

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | FEBRUARY 3 - 9, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

## Chatham libraries update review processes following recent book bans

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

News that a Tennessee school district unanimously banned the use of "Maus" — a Pulitzer-winning graphic novel about the Holocaust by Art Spiegelman — in its 8th-grade curriculum spread rapidly on social media last week, renewing national debates about book bans and what students should learn about in schools. The 10-0 vote by the McMinn County school board cited the

work's profanity and nudity in justifying the removal, along with its depiction of murder and hangings. The novel is based on interviews with Spiegelman's father, a Holocaust survivor, and depicts Jewish people in drawings as mice and Nazis as cats. (The profanity cited is the repeated phrase, "God d\*\*\*," and the nudity refers to illustrations of naked women depicted as mice.)

"It's part of a continuum, and just a harbinger of things

to come," Spiegelman told the Washington Post after news of the Jan. 10 vote broke, first reported by TN Holler last Wednesday.

"...The control of people's thoughts is essential to all of this."

By Friday, a hard copy version of the serialized work was listed as Amazon's #9 top seller. Even with demonstrated support of the book, many historians and educators across

See **BOOKS**, page A3



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Students line up last July outside of the Bookmobile — a mobile library run by Siler City and Virginia Cross elementary schools to provide books to low-income students during the summer break from school.

## 'I DON'T THINK IT WILL GET MUCH TRACTION'

## Hemp shop owner questions medical marijuana bill

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Aaron Puryear has been one of the co-owners of Oak City Hemp — located at The Plant in Pittsboro — since the company's inception in 2018, when hemp-derived products were federally legalized across the United States.

"We started out as more of a little side thing just so we could have safe and reliable access to a local hemp-based product, and then it quickly transformed into a business," Puryear said.

But Puryear's business — and many like it — may have future competition: medical cannabis.

The North Carolina State Senate proposed late last August Senate Bill 711, also known as the N.C. Compassionate Care Act, which would legalize the use of cannabis to treat a wide variety of ailments and illnesses, including epilepsy, cancer, HIV/AIDS, PTSD and more.

Hemp-based products, such as CBD and other molecules found in hemp (known as cannabinoids), were federally legalized in 2018 through the passage of the Farm Bill. To be classified as a hemp-derived product, the THC content of the product must be 0.3% or less of its dry weight, according to the Farm Bill, which is a low enough concentration to ensure users don't experience the "high" associated with cannabis.

Some legal hemp-derived products, though, offer psychoactive effects similar to marijuana, according to Puryear. The two main forms of hemp on the market in North Carolina are CBD — which does not have psychoactive properties — and Delta-8 THC, which provides users with a similar "high" the THC found in marijuana, known as Delta-9 THC, gives.

See **HEMP**, page A3

## Hispanic Liaison's López Garcia aims to empower youth

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When José López Garcia was 8 years old, his parents crossed into the U.S. to give him and his sister a shot at the education and opportunity they never had.

Now, at age 26, he's following their example. Formerly a Chatham County Schools parent liaison and teacher, López Garcia became the Hispanic Liaison's new youth program assistant in December to mentor Chatham's Hispanic youth and empower them to achieve their dreams.

"I'm glad to be here because I wanted to keep helping my community," López Garcia told the News + Record. "I didn't know if I was just at the right place to do that, and El Vinculo Hispano, I think, is the right place to help my community and especially young — well almost young — adults."

As youth program assistant, he works with the Liaison's youth program director, Selina Lopez, to support Hispanic high school students involved in Orgullo Latinx Pride, the Liaison's youth group.

Launched in late 2017, Orgullo Latinx Pride (OLP) is a free year-round youth program designed to provide Hispanic students multiple pillars of pivotal support: academic support, cultural education, mentorship, and even "a second little home," according to Lopez.

Up until last summer, the program had only served Jordan-Matthews High School students. After

See **YOUTH**, page A7



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

José López Garcia, the Hispanic Liaison's new youth program assistant, in front of the Liaison's office.

### THE CN+R Q&A

## The dashboard has changed, and Chatham's vax numbers are up. Here's how to make sense of it all.

Nearing our third year of this pandemic, making sense of the numbers isn't



Zachary Horner

always an easy thing to do. New changes in the state of North Carolina's COVID "dashboard," for example, yield good news — even more Chatham residents have received vaccination doses, thanks to a recalculation. To address these and other related issues, the News + Record reached out to Zachary Horner, the communications specialist for the Chatham County Public Health Department. He is a former journalist who worked for the News + Record before joining CCPHD in June 2020. He is a graduate of Elon University who is currently in the Masters of Social Work program at the Universi-

ty of Kentucky. He lives in Sanford with his wife, Sarah, and cat, Holmes.

**There's been a change in COVID-19 vaccination numbers on the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services' dashboard. Why the change, and how are Chatham's numbers reflected in that change?**

According to NCDHHS, the change was made to "more accurately reflect the county of residence for the person vaccinated." This means that we now have a more accurate picture of how many Chatham residents have received at least one dose or received two doses of an mRNA vaccine or one dose of Johnson & Johnson. NCDHHS said that Chatham had among the highest upticks in terms of percentage points at 6%.

So, we are now, as of this past Friday,

See **COVID**, page A6

### PRICE IN PITTSBORO

## Congressman, Mayor Perry discuss infrastructure plan

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Rep. David Price (D-N.C. 4) visited Pittsboro last Friday to meet with Mayor Cindy Perry for a discussion about the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and how the bill's funding could aid Pittsboro in addressing its water pollution issues.

Also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the bill was passed and signed into law by President Joe Biden in mid-November. The bill is set to provide \$550 billion in investments over the course of five years to improve American infrastructure — including roads, water treatment, clean energy sources and more.

Price and Perry met at Pittsboro's

See **PERRY**, page A14



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry (left) and Rep. David Price filmed a video last Friday about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan. The video, made for Price's website, was made at Pittsboro's water plant.

### IN THE KNOW

Siler City's 14U football team aims to fill middle school void. **PAGE B1**

STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST CHATHAM COUNTY NEWS



# 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 Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will hold work and regular sessions on Monday, Feb. 7, at the Historic Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro. The work session will begin at 5 p.m. and the regular session will begin at 6 p.m.

**The Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7, in the Wren Memorial Library multipurpose room. The meeting will also be live-streamed on Zoom.

**Siler City's Immigrant Community Advisory Committee** will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Wren Memorial Library, or by Zoom, if COVID trends force them to meet virtually.

**The Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10, via teleconference. If you wish to attend, call 919-545-8440 for more information and to receive the teleconference number.

## OTHER

**The Town of Siler City** intends to identify and select an individual or group to provide concessions services at the Bray Park Sports Complex during all local league play, tournaments and special events. Concession services require many nights and weekends. Group shall be responsible for all supplies. Servsafe Food Safety training required. For Scope of Work and General Terms and Conditions, contact Jack Clelland [jclelland@silercity.org](mailto:jclelland@silercity.org) 919-742-2699 or visit [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org). Proposals should include what should be expected from your concession services and any prior experiences. Proposals are due no later than 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4.

**BSA Cub Scout & Venturing Crew 924** announces their 25th annual Auction Fundraiser to be held Saturday, February 5 at 6 p.m. at the **First United Methodist Church in Siler City**. The auction preview will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. (Inclement weather date: February 12 - times will be the same).

**Chatham Community Library** Presents "Patriots of Color in Chatham County: Untold Stories" will be shown virtually on Saturday, February 19, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Renowned speaker David Morrow will lead the lecture, discussing the many contributions of

Chatham County's free people of color during the Revolutionary War. Chatham Community Library and the Community Remembrance Coalition - Chatham (CRC-C) will co-sponsor the event. This virtual event is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants should register online to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or [rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

**Chatham Community Library** will host a virtual film screening of Barbara Lee: Speaking Truth to Power (2020). This is free and open to the public. WHAT: Virtual Film Screening: Barbara Lee: Speaking Truth to Power; Thursday, February 10 - 17; Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning Thursday, February 10. Visit <https://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room/barbara-lee-speaking-truth-to-power-watch-page-chatham-community-library/> - A password is required at the time of viewing. If interested, contact [social.library@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:social.library@chathamlibraries.org) to request the password or for additional information. The library has purchased a hard copy of the film if residents who wish to see the film miss the virtual screening window.

**Chatham Community Library** is offering free online classes on Microsoft PowerPoint and Google Apps in February. Class descriptions and a registration link can be found by visiting [www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/ComputerClasses). Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 1: February 9, Wednesday, 3 p.m.; or Microsoft PowerPoint Basics, Part 2: February 16, Wednesday, 3 p.m., or Google Apps: February 23, Wednesday, 3 p.m.

**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, Feb. 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.

**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. Basketball 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.

**Celebrity Dairy** announces its Open Barn and Tours, beginning Feb. 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 through 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-in-

termediate), 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 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 hazard-

ous material facilities in Chatham County or the LEPC in general, contact Emergency Management at 919-545-8191. The first scheduled meeting is Thursday, Feb. 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 four 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 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., 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 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 hospi-

See CALENDAR, page A8

## How did you LAND here?

**HAS ERIC 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 Cullberson Drive (Siler City)
- 570 Aveyance 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 Cullberson 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 Chatham N+R YouTube Video of the Week

[www.youtu.be/ctooFBSw\\_IE](http://www.youtu.be/ctooFBSw_IE)

## Public Notice

### TOWN OF SILER CITY LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

**Loose leaf pick up is coming to an end February 11, 2022. Please have your loose leaves out by February 6, 2022, as we will be making our final round that week. Thank you for your understanding as we finish up this very busy leaf season. For questions, please call 919-742-4732.**

**La recolección de hojas sueltas está llegando a su fin Febrero 11, 2022. Por favor, de colocar sus hojas sueltas al borde de la calle antes del día 6 de Febrero de 2022. Estaremos haciendo nuestra ronda final esa semana. Gracias por su comprensión mientras terminamos esta temporada de hojas. Para preguntas por favor llame al 919-742-4732.**

**REALTY WORLD**

**CAROLINA PROPERTIES**

**919-542-0523**

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

For RWCP Property Management Call **Jennifer 919-545-9405**

RWCP is hiring Sales Agents. Call **Jeanette 919-545-9911**

## Chatham News + Record

[www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com)

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# HEMP

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“Legally, I have access to every cannabinoid the cannabis plant has to offer with hemp, and there’s over 100 known cannabinoids,” Puryear said. “I tell people all the time legalization is here — it’s just in a different form than most people expected.”

For some, legalization is not here in the way they wish.

Pittsboro resident Corbie Hill used to be a cannabis user — as someone who was diagnosed with chronic leukemia and anxiety, he said he used marijuana to help manage his pain and anxiety symptoms. He said he believes both medical and recreational use of marijuana should be legalized in North Carolina.

“Sometimes the federal model is nothing shy of ridiculous — places like North Carolina are stuck in a very 20th century War on Drugs prohibition, while in other states it’s finally no big deal,” Hill said. “Legalize it, pardon people — statistically, these are largely people of color — who are serving unjust sentences for simple possession, and pay them reparations.”

The Compassionate Care Act would allow for 10 medical marijuana licenses to be given to 10 suppliers. Each supplier would be able to open four medical marijuana dispensaries, two of which would have to be in “Tier 1 counties,” which are designated as the 40 most economically-distressed counties in North Carolina. Chatham County is considered a “Tier 3” county by the state, or one of the least economically distressed.

Even so, as currently written, the bill stipulates that only suppliers with over five years of experience of operating a le-

gal dispensary can qualify for a supplier license. Puryear said many small, local businesses in North Carolina would not be able to qualify for the license needed to sell marijuana unless they have connections to people with experience in “legal” states.

