPT TO LEASTSIXTIMES  
 BILGE BAMS HIP ERIES  
 AMUSED BY THEFONZ ANNI  
 JAM MOLE EARLOBE QUIZ  
 AXE SHES ESSENCE ISEE

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## MAGIC MAZE ● GRAPHS AND CHARTS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: A CHART WITH SLICES

- |            |           |            |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Axes       | Grid      | Line chart | Title      |
| Bar chart  | Histogram | PERT       | Tree chart |
| Data       | Labels    | Plot       | Variables  |
| Flow chart | Legend    | Scale      |            |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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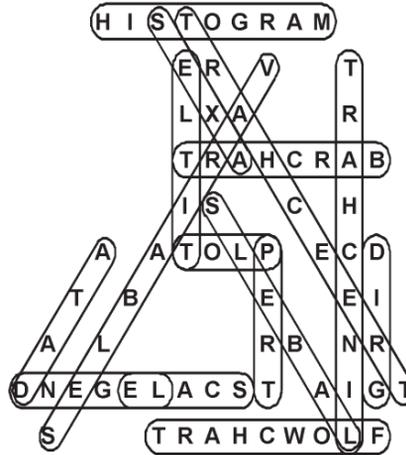
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GRAPHS AND CHARTS



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

## Almodóvar's otherwise engrossing 'Parallel Mothers' ultimately tells ill-fitting parallel stories

The through line running across writer-director Pedro Almodóvar's "Parallel Mothers" is the strength and resilience of mothers, often in the absence — voluntary and otherwise — of men. That lesson is shared by two connected but distinct storylines that, while impactful on their own, detract from each other when shoehorned together. The result is a tantalizing tale of romance, friendship and betrayal revolving around the bounds of womanhood, bookended by a historical fulcrum that seemingly belongs in



**NEIL MORRIS**  
Film Critic

**PARALLEL MOTHERS**

**GRADE:** B

**DIRECTOR:** Pedro Almodóvar

**STARRING:** Penélope Cruz, Milena Smit, Israel Elejalde and Aitana Sánchez-Gijón

**MPAA RATING:** R

**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hr.

in Janis's hometown where her ancestors and others were killed during Francisco Franco's bloody reign. Janis soon begins a fling with the married Arturo, resulting in her pregnancy. While giving birth in a Madrid hospital, the happily pregnant Janis meets Ana (Milena Smit), a scared teenager with an unwanted pregnancy.

Janis and Ana form a kinship and exchange numbers before leaving the ward. Later, Janis ends her relationship with Arturo after he expresses skepticism about his paternity. After meeting at a coffee shop, Janis and Ana rekindle a friendship that eventually evolves into an affair. In the meantime, both Janis and Ana discover and share secrets about their respective children

that threaten to upend each other's lives.

The primary storyline, involving Janis and Ana, has the intrigue of an Alfred Hitchcock psycho-sexual thriller, no surprise given the longstanding esteem Almodóvar holds for Hitchcock. Cruz is engrossing as an almost middle-aged woman grappling with life as a single career woman, single mother, and a yearning to exhume some connection to her past. By contrast, Ana is naive and yet also calculating. In Janis, Ana sees a friend, then a lover, and also the maternal figure lacking in Ana's relationship with her own absentee mother, Teresa (Aitana Sánchez-Gijón), an actress and exacting presence in Ana's life.

It all sets the stage for a

dramatic denouement that fizzles when, at the storyline's taut apex, Almodóvar opts to resolve any narrative tension by shifting its focus back to Janis's excavation project. The climax is bracing and plaintive, capturing the historical pain of the past and the common bond shared by the women left to carry on after the brutality of men.

But the abrupt change derails the contemplative, carefully constructed plotline involving Janis and Ana, casting aside their multi-layered interrelation for an ending that is elegiac, but also resolves everything before it in tidy fashion. "Parallel Mothers" shares the lesson Almodóvar wants to tell, but at the expense of the story it was made to tell.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

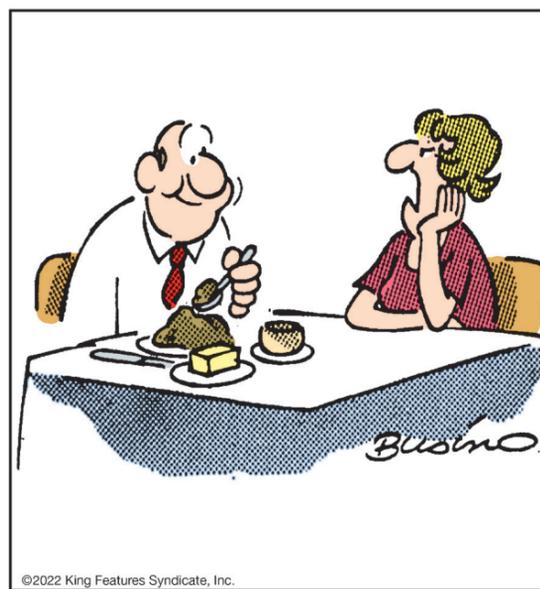


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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