“It’s effectively shutting out those North Carolinians and pushing them out of state, unless they have some real connections,” Puryear said. “That’s really the only option with the potential bill that they’re pushing, and the only way that they’ll be able to effectively have a local presence in the industry.”

Rep. Robert Reives (D-Dist. 54) of Chatham County called the N.C. Compassionate Care Act “another opportunity for us to help people who are suffering in North Carolina.”

“We should not be limiting ourselves in terms of what care doctors can provide their patients,” Reives said. “I hope that the Senate can pass this legislation during the short session and that the House will consider it soon. North Carolinians deserve these options to alleviate some of the pain and trauma that so many deal with.”

Puryear said while medical cannabis would be beneficial to a lot of people, he does not have a lot of hope when it comes to the likelihood of the passage of SB 711.

He said North Carolina legislators’ relationship with the cannabis industry has been a tumultuous one — with politicians leading a charge in 2019 to make CBD products illegal. While those politicians did not succeed in banning hemp-based products, Puryear fears those same anti-cannabis sentiments will prevent the bill from passing.

“We’re just barely two years removed from fighting for



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Delta-8 flower is sold at Oak City Hemp.**

**It’s effectively shutting out those North Carolinians and pushing them out of state, unless they have some real connections.**

**AARON PURYEAR, Co-owner of Oak City Hemp in Pittsboro**

smokable hemp and keeping smokable hemp legal, and we spent pretty much the summer of 2019 fighting that,” Puryear said. “We kind of won that day, but that’s still fresh in my mind.”

The bill was referred to the “Rule and Operations” Senate committee on August 2; no action regarding the bill has been taken since.

If the General Assembly were to pass medical marijuana legislation, Puryear fears politicians may be considering this as a financial move for their personal gain, rather than a service many North Carolinians could benefit from.

He said in states where marijuana is legal, some politicians have taken advantage of obtaining a license to open their own dispensaries.

“It’s been the case in some states where legislators in the state have been outspoken against cannabis, then they change their minds, and then they’re all for it and then they end up getting a license,” Puryear said. “When a state goes legal, the companies that execute and are able to stay in business, it’s a lot easier to make money in the first couple of years. After about two or three years, the margins get really thin, the competition’s thicker and it’s just a lot harder to make it.”

SB 711 would force suppliers to pay “a \$50,000 nonrefundable fee, plus \$5,000 for each



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Oak City Hemp in Pittsboro offers various CBD and Delta-8 products for customers. Under a proposed new bill, Oak City may be a candidate to retail medical marijuana.**

production facility or medical cannabis center the applicant proposes to operate under the license.”

The cost to receive a medical cannabis supplier license would provide barriers for several local businesses across the state, according to Puryear. Not only does this put North Carolinians in need of marijuana treatment in a difficult position, Puryear claims this would harm many small, local CBD and Delta-8 dispensaries who have worked hard in the industry to make a name for themselves.

“The most common barrier to entry is just money,” he said. “I don’t think the bill is going to get much traction, and if it does, it’s going to be because of who the bill was written for, aka corporate cannabis guys.”

While medical cannabis legalization may be in the air, Puryear said he believes hemp and cannabis have a place in Chatham County. Hemp has uses other than its ingestible form — such as rope, fiber, plastics and other materials used in everyday life, which is known as industrial hemp. Chatham County has become a hub for industrial hemp farms, including some of the largest producers in the state.

Puryear said the cannabis and hemp industry have evolved so much in the few years he has been a part of it, and he expects industrial hemp

production to be the next step on the road to legalization.

“Chatham County had the most hemp growers in the state out of any county,” Puryear said. “We’re getting to the point where they are starting to develop in-use industrial hemp products, so that’s really going to move the hemp fiber and seed industry forward in the next five years.”

Oak City Hemp is “in it for the long-haul,” according to Puryear. He said he wants to continue to provide his customers with what he believes are quality products, as well as continue to educate Chatham residents about cannabis and its potential health benefits.

By doing so, Puryear hopes to be able to provide a safe environment for conversations surrounding what he calls “smart regulations” for medical — possibly recreational — cannabis use.

“The most important thing to do to address the stigma around cannabis is to educate the consumer,” he said. “We need people pushing the new narrative that it’s not about hemp or weed: it’s about cannabis. It’s the same compounds, the same plant and they’re not dangerous. We don’t need to just regulate our industry based around fear, which is what happens.”

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



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Oak City Hemp sells its own lines of CBD products.**

# BOOKS

Continued from page A1

the country criticized what the move signals about the state of teaching history in schools.

In Chatham, Rita Van Duinen — Chatham Community Library’s branch manager — told the News + Record that the banning of books isn’t a new phenomenon. America’s first formally banned book, by Thomas Morton, was banned in 1637 by the Plymouth Puritans who did not appreciate the book’s criticism of Puritan customs and power structures.

“We too have been closely following book challenges,” Van Duinen said in an email, “in our area and across the nation.”

## ‘In response to recent challenges’

The majority of recent challenges over the last year have targeted books about racism or sexuality, especially when the latter feature LGBTQ characters.

Ahead of Election Day last year, Republican Glenn Youngkin — now Virginia’s governor — released a 60-second ad detailing a parent’s push to require schools to notify parents of any curriculum containing explicit content and to allow students to opt out of reading the material. The book in question was Toni Morrison’s “Be-loved,” which depicts the story of former enslaved people after the Civil War in graphic detail.

Last week, a Missouri school district voted 4-3 to ban Morrison’s, “The Bluest Eye,” which details the experiences of a young Black girl living in the wake of the Great Depression — and was removed by Virginia Beach City Public Schools from its libraries last fall.

In neighboring Orange County Schools, the board voted on Monday to keep three LGBTQ books in its libraries despite public complaints. One of the books, “Gender Queer: A Memoir,” was previously temporarily removed from Wake County Public Library in December; the library is now updating its policy for reviewing challenged books, the News + Observer reported.

The books discussed by Orange County Schools board — “Lawn Boy,” “Gender Queer” and “Out of Darkness” — are national award-winners. The books have also been criticized by parents for their adult language and depiction of sexual situations.

Brenda Stephens, the school board’s vice chairperson and a librarian, said Monday that the board wouldn’t put such books “in the hands of a 6-year-old,” the N&O reported.

“As a librarian, I don’t ban books,” Stephens said. “I try to get books in the hands of as many people as possible, because we need to learn from them, and ... there is so much that can be learned if you read them as a whole, not taking them out of context, highlighting a line or a

paragraph here or there.”

Chatham Community Library developed a “request for reconsideration of materials” policy and procedure in response to the recent challenges in Wake County, Van Duinen said. Any library cardholder can request an item be reviewed, a website detailing the process says, but the patron must “read, view, or listen to the entirety of the work” before submitting the form.

“Chatham County Public Libraries staff selects material with great care,” the webpage (<https://bit.ly/3ueLDxX>) says, “using established criteria and giving full consideration to varying age groups as well as to differing education and cultural backgrounds of patrons the Libraries serve.”

Ness Shortley, George Moses Horton Middle School’s librarian, said CCS’s librarians will meet this Friday in part to discuss the district’s book challenge policies — following recent national book challenges as well as a change in district supervision of librarians. “Librarians, and school librarians in particular, are in an interesting position when it comes to book challenges,” Shortley said. “Part of what we’re charged to do is provide resources to students and teachers that encompass a wide variety of viewpoints.”

“Book challenges are kind of expected, but they go against, I guess, my position of how I see my job as a school librarian,” she said, “which is to give students access

to information so that they can kind of decide for themselves what they think or they believe about different topics — even if it’s stuff that I disagree with personally.”

Parents can decide what their children read, Shortley emphasized, particularly at the younger age levels, “but they don’t get to decide that for other families.”

Shortley stressed that all books in a school’s collection go through a rigorous review process before being added, with attention given to the school’s age group. Sometimes, she will receive recommendations from a fellow district librarian at an elementary school; sometimes she will ultimately pass on adding a book to the middle school, but send it to a high school librarian.

Parents have made informal challenges in the past, Shortley said, but at least at Horton Middle, no challenge has recently reached the level of the school assembling a committee to review the book’s educational value and appropriateness. The school does have a Media and Technology Advisory Committee made up of teachers and administrators to review a challenge if needed.

## ‘See themselves in their school and in their library’

Many recent book challenges — as reflected by criticism following the banning of “Maus” last week — surround broader debates about

what should be taught in schools in the first place.

In Virginia, Gov. Youngkin said last week he has set up a tip line for concerned parents to report incidents of “Critical Race Theory” being taught in schools.

In North Carolina, Republican lawmakers passed a bill last year ultimately vetoed by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper that would’ve limited how teachers could discuss race and history in the classroom. 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.

Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson also created a task force last March to collect complaints from parents, students and teachers in public schools statewide about classroom “indoctrination” — including things that Robinson said teach people that “the systems of our Republic and the history of our great American experiment are shameful.”

“We’re not equipping our kids to be critical thinkers by removing things that are hard from their lives,” Shortley said of books about difficult history. “With those books, I think kids are more equipped to handle challenging things than we often give them credit for.”

Last October, Robinson also led parent groups in characterizing several books with LGBTQ main characters as “obscene” material that should be removed from schools.

At the time, Robinson repeatedly referenced his religious convictions in criticizing the books — including his belief that homosexuality, adultery, fornication and pornography are sinful. Robinson’s explicit use of Christian values in book debates illustrates the more subtle use of family and religious values by some Republicans, like Youngkin and others promoting book bans.

Whether about history or sexuality, many educators see book removals in schools as generally harmful. Plus, many of the recently challenged books are about or written by Black and LGBTQ authors — a factor not missed by many critics. For Shortley, who serves on the school’s and district’s equity team, collecting books that represent all her students is a hugely important part of the job.

“Those books, for some people, represent the ones that get challenged a lot,” she said. “But as a librarian, it’s a big part of my job is creating a collection that both represents the students we have and also exposes them to the diversity of the human experience in terms of like racial makeup, ethnic makeup, religious makeup, disability status, LGBTQ status, socioeconomic status. ... Every kid deserves to be able to see themselves in their school and in their library.”

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Meat Loaf by the dashboard light

Angsty, hormone-fueled pop songs about teenage love and lust were a dime a dozen during FM radio's salad days, in the 1970s and '80s, but "Paradise

**BILL HORNER III**  
Publisher + Editor

Light" — sung by the artist Meat Loaf, who died last week — was in a category by itself.

If you remember the song, you remember why.

If not, I'll save you a trip to Spotify and explain.

Albums (and 8-track cassettes, our usual format) back in my high school days didn't carry an "E" label if they had "explicit content," and even by today's standards I doubt "Paradise" would. In fact, I don't remember any songs with what now would be considered explicit content on the radio in those days. And as for "Paradise," there's no pro-

fanity, unless you want to count the song's album title, "Bat Out of Hell."

But the song's unabashedly suggestive lyrics were just the start of what made it so unusual for the time. It was pretty pornographic for a 1978 radio staple, even at a time when songs with titles like "Hot Blooded," "Kiss You All Over" and "Sharing the Night Together" were sharing spots with it on the Billboard singles charts that fall.

The lyrics didn't just paint a picture; in a way, they served as sort of an instruction manual. And not much was left to the imagination. Listen closely and you can hear why, on the album's liner notes, writer Jim Steinman was credited with both keyboards and "lascivious effects."

Then there was the length: at 8 minutes, 28 seconds, it rivaled Don McLean's parabolic 1971 hit single "American Pie" (8 minutes, 42 seconds) for airplay time, and weighing in at 1,036

words, the song's lyrics were three times those of the rock staple "Stairway to Heaven."

And it was memorable, too, for something else that never failed to intrigue me when I heard the song: a full 53 seconds of "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" featured the play-by-play call from an imaginary late-inning baseball rally done by iconic New York Yankees shortstop-turned-broadcaster Phil Rizzuto, replete with the Hall of Famer's "holy cow!" catchphrase.

"OK, here we go, we got a real pressure cooker going here," Rizzuto begins after Meat Loaf and his duet partner, Ellen Foley, sing about going "all the way tonight."

"Two down, nobody on, no score, bottom of the ninth. There's the windup, and there it is — a line shot up the middle. Look at him go. This boy can really fly! He's rounding first and really turning it on now; he's not letting up at all. He's gonna try for second!"

At this point, of course, the metaphor was in full bloom. The only question left to settle was whether the runner would make it past third base and all the way to home for a score.

The song — or the lyrics, rather — does not provide a happy ending. Steinman's objective — to write "the ultimate car song," he said later, "in which everything goes horribly wrong in the end" — was most decidedly achieved when the soon-to-be husband/wife characters in the song later found themselves in a very unhappy marriage, with Meat Loaf wrapping it up by "praying for the end of time."

But it didn't hurt sales: the album sold more than 43 million copies worldwide and made Meat Loaf — the actor-turned-singer who made that rock opera work — into a star. After his death last week at age 74, the man whose real name was Michael Lee Aday was back on the charts again as sales of "Bat" and "Paradise" and other albums

and songs he recorded scored thousands of downloads from new and nostalgic fans.

I never owned the album or the single. At age 15, I spent what little money I had on Cat Stevens albums. Besides, nearly every person I knew had the "Bat" 8-track and "Paradise" played continually on the radio.

As many times as I heard it, though, it wasn't until this week that I realized there's an error hidden within Rizzuto's portion of the song: with two outs and the runner on third, the batter in Rizzuto's play-by-play bunts — what's known in baseball parlance as the suicide, or sacrifice, squeeze play. Only in baseball, however, a sacrifice play with two outs is nonsensical.

It wouldn't happen in real life.

No matter. Meat Loaf got plenty of mileage out of it anyway.

Bill Horner III can be reached at bhorner3@chathamnr.com and @billthethird.

## More than half full

The other morning my three children woke up to less than one inch of snow. "A dusting," I called it, peering over their heads into the backyard. They looked at the same scene and made a different assessment: "It's enough to go sledding!"

**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**

Hope Matters

Earlier that week, I had read a piece in the New York Times on Amy Schneider, the recent winner of 40 consecutive contests on the game show "Jeopardy!" That's the most wins ever by a woman. The article highlighted Schneider's experience with religion. Though she's now an atheist, a religious experience left a lasting impression on her.

Raised in the Roman Catholic Church, Schneider had moved away from the faith by 2002. Yet, she agreed to attend an event featuring Pope John Paul II to appease her mother. She and her family had to wait overnight to ensure their seats. But they neglected to bring tents or any camping equipment. That was bad enough. Then, it started to rain.

To this day, Schneider claimed, "Whenever it gets bad, I think, 'I'm not lying in a field in the rain.'" That attitude is not exactly the same as a glass half full.

But the thought that "it could be worse" can lead to looking at a negative situation more favorably. Schneider was inspired to try new things: "I'll give anything a shot now."

I thought of Schneider that particular morning when, just as I feared, the dusting of snow was good for only two-and-a-half sled rides down our neighborhood hill. Keep in mind that I have three children. Frustration mounted and the sleds began to turn on each other. What should I do? What would Schneider do?

I'll take "Fun Things To Do on a Hill" for \$200. Answer: What is rolling downhill? I'm happy to report I had three happy contestants.

To be clear, I am not judging Schneider for leaving organized religion. As a pastor, I am painfully aware that the church is often its own worst enemy. Terrible things have been done in the name of God — things much worse than enduring a cold night in the rain. I'm not naïve.

But I am optimistic. Certainly, there are negative situations in life. Yet, much of our response depends on how we look at a situation. That morning, there was only a dusting of snow, yet the experience was full — full of joy.

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

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## Lessons from Mama about life's questions

From time to time I ponder certain things, great questions of the universe, if you will.



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around

They range from questions such as "Why do we drive on the parkway and park on the driveway?" to "Why do guarantees on products expire two days before you need them for the first time?"

I've sort of rationalized that I'll never know the answers to questions such as those and that in the great grand scheme of things, they don't matter anyway.

There are a couple of other levels of questions, however, to which I think I really would like an answer.

One has to do with television programming, specifically the news, weather and sports broadcasts and the advertising that goes with them. It seems to me that all the program managers on all the stations must get together ahead of time and decree that none of them will broadcast any of the aforementioned news, weather or sports until every other station is doing the same.

I have noticed on more than one occasion that when I am watching Channel 5 and they go to commercial and I think maybe I'll switch over to Channel 11 and catch something, it doesn't work because Channel 11 has also gone to commercial. Same thing for 17 and 8 and 2 and the satellite stations.

And if that weren't bad enough — at least for my delicate system — the products tend to be a bit unusual

for the supper hour. Not long ago I went from one station to another at commercial break and saw on the station I wound up on that a female passenger in the airport was being identified as "the colon lady." I don't know about you, but if I were a woman and someone called me that, we might have words.

To top it off, however, the lady being so named not only agreed with that assessment but also added that she was fluent in constipation, diarrhea and other equally appealing bodily concerns — all of which apparently can only be shown on television as you sit down to your spaghetti supper.

Maybe it's just me but things that you once sort of kept to yourself or talked about only to your doctor or spouse or maybe one close trusted friend now are general conversation. I don't think I'm a prude but if I see that couple sitting in the bathtubs out in the middle of a cow pasture one more time I'm gonna pull their plugs.

Another — and to me, larger question and area of concern — has to do with what my mama just called good manners ... and that can cover a lot of ground, including don't tell your seatmate about your digestive issues.

But there are other questions about good manners that seem to come up about every time we have snow or other winter weather in this part of the woods.

Invariably someone who has just recently moved to our fair part of the universe will announce loudly in the midst of the Pig or other grocery or some other public place that, "You people in the South are

stupid and don't know how to drive in bad weather and this little bit of snow is nothing." Then they will go on to explain how they "did it in Buffalo."

It's at that point that I want to say two things. One is, "You're right. We don't know how to drive in bad weather like a Chicago taxi driver. That's one reason — a big reason — we live here. We don't like bad weather; we don't want it, we like it nice and warm. And apparently you don't like it too much either or you would still be in Duluth."

Then the second thing I want to say is what my literary hero Lewis Grizzard said about impolite folks who moved here because they saw something they liked — and then want to change it to how it is where they used to live. When Lewis was confronted by such behavior, he was fond of saying, "If you don't like it, leave. Delta is ready when you are."

My mama was big on making her three boys have good manners and playing "pretty." When I hear those kinds of things in the stores I remember her.

There are times I wish she hadn't done such a good job with her directive.

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.

## What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Preschool intervention gets poor marks

Perhaps we should “follow the science” and abolish North Carolina’s Pre-K program.



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

After all, the largest and most sophisticated scientific evaluation ever attempted of a state-wide Pre-K program has just reported its latest findings — and they are damning. The Pre-K program run by our neighboring state of Tennessee doesn’t just fail to accomplish its stated goal of improving academic and behavioral outcomes. It actually seems to worsen those outcomes.

That is, children who attended Tennessee’s Pre-K program have lower scores and worse behavior by the time they reach the 6th grade than do otherwise comparable children who didn’t attend Pre-K. “At least for poor children, it turns out that something is not better

than nothing,” said one of the evaluators, Vanderbilt University professor Dale Farran. “The kinds of Pre-K that our poor children are going into are not good for them long term.”

OK, then. If we abolished North Carolina’s Pre-K program and related programs, that would save us hundreds of millions of dollars a year while also protecting our children from potential long-term harm.

If you find my conclusion implausible and my recommendation outrageous, your brain may well be on overdrive coming up with questions about the Tennessee study’s design, validity, and relevance to North Carolina. Good for you! Readers ought to greet any sweeping claim of scientific authority with caution. A skeptical mind is a healthy mind, as long as the skepticism doesn’t dissolve into cynicism or conspiratorial thinking.

For example, you might point to previous studies that show positive associations between preschool intervention and outcome measures for

at-risk students. Those studies certainly do exist, and many policymakers have found them persuasive in the past. That’s one of the main reasons North Carolina, Tennessee and other states adopted preschool programs of various kinds over the past three decades. It’s why many progressive activists and Democratic politicians have spent years trying to enact universal Pre-K nationwide, most recently as part of the Biden administration’s now-defunct Build Back Better legislation.

Nearly all prior studies, however, fall into one of two categories. The first is observational. The researchers assemble publicly available data and try to tease out the effects of preschool interventions by holding variables such as family structure and income constant and then looking for statistical correlations between, say, preschool spending and subsequent student performance.

The other, more-valuable kind of study is experimental. Researchers identify a group of needy preschoolers and

then pick at random only some of those children to attend the Pre-K program in question. The others comprise the control group. By tracking all the children as they proceed through school and beyond, researchers look for persistent differences between the two groups.

The multi-year Tennessee study is experimental, not observational. Two factors set it apart from prior experiments, however. One is its sheer scale. Most long-term studies of preschool intervention involve small groups of students attending a single program or set of programs. They are essentially laboratory experiments, providing interesting information but not necessarily assessing what would really happen if a promising idea were scaled up to a statewide program.

The other distinguishing factor is the Tennessee study’s recency. Some of the most powerful findings in the preschool intervention literature come from tiny experiments that began in the 1960s or 1970s. Both safety net programs and the

market for day care look very different today than they did back then. As Grover Whitehurst, a scholar at the Brookings Institution, once observed, “concluding that findings from these studies demonstrate that current and contemplated state Pre-K programs will have similar effects is akin to believing that an expansion of the number of U.S. post offices today will spur economic development because there is some evidence that constructing post offices 50 years ago had that effect.”

Now, I don’t really think North Carolina policymakers should or will respond to the Tennessee study by abolishing our Pre-Kindergarten programs. But should we vastly expand them, as progressives routinely demand?

No. That wouldn’t be following the science.

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

## Advice for Biden from a master

“Don’t sign on to work on that one.” Jay Robinson, who was the UNC System’s vice president for public affairs and chief lobbyist, was training me to be his successor.



**D.G. MARTIN**  
One on One

“Be careful,” he said. “This one is a loser. And it doesn’t pay to get yourself associated with proposals that are going to lose.”

I had told him about a good project that I wanted to help get legislative approval and funding. He did not say it directly,

because he did not want to disagree unnecessarily, but what he meant was that we needed to have the reputation for backing winners, not losers. The project I had in mind was meritorious, but it was never going to get approval in the legislature. “Don’t touch it,” he said. “We want people in the legislature to see us as backers of winners and to see our proposals as likely winners. It would be terrible if they think we are promoting losers, ones that don’t have a chance.”

On the other hand, according to Robinson, when you push a proposal through and get the legislature to adopt a university proposal, you add to a reputation for being able to get things done.

After each legislative session when the university president reported to the its board of governors, Robinson and the university’s finance officers prepared lengthy reports. They would frame every legislative action, especially the appropriations results, as favorable for the university. They would work hard to prepare a series of positive and convincing summaries of legislative actions that would convince the board that the university and its officials, including Robinson, were winners.

Robinson and the finance officials knew the university needed much more than it got. And they knew the university needed much more funding and approvals for expanded programs and services.

But they knew that complaining at this point would be detrimental.

What they needed as they planned for the next legislative session was to be viewed as a winner.

I don’t have to wonder what kind of advice Jay Robinson would be giving President Biden.

Here is what he would say:

“You’ve gotten some important victories in tough circumstances that could have gained you the kind of winning reputation that gives strength to your later efforts. Congress passed a \$1.9 trillion package that was extraordinary. Now some of the politicians who voted against the bill are claiming credit for it. But you don’t have to claim credit. Give credit to others. Just keep reminding people that it happened.

“On your watch, the government confronted a pandemic and many of us are alive because of those efforts. The American economy has turned around and grown, and you are working hard to keep inflation in check. Don’t brag. Just commit to keep working as long as needed.”

If Biden asked Robinson what he should do about Senator Joe Manchin, what would he say?

Robinson was always careful to hold on to his friends even when they disagreed with him.

So I think he would say this to Biden: “Manchin is your key to every possible legislative success. If not for Manchin, Republicans would control the Senate. Then your dreams for passing progressive legislation and getting approval for appointments would disappear. Get him on your team even if it makes some of your more liberal allies uncomfortable.”

Robinson was not much for aphorisms, but he might make an exception and say to Biden simply, “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good.”

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

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



### LETTERS

#### If you’re wearing an N95, please do so correctly!

**TO THE EDITOR:**

I think it’s great that the government is making the N95 mask available for free. I’m fairly sure they will still be hard to get, so I would like to encourage those who scramble to get some just because they’re free, please don’t!

As a retired Respiratory Therapist, I wore the N95 more times and for more hours than I care to remember. You will feel safer with this mask, as well you should (IF you are using it correctly). However you shouldn’t expect to feel more comfortable with it.

- If they are fitting correctly, they will be quite uncomfortable, especially for all day use, but even for several hours. The fit will be uncomfortably snug on your face (hence the many photos of health care workers with red marks and ridges on their faces).

- You will have a sense of it being more difficult to breath — because it is. This level of filtration for virus also makes it more difficult for air to get through and there are no air leak portals around the edges of the mask.

- If you intend to wear it below your nose anyway, leave it for someone who will use it correctly.

- If you intend to just hang it on your rearview mirror, leave it for someone who will use it correctly.

- If you intend to just add it to your stash of cute cloth masks and well-used paper surgical masks, leave it for someone who will use it correctly.

The N95 is a valuable asset in the war against COVID-19, but if you do not use it properly, the only thing you are doing is keeping it from someone who could really benefit from it!

**B DEMERS**  
Siler City

#### It’s the climate, and the time is now

**TO THE EDITOR:**

“It’s the economy, stupid” was the 1992 phrase coined by James Carville.

We must address the ever-increasing cost of climate change today. We must start decarbonizing our economy now.

Many solutions considered include developing renewable energy resources, electrifying transportation, improving electrical efficiencies, investing in R&D grid-scale battery storage, planting trees, etc.

All raise the same questions. How much? Where will we find the money? Also, we should strive for fair solutions leaving no one behind in our energy transition.

Year after year, the costly impacts of climate change increasingly affect our health, lives and property. Many households, already stretched financially, need our focus on current and future affordability. The cost of doing nothing to decarbonize will grow even higher.

For example, the Build Back Better plan contains \$555 billion spending proposals for climate and clean energy efforts over 10 years. Notably, the single-year cost of

2021’s extreme weather events is estimated at \$145 billion with nearly 700 lives lost. Alone, Hurricane Ida’s powerful winds and record flooding supercharged by climate change brought damages of \$65 billion.

Of all the currently proposed solutions, carbon pricing legislation is the fastest, single most powerful, and cost-effective way to combat climate change. Call Congress now!

**MINTA PHILLIPS**  
Julian

#### Stop promoting segregation and its lies

**TO THE EDITOR:**

When a justice is appointed to Supreme Court, it affects every county, hometown, city and state in the U.S. And when the government creates and passes bills, laws, segregated college grants, or makes any decision based on the lie that there is more than one race, the government promotes segregation in every county, hometown, city and state in the U.S.

“Only Noah and those who were with him on the Ark remained alive,” therefore, everyone living today is a descendant of Noah and one race ranging in skin color from light beige to dark brown. All U.S. Supreme Court judges should be appointed due to their qualifications, and the U.S. government should stop promoting segregation based on the lie that there is more than one race.

**CAROL GENE GOOD**  
Conover

#### What’s on your mind?

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# Health officials across N.C. urge vaccination as omicron takes hold

*Despite high transmission rate of omicron variant, vaccines help prevent serious illnesses that lead to ICU stays. Health officials urge shots as hospitals overwhelmed by mostly unvaccinated patients.*

**BY KATE MARTIN**  
Carolina Public Press

The first COVID vaccines received approval for use in adults more than a year ago. With another wave of COVID-19 now sweeping the globe, health professionals across North Carolina are imploring residents to get vaccinated.

“If you’re someone out there who’s been waiting to see how things roll out, this is the time to get vaccinated,” said Stacie Saunders, Buncombe County public health director, last week in Asheville. “They are safe and effective.”

Some people focus too much on the vaccine not preventing a COVID infection altogether, she said, when its real strength is lessening the harm COVID can do.

“The function of a vaccine is not just the ultimate prevention of infection,” Saunders said. The COVID vaccines “are even better at preventing serious illness, hospitalization and death.”

“The Omicron variant has really changed our calculus of this pandemic,” said Eric Wolak, Chatham Hospital’s chief operating officer and chief nursing officer. “While the vaccines worked very well with previous variants in not only preventing someone from getting sick, but also preventing transmission, this variant is evading the transmission protection. However, the vaccines continue to protect people from illness and serious illness of the disease.”

In the state of North Carolina, he said, 80% of those in the hospital are unvaccinated. “At Chatham Hospital, that number is 100%,” Wolak said. “What this means for our community, is that it is incredibly important that now, more than ever, people get vaccinated and boosted. Chatham County has a vaccination rate of only 60%. That leaves a lot of people at risk of getting seriously ill.”

Chatham Hospital’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Andy Hannapel, said those who see decreasing numbers of cases

and hospitalizations in the past few days as a reason not get the vaccine or get boosted are misguided.

“Please consider that you may have had the same thoughts in the fall and last spring — after Delta surge July-October and after Alpha surge December 2020-February 2021 — and we are still in the middle of the Omicron surge, the worst surge the U.S. has seen in this pandemic. Do you want to take the chance on what the next variant will bring? Do you want to risk getting infected yourself or being responsible for transmitting the virus to a loved one or neighbor?”

Hannapel said the vaccines have proven to be “safe, effective and our best defense” against COVID-19 infection.

“Vaccines prevent serious infection leading to hospitalizations, ICU admissions, need for ventilator/ECMO and deaths,” he said. “Many times it prevents symptomatic infection. Please get vaccinated.”

As the omicron variant con-

tinues its unrelenting spread, many more are becoming sick and filling emergency rooms around the state. As of last week, more than 5,090 people were hospitalized with COVID across North Carolina — a high for the pandemic now entering its third year.

“Our hospital system is currently operating at or near capacity,” said Matt Garner, interim director for the Moore County Health Department in Carthage. “Due to the volume of patients, wait times have certainly increased.”

Last week, almost all health professionals interviewed for this story said they were worried about capacity in the next couple of weeks.

“We are delaying the surgeries that we feel can safely be delayed, recognizing that this is less than ideal for many of our patients,” said Nancy Lindell, spokeswoman for Asheville-based Mission Health, which operates hospitals across Western North Carolina.

“We are urging our commu-

nity members who have not yet been vaccinated to please do so. While the vaccine has not been as effective against the omicron variant, it continues to be extremely effective in keeping people from having to be hospitalized and from dying.”

North Carolina has recorded more than 20,300 deaths since the pandemic began. Of those, the vast majority have been unvaccinated. State data shows that, for the week ending Jan. 15, nearly 72% of people hospitalized with COVID were unvaccinated. Of all people with COVID in intensive care units throughout North Carolina, nearly 83% were unvaccinated.

In the year since a vaccine became available, three in four adults in North Carolina have had at least one shot of a two-course COVID vaccine, with about 70% of adults having both doses, or one shot of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services data shows.

*The News + Record contributed to this story.*

## COVID

Continued from page A1

at 63% with at least one dose and 58% with two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson.

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2022/01/27/cdc-update-covid-19-vaccination-data-added-nc-dhhs-covid-19-dashboard>

**The vaccines have been available for about a year now. Back in July, Chatham reached the 50% number — at least half of residents (as counts were done then) were at least partially vaccinated. In half a year that number has increased to 63. What’s the health department’s assessment of that number, of that relatively small increase?**

There are a couple things to remember when assessing the 63% number. First, there’s still a portion of the population, those younger than age 5, who are not eligible to receive the vaccine yet, and some people should not receive the vaccine due to allergies or medical conditions.

Second, and this is the important thing: we recognize that most people who wanted the vaccine have gotten it already, with many of them getting it early in the distribution process. We saw significant uptick from when the Pfizer vaccine was authorized in December 2020 to that 50% number you mentioned last July.

We recognize that there are many reasons why Chatham residents may be skeptical or hesitant about the COVID-19 vaccine. For example, some might be concerned about the companies that made them. We get it. Some pharmaceutical companies have been responsible for bad actions in the recent past, like the opioid epidemic. However, you need to look no further than the real-world results of the COVID-19 vaccines so far to know that they are safe and effective. And remember, vaccines are authorized by outside agencies after a thoughtful review that includes panels of experts.

So an assessment: our numbers fall in line with our neighbors and the state. It’s not too surprising. We’d obviously love to see more, and we’re here to answer any questions and point people to where they can get vaccinated if they make

**... our numbers fall in line with our neighbors and the state. It’s not too surprising. We’d obviously love to see more, and we’re here to answer any questions and point people to where they can get vaccinated if they make that decision.**

**ZACHARY HORNER**, Chatham County Public Health Department

that decision.

**So how does Chatham compare with its neighbors and the state averages?**

Chatham’s percentage seems to be an average of our neighbors. Counties like Wake, Orange and Durham are all above 70% with at least one dose, while Randolph, Lee and Harnett counties are all below 60%. Moore, Alamance and Guilford counties are all right around our percentage. Of the state, 65% of the population has received at least one dose.

**If 63% of Chatham County is at least partially vaccinated, then 37% isn’t — and when you factor out those who aren’t eligible or have medical conditions which preclude taking a vaccine, the number of eligible people without at least one dose is probably around 25%. So a question about vaccine resistance, hesitation, opposition — what strategies have worked, and what hasn’t worked, to reach that population?**

When developing a communications strategy, you must consider the audience. The people who aren’t getting vaccinated are not a monolith. And while there are a lot of conspiracy theories floating around, they are not the reason for all 25% of those people you’re mentioning. There are folks who have legitimate questions, as mentioned above, about pharmaceutical companies, the relative quickness of the development process and even the involvement of fetal cells from elective abortions. We can’t communicate to all residents the same way. Not everyone has the same beliefs, the same fears or even the same level of internet connection. We must tailor our messaging and our messaging methods to the resident.

We don’t want to be the public health department that shuns those concerns. We must ride a fine line between amplifying misinformation and ignoring it completely. So, we’re trying something. We recently posted a

new FAQ on COVID-19 on our website, which you can find at [www.chathamcountync.gov/covid-facts](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/covid-facts). This tool answers questions about why we should wear masks even if we’re vaccinated, if anyone has died from the vaccine, and the effectiveness of natural immunity. We picked out the questions based on social media comments on our page and others, as well as things we all have heard throughout the last two years. As I said above, we don’t want to be the public health department that shuns tough questions or ignores valid concerns.

Whether or not our messages reach the population and convince them, we don’t know for sure. We are confident that we are not the primary source of COVID-19 information for most if not all of Chatham County. There are newspapers like the News + Record, television channels, podcasts, social media channels and so many more avenues for people to get information. But if people come to us, or want to know what we recommend, we want to be ready with accurate information that understands concerns and addresses them honestly.

We’ve also relied on community partners to spread messages, whether that be churches, child care facilities, schools or other places. Survey after survey says that people are more likely to trust COVID messaging from people they trust like family, friends and their own medical provider. We’re grateful to have partners we’ve worked alongside since the pandemic began for their efforts in helping us communicate.

What hasn’t worked — and we’ve done our best to avoid doing this — is guilt-tripping people into getting vaccinated. We should be careful not to celebrate someone who is not vaccinated getting severely ill or dying from COVID-19. From a public health standpoint, that is what we work day in and day out to prevent. And



Carolina Public Press photo

**Patients awaiting COVID tests line the hallway inside Burlington’s Kilpatrick Medical Center in Alamance County on Jan. 19, as a sign outside announces that testing is available within.**

any death is a tragedy. A core tenet of good human services, like public health, is that each person has dignity and is worthy of respect and care. We try to meet people where they are at while providing the best public health advice we have. Mocking people for not getting vaccinated or refusing to take their illness seriously is not respect. We can do better. We should do better.

**How much misinformation are you seeing and battling within the county?**

There is misinformation out there, no question. You can see it on social media. It’s hard to miss because just about everyone is talking about COVID.

A key point here is that we can’t control what people read and consume. We wouldn’t want to. What we can do is provide what is true and make it available to as many people as possible. The most recently example of that for us is our COVID Facts FAQ.

We know everyone is tired of COVID. We are too. There are so many problems that COVID-19 has exacerbated, like mental health and the opioid epidemic, or further exposed, like health inequities and social isolation, that we are working to tackle. Our registered dietitians, Laura Hearn and Ann Clark, have been hard at work over the last year doing practical things in our community to improve nutrition and better lives. We can’t wait to continue that work alongside encouraging folks to get vaccinated and prevent the spread of COVID-19 the best they can.

**Let’s shift to testing. Can you run through testing options here, and how the results are looking (from a trend standpoint)?**

Over the last couple weeks, Chatham County

is averaging around 25% of tests returning positive, according to NCDHHS. That’s slightly lower than the state average of 30.4% and is basically stable from what the rate was a couple weeks ago.

There are several testing options in Chatham County, and you can find a full list at [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting). There are multiple drive-up options in Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston, as well as pharmacies and urgent cares across the county. We would encourage everyone who is getting a test to try to make an appointment, but StarMed Healthcare is offering no-appointment testing in Pittsboro on Thursdays from 12-4 pm at CCCC, in Siler City on Mondays from 12-4 at CCCC and in Goldston on Wednesdays from 1-6 pm at the Town Hall.

It’s not surprising that testing numbers are where they are. The Omicron variant is the most contagious version of SARS-CoV-2 yet, affecting both people who are vaccinated and unvaccinated. That’s because the COVID-19 vaccines, like most vaccines, are not 100% effective at preventing infection. They remain incredibly effective at preventing hospitalization and death. Real-world data shows this.

**Regarding N95 masks — can you update us about where to find them in Chatham, and whether the CCPHD is providing them?**

We are working hard to get additional N95 masks that we can share with the Chatham community. We received around 7,000 masks earlier this month and distributed them to where we felt they were most urgently needed, specifically high-priority locations like meat-processing plants, child care facilities and to other vulnerable populations.

Once we are able to get masks to share with the broader community, we will spread the word through our website, social media channels and our other regular means.

Pharmacies like CVS, Walgreens and even Walmart should be receiving N95s in the coming days, or already have them, from distributions from the federal government. We encourage folks to call those pharmacies ahead of time to see if masks are available before going if they are going just to get masks. It’s likely that supplies will go fast.

**And finally, it’s the time of year when colds and flu (and symptoms of both) are rampant. If someone’s not feeling well and exhibiting symptoms that resemble those of COVID, what’s your advice?**

Stay at home, only leaving to get a COVID-19 test or flu test. With any sickness, it’s always been best practice to stay home to avoid sharing germs or passing the infection on to others. That’s what we’ve always encouraged. If your child is sick, you keep them home so they can rest and get better AND avoid spreading the sickness to other people. The same advice applies here. Also, get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible. It’s best to either rule it out or find out that’s what it is so you can take the appropriate next steps.

**Can you share links to the best sources of information about COVID, vaccines, boosters, testing, etc.?**

NCDHHS COVID-19 Page: [covid19.ncdhhs.gov](https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov)  
Chatham County COVID-19 Page: [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirus](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirus)

Chatham County COVID-19 Vaccines: [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirusvaccine)  
Chatham County COVID-19 Boosters: [www.chathamcountync.gov/boosters](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/boosters)

Chatham County COVID-19 Testing: [www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting)  
Chatham County COVID-19 Facts FAQ: [www.chathamcountync.gov/covidfacts](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/covidfacts)  
As always, people can call us at 919-545-8323 if they have COVID-specific questions. We’re also regularly sharing information on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/chathamhealth](https://www.facebook.com/chathamhealth), where you can message us directly.

# YOUTH

Continued from page A1

signing a memorandum of understanding with Chatham County Schools last June, however, the Liaison expanded OLP to Seaforth High School with district backing. Among other things, the MOU also granted the nonprofit increased access to CCS buildings and \$50,000 — funds which enabled the Liaison to hire López Garcia.

“We’re thrilled to have José on our team,” the Liaison’s executive director, Ilana Dubester, said. “He’s a bright, talented and committed young man whose personal and professional experiences are invaluable to our youth and our program.”

## ‘I’m proud of you’

Originally born in Villagrán, a city in Guanajuato, Mexico, López Garcia and his family emigrated to the United States when he was 8 years old. He, his parents and his younger sister went directly to Siler City, joining a few relatives who had already been living there for some time.

To provide for his family, López Garcia’s dad had spent several years going back and forth between the U.S. and Mexico; finally, the third time he returned to Mexico, he decided to bring his family back with him to the States — permanently.

“I woke up one night at 4 a.m. I had no idea what was going on, got on the bus, and next thing I know, I’m at the border of the United States and Mexico,” López Garcia recalled. “... We actually got caught by ICE in San Antonio. We got deported, and we had one last chance. Somehow we made it past San Antonio ... and then from San Antonio, we came straight to Siler City.”

Why did his father take the risk? It’s a familiar story, López Garcia said, with familiar motives.

“My dad wanted us just to have a better opportunity, especially in education,” he said. “He only finished 3rd grade. My mom finished 9th

grade — the equivalent to 9th grade here. I’m really grateful for his decision. He passed away in 2017, so I will always be grateful for him making that choice for his family.”

Upon arriving in Siler City, López Garcia enrolled in Silk Hope School — and its ESL program — during the last six weeks of 4th grade. It was quite an adjustment, he recalled; he had to start over, build new connections and learn an entirely different language.

Yet, while he found learning English challenging, he found it even harder to make friends. He also struggled to embrace his cultural background in a “predominantly white” school.

“Especially when I was at Silk Hope, it was weird because I didn’t have the resources — especially the money, I would say — that my classmates did,” López Garcia said. “I had limited clothing, a really old car that my dad would drive, so I was really embarrassed, you know. I started embracing my background when I started high school because I saw more people probably in the same or worse situation than we [were in].”

While attending Jordan-Matthews, he was accepted into the AVID program — which, he said, was one of the best things that could have happened to him. In that program, he met a mentor who “really helped [him] to basically attend college.”

“I was able to make friends who basically had the same goal of attending college or university after high school,” he said, “so just surrounding myself with that group of people really helped me to stay on the path to get there.”

López Garcia graduated J-M in 2014 and enrolled thereafter in Guilford College, a private liberal arts college in Greensboro, where he double-majored in Spanish and accounting.

While there, he served as the Secretary of Hispanos Unidos de Guilford (HUG) as well as the Music and Live Chairman of the Campus Activities Board (CAB). In his senior year, he also became one of the first DACA beneficiaries — or “DACAmented” students, as he put

it — to serve as president of Guilford College’s CAB.

He graduated in 2018 — something he counts among his greatest achievements for making his parents proud.

“I was able to hear my dad say that he was really proud of me,” López Garcia said. “Whenever they dropped me off at Guilford College, he pretty much said, ‘Oh, I never thought I would be eating in the cafeteria of a place like this. I’m proud of you.’”

## ‘I took a shot’

After graduating from college, López Garcia returned to Siler City, where he found work as a dual-language science teacher in Chatham Middle School.

He promptly discovered, however, that teaching 7th-grade science was not his calling.

“I majored in accounting and Spanish, so I think they only hired me because I spoke Spanish,” he said with a laugh, adding: “I was able to pull through for the whole academic year, and then after that, I just decided not to continue because, first of all, I did not major in science and ... because I thought maybe I wasn’t really teaching them what they needed to know.”

So, he transitioned from supporting students to supporting parents: About two years ago, he took a post as a Chatham County Schools parent liaison with the Global Student Support Center, which seeks to support CCS parents and students with limited English proficiency and ensure they receive equitable access to educational services.

López Garcia worked primarily with Spanish-speaking parents, helping them navigate Chatham’s school system and providing them translation and interpretation when needed. He also sought to equip them with the tools and knowledge to take an active role in their children’s education. In many cases, he saw that lack of knowledge about the American — and Chatham County — school system contributed to minimal engagement among Spanish-speaking parents.

“I had parents who were like,

‘Oh, do you know if my student is gonna be able to get into school?’ because for example, in Mexico, there’s a certain amount of students that they have, you know, spots for,” he said. “So once those spots are covered, your student needs to wait either for the next academic year, or you’re hoping that some student moves out and your student is next on the waiting list.”

One day last year, while searching for a job closer to his home in Mebane, López Garcia stumbled across the Liaison’s opening for a youth program assistant.

“I was like, ‘You know, I already work in Siler City, I have commuted to Siler City, it’s not a problem. It’s going to be almost the same,’” he said. “So, I took a shot.”

One of his biggest goals, he said, is to be a better and more involved advocate for his community, especially Hispanic youth, and working with the Hispanic Liaison seemed to him the perfect way to achieve that. The Hispanic Liaison’s youth program, he said, serves as a crucial stopgap that helps to prevent students from falling through the cracks, especially in a school district like Chatham’s with a student body that’s nearly one-third Hispanic.

“Programs like Orgullo Latinx Pride do need to exist because it is what our people need since schools cannot attend to every single student,” López Garcia said. “... I wish I was part of a program like this transitioning into high school because it would have just helped me more, help me talk about more social justice issues and also embrace my cultural identity.”

Welcoming López Garcia to the team has been “amazing,” according to his supervisor, Selina Lopez, especially with his diligence and dedication to the work they do.

“Having him as OLP’s program assistant has been awesome for me because I now have another person to bounce ideas around with and work together to advance our work with our Latinx youth and families,”

Lopez told the News + Record. “He brings his personal and professional experience to the work, which is a huge asset to the program, especially because he grew up in Chatham and has a super inspiring story that is encouraging for youth to hear. I’m super lucky to have him be part of the OLP team.”

Others had similar things to say; when the Liaison published the news in December, various people on Facebook celebrated their choice in the comments.

“So very proud of Jose!!” wrote Angela Jones Lawrence, a former ESL teacher. “He was one of the most eager to learn and do-well students I’ve ever taught!”

“Excellent teacher and good human being,” commented CCS parent Lilia Lara in Spanish. “Magnificent choice. Congratulations.”

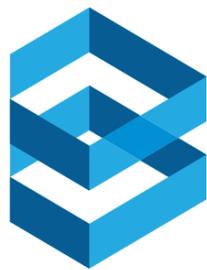
About two months into the job, López Garcia has dabbled in a little bit of everything — from reaching out to colleges, students and parents to monitoring grades and providing college application support.

“I’m still learning honestly; this position, and especially this program, has a lot of components that Selina has put in place,” he said, adding with a laugh: “I don’t know how she did it by herself because it’s a lot, and there’s always something you need to do — either helping a parent, helping a student every day while getting the tasks that we need to get done for the day.”

Moving forward, he hopes that his experiences will provide an example to the youth he works with and ultimately inspire them to persevere in whatever they do.

“My life experiences — getting here and immigrating, and getting in and attending college and graduating, and now — will definitely help [show] students that there’s not a straight path to where you want to go,” he said. “There are obstacles and challenges, so it just really depends on you and being resilient and consistent in the work that you’re doing. It’ll work out in the end.”

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



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CHATHAM CHAT | AFRICAN-AMERICAN WALKING TOUR OF PITTSBORO

# New project showcases history of Chatham's Black community

CN+R Staff Reports

Despite long periods of segregation and discrimination, Pittsboro has been home to generation after generation of African-American families. That history dates back 250 years, but much of it was preserved and recorded only by Black families and churches, with many of the contributions remaining unknown and unappreciated.

A new project of the Community Remembrance Coalition of Chatham County brings new focus to the richness of this culture and history and the contributions (as well as the struggles) of the Black citizens of Chatham County in the form of a guided walking tour of Pittsboro. This week, we speak with Mary Nettles and Jo Corro about the project, created by the CRC-C.

Nettles is the president of the CRC-C and the Chatham Community NAACP Branch #5377 and grew up in Pittsboro. Corro, a retired education administrator, is a volunteer with the CRC-C and is chairperson of its grants committee. She moved to North Carolina from Massachusetts seven years ago.

More information on the tour can be found from the links below.

## How long has the idea for a walking tour focusing on the Black history of Pittsboro been in development, and what was the genesis for the idea?

**JO CORRO:** The CRC-C Grant committee began meeting in January of 2021. Through the spring of 2021 we developed programs and events that would tell the “yet to be told” story of the African-American in Chatham County. In addition to holding monthly events to showcase Black artists and hold book discussions, we wanted to provide a way to engage the community in this effort. An African-American History Walk was a way to do just that. We are also engaged in developing a mural and plaques to continue telling the story.

**MARY NETTLES:** For me and the local Chatham (Rabbits) Pittsboro residents the walk will acknowledge the past and lead to building a better future for all of



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**The Lewis Freeman House, now home to Hobbs Architects, is a key stop along the African-American Walking Tour in Pittsboro.**

**This walk is unique in that it asks us to use our imagination to see what used to be. It gives us a glimpse into the past and highlights members of the community who were the first Blacks in their professions.**

**JO CORRO, Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham**

Chatham County.

**We're generally not always very good at remembering and recognizing history. Chatham County has a lot of it — 250 years and more. What role did segregation and discrimination play in obscuring the history and story of Pittsboro's Black resident?**

**NETTLES:** African-Americans in the Pittsboro community have survived despite segregation and discrimination throughout the history of enslavement as they did in other parts of the country. The achievements of Black people were often “undervalued, underestimated, marginalized” or just plain written out of history. Our history was not acknowledged because it would have shown how independent and self-sustaining we are. Black families and churches have preserved that history that began from the moment that African American entered this county as slaves over 250 years ago.

**How was the walking tour developed, and how were the historical sites, locations, etc., on the tour researched?**

**NETTLES:** Some information in the walk was readily available and other facts came through research. Much of the history was recorded in the book “Chatham County 1771-1971.” History before 1971 came from Bishop Leach’s chapter in the book “The Negro.” Mr. Leach, an assistant principal at Northwood High School,

was a contributing writer for the book. Research after 1971 was compiled by work I did, interviewing numerous Black Pittsboro residents who remembered taxi services, beauty and barber shops, dry cleaners, auto repair shops and a bicycle shop, funeral homes and restaurants. They recalled who delivered the mail, who was the bondsman, the location of their homes, churches and cemeteries and the land family members and friends once owned.

**What are some of the key highlights of the tour? What might people find, see and learn on the tour which might surprise them?**

**NETTLES:** Many African-Americans in downtown Pittsboro, who were brought here as slaves, became landowners. Thomas and Rachel Taylor were the first former slaves to purchase land near Chatham Forest. The land was in their family for 155 years. Tony and Eliza Knight, Black farmers born before the Civil War, acquired and developed more than 100 acres. This land was sold to the Chatham Park development, the Knight Farm Community Park is named for them.

The current property where the Circle K is located was a restaurant and across the road was a baseball field for Blacks. B&T HVAC was once C.E. Willie’s Funeral Home. **CORRO:** The Pittsboro of today does not reflect the journey that African-Americans took from being property to owning property and becoming business owners and com-



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**George Moses Horton Middle School is named for the former N.C. Poet Laureate, who was a slave in Pittsboro.**

munity leaders. This walk is unique in that it asks us to use our imagination to see what used to be. It gives us a glimpse into the past and highlights members of the community who were the first Blacks in their professions.

**The tour focuses not just on places, but on people. Who are some of the key historical figures those who take the tour will learn about?**

**NETTLES:** One historic figure was George Moses Horton, a former slave who became the historic Poet Laureate of Chatham County. Many Black residents on the east part of the county attended high school in the same building where the George Moses Horton Middle School is today.

Another is Rev. Rufus V. Horton, one of the local ministers, was also a water witch (dowser) and published “Can These Bones Live.”

**CORRO:** The Lewis Freeman Park is also on

the tour. Lewis Freeman was the first recorded and most prosperous free black settler in Pittsboro in the 1800s. He lived in one of four surviving homes from the original settlement, and owned 16 parcels within the town, including most of the entire block containing the park. He owned about 20 additional acres throughout Chatham County.

This walk will also introduce you to the everyday people who, through their own will power, talents, entrepreneurship, and persistence, provided for their families and built this community.

**Why should people get the tour guide and embark upon it? What's the benefit to doing so?**

**NETTLES:** Citizens of Pittsboro and visitors will gain “knowledge of community within a community.” They will see from the location of many businesses that Black people were working in the same area as

white people.

**CORRO:** They will gain an appreciation of the many contributions that African-Americans have made to the growth and prosperity of Pittsboro. Pittsboro and Chatham County are changing rapidly. Knowing the history and getting a better understanding of how we got here will inform what we want to preserve and how we want to grow.

**How can people find out more?**

**CORRO:** Download the African-American Walking Tour at the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham website: <https://www.crc-c.org/remembrance.html>.

You can also go to the Chatham County Historical Association website: <https://chathamhistory.org/African-American-History-Walking-Tour>.

Physical copies of the walk are also available at the Pittsboro Welcome Center.

## What's the Investment Outlook For 2022?

If you're an investor, it's always useful to look back – and look ahead. How did you do in 2021? And what can you anticipate in 2022?

First, let's quickly review what happened in 2021. Despite the ongoing pandemic, domestic political unrest, supply chain logjams and the return of inflation, the financial markets turned in some strong results: The S&P 500 gained almost 27% for the year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average returned nearly 19% and the Nasdaq Composite gained more than 21%. And while your own returns may not have matched these figures – since you probably own a mix of investments, some of which are not tracked by these indexes – you still probably did pretty well.

But now that we've turned the calendar to 2022, what can you expect from the investment world? Of course, it's always somewhat risky to make predictions of this nature – and if our experience with the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's to be humble about projecting the future. Nonetheless, we can look at some possibilities.

First of all, don't be surprised to see some market volatility. In 2021, we saw real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of nearly 6%, largely fueled by two factors: an increase in consumer spending as the economy reopened following an easing of the pandemic, and the Federal Reserve's continued monetary stimulus. But in 2022, the combination of higher inflation (at least during the first half of the year), higher interest rates (the Fed has indicated it may raise rates more than once) and the continued uncertainty around COVID-19 may result in a “correction,” which is generally defined as a drop of 10% or more from a recent peak in the financial markets, as measured by a major index such as

the S&P 500. Corrections are not at all unusual – in fact, it's more unusual to go through a year without a correction. But the average market correction is short-lived, typically lasting just a few months. And a market correction, when prices are down, may actually present an opportunity to purchase quality investments to add to your portfolio or to help diversify it further.

Other developments may also suggest a relatively favorable investment environment this year. For one thing, inflation may well subside somewhat in the second half of the year, as we should see a clearing of some supply chain bottlenecks. Plus, household savings are strong, as is consumer spending, while wage growth is above average. Taken together, these factors may help boost the economy in the latter part of 2022. Furthermore, even if the Fed bumps up interest rates, they'll still be relatively low by historical standards and shouldn't overly hinder businesses who need to borrow to expand their operations.

In any single year, pandemic or not, external events will affect the financial markets. And while you shouldn't ignore these events, you also don't want to let them dictate all, or even most, of your financial moves. You're much better off focusing on things you can control – and the best way to do that is to stick with an investment strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. By doing so, you'll give yourself the best chance of success in 2022 – and beyond.

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

*Edward Jones. Member SIPC.*

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## CALENDAR

Continued from page A2

tality 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** 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 per-

formances 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.bstroop93.org](http://www.bstroop93.org) for more information.

- **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 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.

# OBITUARIES

## BICKETT EUBANKS



Bickett Eubanks, 101, of Pittsboro, passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, January 25, 2022.

Born November 7, 1920, to Romulus Pope Eubanks and Minnie Boone Eubanks of Chatham County, he was a lifelong resident of Pittsboro. His wife, Isabelle Clark Eubanks, predeceased him leaving one son, James William (Billy) Eubanks and wife Carolee; two granddaughters, Tammy Eubanks Grant and husband Alan, Muriel (Missy) Eubanks Beck-

with; six great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Bickett spent most of his working years as a school bus mechanic for the Chatham County School system. He and his wife were charter members of the Pittsboro Seventh-day Adventist Church where he served as head deacon for many years. He was an extremely giving person who never hesitated to lend a helping hand to anybody in need — especially if they had car trouble!

He was a loving father, grandfather, friend and neighbor to all who knew him.

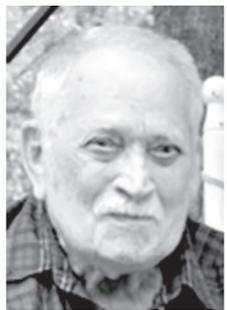
A virtual memorial service will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday, February 6, 2022. Those who would like to watch the service, please use the following Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9109472224>.

In lieu of flowers, any memorial gifts can be given to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Sandhills Building Fund, P.O. Box 64, Carthage, N.C. 28327.

Services entrusted to Fry & Prickett Funeral Home in Carthage, N.C.

Online condolences may be made at [PinesFunerals.com](https://PinesFunerals.com).

## ROBERT (BOB) HOWARD WAGERS



Mr. Robert (Bob) Howard Wagers, 95, of Siler City, passed away Thursday, January 13, 2022, at his home in Siler City, N.C. He was the husband of Margaret Wagers. They celebrated 70 years of marriage together.

Born in Missouri, he was the son of John Robert and Thelma Wagers. He was a veteran of the armed forces, serving in the Army Air Force and in the U.S. Army. He worked as a carpenter and a locksmith. He retired after many years of working

at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. After retiring and moving to Siler City, he worked a few years for Van Thomas of Siler City.

He was a long-time member of the Assemblies of God, attending King City Assembly of God in King City, Missouri, Bethel Assembly of God in Jones Creek, Maryland and most recently, Faith Family Ministries in Siler City, North Carolina. He enjoyed spending time with family, taking rides in the country, riding to the lake and visiting with friends. In earlier years, he enjoyed cooking, making beef jerky, eating cheese (lots of cheese), hunting, fishing, traveling with family, rock hunting, and working in his wood shop.

He is survived by his beautiful wife Margaret; six children, Robert Thomas Wagers (Carol), John Howard Wagers, Carolyn Wagers Brown, David Wayne Wagers, Cathie Wagers Moran (John) and James Matthew Wagers (Nancy); a brother, Bill Wagers; a sister, Bonnie Metzger. He is also survived by 16 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Vivian Leigh Wagers; his parents, John Robert and Thelma Wagers; sisters, Betty Jo Wagers Cheek, Bessie Beatrice Wagers Stone, Beverly Ruth Wagers Green; son-in-law, Kevin Scott Brown Sr., daughter-in-law, Lori Mazan Wagers; step-grandson, Leo Harry Ziegler III; and grandson, Jeremy Kent Williams.

A memorial service will be planned at a later time.

## NOAH MIAH MATTHEWS



March 23, 1978 — January 20, 2022  
Noah Miah Matthews, 43, died Thursday, January 20, 2022, unexpectedly, at his home in Chapel Hill.

He was born at Oxbow Lake of Mason County, Michigan, the son of Rosemary (Merry) Rafferty and Raymond (Bud) Matthew. He received his education in Chapel Hill. He partnered, with his brother Micah Matthews and their father Bud Matthews, to run service businesses. In 2018, Noah assumed ownership of

Bud Matthews Service & Construction Company.

Noah was a wonderful son, brother, father, husband, friend, community leader, and business man. His nature was loving and his mission was service to others. Noah was a warm loving light for everyone that he encountered. As a young man, Noah had traveled throughout the U.S., and with his brother Micah, trekked in the Nepalese Himalayas. Once a parent himself, Noah was a very active father. Throughout the years he and his children would participate in many activities with friends and extended family. They especially enjoyed swimming, boating, jet-skiing, fishing, hiking, four-wheeling, and camping. Noah's family was also actively involved in recycling, native plant rescue, and other volunteer work. An astute businessman he brought the family business to new heights, and with that gave back generously to the local community, especially to nonprofit organizations providing programs to enhance childhood development. Noah was remarkably kind and he was famous for his big warm hugs. Cut short at mid-life he had many years of love yet to give and receive. It has been said that Noah just gave too much of his big heart away. He rests now with his Creator. Noah, we love you so.

He is survived by his soulmate of 10 years, Rachel Matthews (Nelms), and their children, Max, Micah, and Molly of the home; his brother, Micah Matthews and his wife Anna Matthews and their children, Noah Jack and Odin Matthews of Durham; his father, Raymond (Bud) Matthews and his bonus mother Ruth Ananda Matthews (Wysor) of Chapel Hill; and many in-laws, uncles, aunts, cousins, and friends.

A private memorial service will be held by the family. A celebration of his life will take place later, during warm weather in an outdoor setting.

Memorials may be made to Boys & Girls Club of Pittsboro; Kidzu of Chapel Hill; Marine Toys for Tots Foundation of Orange County; Willow Oak Montessori Foundation of Chatham County; or the charity of your choice.

Arrangements by National Cremation of Raleigh, N.C.

## ELIZABETH 'LIB' FARRELL



Elizabeth "Lib" Farrell passed away Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at the age of 101.

Born in Chatham County on July 3, 1920, graduating from Silk Hope High School in 1937, Mrs. Farrell was the oldest child of L.M. Petty and Jessie Perry Petty.

She was a wonderful cook and homemaker who enjoyed entertaining. She loved sports especially U.N.C. basketball!

Mrs. Farrell retired from U.N.C.

hospital in 1985. Being a young "65" she decided to accept a job at the local drugstore working until age 90!

She was preceded in death by her husband J.A. Farrell Jr., her parents; brothers, L.M. "Buck" Petty and G.T. Petty; sisters; Adele Petty Brooks and Gwen Petty James. Her precious granddaughter Kelly Suzanne Nance also predeceased her.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughters; Barbara Lindley Nance of Richmond, Virginia, and Vicky Lindley Brady of McLeansville; stepson J.A. "Jay" Farrell III and wife Charlene; sister, Patricia Petty Andrews; grandchildren, Kris Nance Griffin, Todd Berkeley, Christy Farrell Blackburn, Blake Farrell, Ronnie Brady, and Lisa Brady Cockman, 14 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren.

A special thank you to all the ladies, Christina Bullard, Angela Quick, especially her angel, Margaret Dodson, who so lovingly cared for our mother.

"Absent from the body present with the Lord."

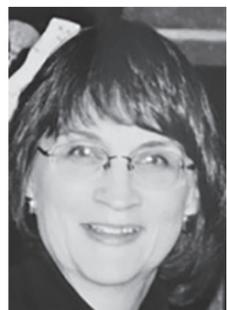
The family received friends Thursday, January 27, 2022, from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at Hanks Chapel Church. The funeral service followed at 11 a.m. with Rev. Bob Wachs presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Lib's memory to Heartland Hospice, 4505 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 650, Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

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

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

## PATRICIA (PATTY) TANNER POOLE



Patricia (Patty) Tanner Poole, 68, a lifelong resident of Siler City, was called home to be with the Lord on Monday, January 24, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

After graduating from Jordan-Matthews High School, class of 1971, Patty became a Veterinarian Assistant. Her first job in that capacity involved caring for animals at the Duke Research Center affiliated with the Duke Medical School and Hospital. While working at Duke, Patty

attended Watts School of Nursing. After graduating with an R.N. Degree, Patty went to work for the Chatham County Health Department where she served as a Home Healthcare visiting nurse until 2000. Patty was awarded Home Health Nurse of the Year in 1987. For the next 10 years Patty was employed in the North Carolina Department of Human Services, Immunization Branch, where she served as Hepatitis B Immunization Coordinator. Upon her retirement in 2010, Patty received the Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award for her long-term dedication to the residents of North Carolina.

Patty was an accomplished archer. For many years she shared her passion with children all across our state as she taught archery and bow safety. Patty's students, as well as her patients, will remember her for her kindness, competence, and her sweet, gentle spirit.

Patty was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend and faithful Christian. She was predeceased by her parents, Catherine Maurice and Jackson Leroy Tanner, and by both her brothers, John A. Tanner and William Wrenn (Billy) Tanner.

Patty is survived by her husband of 43 years, Russell Roy Poole Jr.; her son, Russell Roy Poole III (wife Krista); her daughter, Catherine Michelle Lynch (husband Timothy); three granddaughters, Shiloh Grace Lynch, Amelia Rose Poole and Taylor Alexus Lynch; two sisters, Carolyn Tanner Clark (husband Tom) and Jackie Tanner Griffin (husband Bub), and two sisters-in-law, Cheri Tanner and Maria Cruz Tanner.

There will be a graveside service at Chatham Memorial Park, located at 13260 U.S. Hwy. 64, Siler City, N.C. 27344, on Saturday, February 5th at 1 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

## JEAN LOIS BOGGESS



Jean Lois Boggess, 75, was born to John and Katharine Wickman on July 17, 1946. After bravely fighting many medical issues she went home on January 15, 2022, at 8:25 p.m.

For many years she was a dependable associate for various companies as a Customer Service Representative. Jean was such a dedicated and loving mother and everyone would agree that she considered her two sons, Keifer and John, as her greatest accomplishments. Other than

being known for being a sweet and loving person to all, she was known for being a wonderful cook, especially her Swedish pancakes and lemon pepper chicken. Jean was always up for a good movie and was an avid animal lover.

She was survived by her sister, Kathy Montefusco, oldest son, Keifer and three grandchildren, Evan, Brandi and Ava Boggess.

A celebration of life memorial will be held on March 26, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Chatham Community Church, located at 1685 Andrews Store Rd., Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

All memorials and flowers can be sent to Keifer Boggess, 3603 N.C. Hwy. 87N, Pittsboro, NC 27312.

## HELEN RUTH FOX

Ms. Helen Ruth Foxx, 81, of Lillington, passed away Sunday, January 30, 2022, at Central Harnett Hospital.

Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford is serving the family.

## GENNIS BERNICE JOHNSON

Gennis Bernice Johnson, 74, of Cameron, passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

## WAYLON BLUE MORRIS

Waylon Blue Morris, 74, of Cameron, passed away on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

The funeral service was held on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Mt. Pleasant Christian Church. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born in Lee County on October 13, 1947, to the late James Wellington Morris and Nettie Terah McMillan Morris. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by siblings, James Wellington Morris Jr., Joseph Adcock Morris, Mack Aubrey Morris, Emma Jean Morris Jackson and Linda Morris Harwood; a granddaughter, and great-grandson. Mr. Morris was in the United States Army where he served in Vietnam. He worked in construction and as a heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Linda Marks Morris; daughters, Sandy Boggs, Elaine Holub, Denise Godfrey, all of Cameron; sister, Louise Poole of Travelers Rest, S.C.; six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Warriors Heart Foundation (501c 3 non-profit organization, supporting the unmet needs of servicemen and women), Warriors Heart Foundation, 756 Purple Sage Road, Bandera, TX 78003.

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

## RONALD 'RONNIE' WALTER KIDD

Ronald "Ronnie" Walter Kidd of Seagrove, passed away on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at the Chatham Hospital.

The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at Riverside Baptist Church with Rev. Gerald Hussey presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born on April 26, 1954, to Tate and Kathleen Hudson Kidd. He operated K&K Tile as a skilled tile mechanic. He was a member of Riverside Baptist Church. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife of 46 years, Brenda Childers Kidd; daughters, April Presley of Asheboro, Michelle Kidd of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Katie Kidd of Seagrove; son, Ronnie Kidd Jr. of Seagrove; 13 grandchildren; and a sister, Lee "Sissy" Warn, of Texas.

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

## PEGGY ANN WARD GALLIMORE

Peggy Ann Ward Gallimore, 71, of Asheboro, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022, at Peak Resources-Pinelake in Carthage.

A private graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at Smyrna U.M.C. Cemetery with Rev. Gerald Hussey presiding.

She was born in Randolph County on October 12, 1950. She worked as a seamstress at Ithaca and Cross Creek Apparel. She is preceded in death by her mother and step-father, Johnny and Annie Allison.

Surviving are her sons, Douglas Ward of Aberdeen and Rodney Ward of Ellerbe; and brother, Garry Ward of Asheboro.

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

## JIMMIE SAMUEL MCIVER

Jimmie Samuel McIver, 82, of Brooklyn, N.Y., passed away on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Internal Faith Hospital in Brooklyn.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, January 31, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

## KATHY TUCKER HYDE

Kathy Tucker Hyde passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022.

Funeral services were held Sunday, January 30, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Morris Chapel U.M.C. with Pastor Michael Edwards officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

# Chatham Democrat Party recommends a Dist. 4 commissioner replacement

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

The Chatham County Democrat Party's executive committee "overwhelmingly selected" former CCS Superintendent Robert Logan on Thursday as the party's recommended candidate to replace former Commissioner Jim Crawford following his Dec. 31 resignation, according to committee members.

There were three candidates who addressed the committee at a Zoom meeting, committee member Randy Voller told the News + Record, but the committee ultimately voted for Logan.

"Logan was the candidate whom Commissioner Crawford recommended to the County Board of Commissioners on December 20th," Voller said in an email. "Logan was also supported by County BOC Chair Karen Howard, Pittsboro Mayor-Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin, Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz, Chatham County School Board member Del Turner and many others."

Crawford, who confirmed his intended resignation to the News + Record on Dec. 3, stepped away from the Dist. 4 seat he held since 2014 due to health reasons. He recommended Logan as a replacement to other board members at his last commissioners meeting on Dec. 20.

"I felt one of my responsibilities was to find someone to fill the gap that I'd be leaving," Crawford said then.

"I feel I can share that person's name right now just as a general offer to show that we have responsible people willing to serve, and it is Robert Logan, the former superintendent of Chatham County Public Schools," he told the board. "You don't necessarily have to follow that, but it seems somebody is there, so hopefully it won't take you 60 days for you to settle on him. ... He can hit the ground running and is somebody familiar with the gears of the county, having had to work with them for many years, and is known to the public and vice versa."

Logan was CCS Superintendent from 2008 to 2013 and previously served as the superintendent of Lee County Schools.

Under state law, the board has to appoint a new commissioner to fill out the remaining year of the term, and

can take or reject the recommendation of the Chatham County Democrat Party. The person must be a registered voter in the same party as the resigning commissioner, and must reside in Dist. 4 — a fact Crawford and some others in the county weren't previously aware of. Logan does live in Dist. 4.

The Dist. 4 seat must be filled by an appointed replacement prior to the 2022 election — for which three new candidates already filed earlier this month, before the filing period was halted and primary delayed until May 17.

The board couldn't fill the vacancy until it actually occurred — so after Dec. 31 — and has 60 days to do so after that point. If the board doesn't appoint someone in that time period, state law moves appointment authority to the clerk of court, who will have 10 days to fill the vacancy.

Commissioners previously expressed the desire to appoint a replacement who isn't planning to run for the 2022 seat.

After Crawford made his Dec. 20 recommendation of Logan, Commissioners Diana Hales and Karen Howard thanked Crawford for the recommendation but said they'd like to also consider the candidates suggested by the county party.

"We have an opportunity for a commissioner to just simply name his replacement," Dasher said of Logan at the time. "It's somebody we all know, that we all know that's more than skilled and capable, and it's for a period of 10 months in an election year; we already know several candidates have filed for it."

Though Howard said she knew Logan well and would be happy if the board landed on him as a replacement, she said she didn't "want to subvert this process." By last Thursday, Howard had expressed support for Logan though, according to Voller.

It isn't clear if commissioners will move forward with the party's recommendation or continue considering all potential replacements who have expressed interest.

No official timeline was set for when the board will hold a vote to make an appointment, but under state law, a vote must happen by March 2 or it will move to the clerk of court's discretion. The board's next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7.

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

# Siler City's Lynch to take county finance position

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch is stepping down from his post to take a new job as Chatham County's finance director.

Lynch, who has served as the chief administrator in Siler City government since 2019, announced his resignation during a closed session of the town's Jan. 18 commission board meeting. Lynch came into the position after serving as Siler City's finance director when former manager Bryan Thompson left to work as the county's assistant manager in July 2019.

Lynch said he wanted to find a way to contribute to Chatham County as it continues to grow, and he said his new position as the county's finance director will help him do that.

"I aspire to expand my knowledge in local government and gain an in-depth perspective into the operations of county government," he said.

Lynch said he was thankful for the opportunities he has been given through working for Siler City as the town manager. The position allowed him to have an active role in important projects for the town, including approving various commercial and residential developments and creating programs geared towards its residents.

"It's been gratifying to be a part of and see the completion of major projects that have been in progress, even since before I was hired as the town manager," Lynch said. "These projects include improvements to the utility infrastructure, planning for future growth and quality of life programs through recreation. Many projects are currently underway and will continue the enhancement for years to come."

The town began posting the opening last week.

Lynch's last day will be March 25. The application for the town manager



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch will resign from his position with the town after almost three years in the role.**

position is open, and those interested in applying should contact Human Resources director Nancy Darden at [ndarden@silercity.org](mailto:ndarden@silercity.org).

Lynch said he has enjoyed working with the staff in Siler City, and he hopes his successor will continue to work hard for Siler City and its residents.

"[I want the next manager to] rely on the town staff leadership team for their support and continue to focus on the infrastructure needs that will enable future residential and commercial development," Lynch said. "I have enjoyed working with so many wonderful staff members and have made lasting friendships."

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

# OBITUARIES

Continued from page A9

## JAMES ARTHUR ELLIS

James Arthur Ellis, 88, passed away January 12, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehab in Sanford. He was born in Chatham County, April 9, 1933, to the late John and Edna Johnson Ellis. He worked at J.M. Odell Mfg. Company, until its closing and he retired from the Chatham County School's Maintenance Department. He liked nothing better than being outdoors, hunting, fishing or just spending time in nature. He loved to dance with Square and Line dancing being his favorites. James also was a founding member of the East Chatham Baseball Association.

In addition to his parents, James was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Lou Ellis; six brothers, Cleodis Ellis, Willie Ellis, Will Rose Ellis, George Ellis, Grady Ellis, Gilbert Ellis; and four sisters, Faydine Tisdale, Etta Mae Mann, Margaret Oakley, Annie Ring; and son-in-law, Larry "Red" Lindley.

Survivors include, his wife, Joyce Harris of Sanford; his daughter, Dolly Lindley; sons, James Ellis Jr. (Dawn), Timothy Ellis (Rita), John Ellis (Beth); seven grandsons, Jeremy Lindley, James Ellis, Josh Ellis, Matt Ellis, Nolan Ellis, Nathan Ellis and Nicholas Ellis; one granddaughter, Ashley Williams; four great-grandsons, three great-granddaughters; stepdaughters, Karen Cameron (Chad) and Kathy Yow (Danny); three step-grandsons and two step-granddaughters; one step-great-grandson; and his brother, Bur-nice Ellis of Bynum.

A graveside service was held 1 p.m. Saturday, January 15, 2022, at Bynum U.M.C. Cemetery with the Rev. Robert Elmore and Rev. Bob Wachs officiating. Online condolences may be left at <https://www.donaldsonfunerals.com/obituary/James-Ellis>.

## MARSHA LYNN WYLY

Marsha Lynn Wyly, 77, a resident of Greenville's Cypress Glenn, left her earthly body and went to be at home with the Lord on January 28, 2022. Her empathy for others and her compassionate responses displayed her kindness to everyone.

Services for Marsha were held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at Peace Presbyterian Church, at 301 Guinness Drive, Winterville, with Pastor Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt officiating. This will be followed by a gravesite service at Pinewood Memorial Park in Greenville. Marsha's family will receive relatives and friends that day at the church from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service.

Marsha was a loving wife and caring mother, who enjoyed singing in church choirs. Marsha was also a very talented Landscape Architect. After receiving her Master of Landscape Architecture degree from N.C. State University she did extensive work in N.C. for three decades. She was asked to do work in other states as well; such as, the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C. She was appointed by several N.C. governors to various state boards, on which she served for many years. She was awarded the Special Recognition award from the N.C. Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2015.

Marsha was born to William and Mary Hayes in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is survived by her husband Rev. Dr. Lemuel David Wyly, a resident of Greenville, N.C., and her children Robin Wyly Nordman, a resident of Wake Forest, N.C., and Gloria Wyly Mock and husband, Matthew, residents of Chapel Hill, N.C., Robin's children, Marsha's grandchildren, are Christina, Jonathan, and Michael. Christina's children, Marsha's great-grandchildren, are Sarah, Bella, and Bentley.

She is survived by her sister Sue Treder and husband, Ralph, residents of Palm Coast, Florida; her brother Charles Hayes and wife, Elizabeth, residents of Roper, N.C.; her brother Pat Hayes and wife, Barbara, residents of Palm Coast, Florida.

Marsha was preceded in death by her brother, Gregory Hayes.

## LISA RENEE NALLEY TOLLEVEN

Lisa Renee Nalley Tollevsen, 59, of Cameron, passed away on Friday, January 28, 2022, at her home.

The funeral service was held in the sanctuary of Hillmon Grove Baptist Church at 2 p.m. on Monday, January 31, 2022, with Rev. Wayne O'Quinn officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, on June 18, 1962, to Ruby Jean Bingham Nalley and the late Virgil Leon Nalley. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her husband, John Thor Tollevsen and sister, Kimberly Nalley. Lisa was a graduate of Campbell University and Fayetteville State University where she earned her teaching degree. She also taught Sunday school at Hillmon Grove Baptist Church for many years.

She is survived by her mother, Ruby; brother, Brian Nalley of Cameron and sister, Karen Nalley-Leander of Fayetteville.

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

## MAVIS CECILIA KING

Mavis Cecilia King, 60, of Covington, Georgia, passed away on Saturday, January 22, 2022, at Piedmont Newton Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Sunday, January 30, 2022, at Works for Christ Christian Center with burial following at Johnsonville Community Cemetery.

## RUBY MAE (PERRY) SCURLOCK

Mrs. Ruby Mae Scurlock, 84, passed away on Monday, January 24, 2022, at her residence.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 28, 2022, at St. Matthews A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

## MOZELL HEADEN GOLDSTON

Mrs. Mozell Headen Goldston, 80, of Pittsboro, passed away Friday, January 28, 2022, at her residence.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 1 p.m. at Alston Chapel United Holy Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

## GLENN CHARLES JONES

Glenn Charles Jones 81, of Cameron, passed on January 11, 2022, at the Jim and Betsy Bryan U.N.C. Hospice in Pittsboro.

The memorial service was held at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 29, 2022, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home in Sanford.

He was born in Stanton, Virginia. His adoptive parents, Major Mason and Mary Sue Green, preceded him in death. He was a highly decorated soldier who served his country in the U.S. Army, in Korea and Viet Nam. He discharged at the rank of Major. He retired as an associate warden from the California Department of Corrections.

Survivors include his wife, Constance "Diane" Prokos-Jones; and father to Shawne' Jones Ayers, Qasoran Jones, and Dustin Jones; three grandchildren; stepsons, Christopher Shepard, Paul Shepard, and Jonathan Shepard; and eight step-grandchildren; step-brothers, Stanford and Tony Randolph, and step sisters Patsy Jones, Margaret, and Barbara Jean Randolph.

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

## NANCY BERRYMAN HERRING

Nancy Berryman Herring, 88, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at Westfield Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

The family received friends on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, from 12 p.m. until 1 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral followed at 1 p.m. in the chapel with Donald Flynn officiating. Burial followed in Lee Memory Gardens.

She was born in Lee County, on September 7, 1933, to the late John Watson Berryman and Marion Estelle Phillips Berryman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Roy McMillian Herring; and brother, Tommy Berryman. Nancy worked at Central Electric Membership Corporation.

Nancy is survived by sisters, Jean Skinner, Flora Harrington and Mary Cox.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

**LAND SALE, BONLEE-BENNETT ROAD, 3.410, \$15,000.** Does not perk, Phone: 336-584-9115, Parcel: #0003912, J27,F3,10,17,4tp

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

## 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 apart-

ments, 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

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

## HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED - Charter Furniture** is accepting applications for: - Upholsters, Experience needed - Skills needed: General wood-working skill, Carpentry Skill. Please apply in person at: Charter Furniture, 50 Industrial Park Rd, Siler City, NC 27344. F3,10,17,24,4tc

**FLOORAZZ - RAPIDLY GROWING, family operated tile manufacturing factory in Siler City has openings for entry level machine operators.** No prior experience necessary. We offer a competitive wage and a strong policy of promoting from within as your skills grow. Full and part-time job share positions available. To apply, fill out an application at Floorazzo tile. 1217 Harold Andrews Road, Siler City, NC 27344 or call (919) 663-1684, ext. 101. J27,F3,10,3tp

**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 Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

## LEGALS

**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 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

**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

**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 corporations 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 Executrix 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, 2021

Nancy Elizabeth Friel Hornik, Executrix of the Estate of Hugh C. Friel a/k/a Hugh

## 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**

## 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**

## 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.

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

## 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  
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TDD 1-800-735-2962  
Email: [pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com](mailto:pittsborovillage@ECCMG.com)  
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Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.

## Job Announcement TOWN MANAGER TOWN OF SILER CITY

**Background:** The Town of Siler City seeks an experienced, innovative, and energetic Town Manager to work within the established Council-Manager form of government. The Town Manager is appointed by the Mayor and the seven-member Board of Commissioners, which have staggered terms. The Town provides a full array of services through a work force of approximately 90 full-time and 20 part-time employees and an operating budget of \$17.6 million. Town services include Police, Fire, Finance, Planning and Community Development, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and Utilities (streets, sanitation, water and wastewater treatment, water distribution, and sanitary sewer collection), Code Enforcement, Human Resources, Grants Administration, License Plate Agency, and Airport. Siler City is a growing, diverse, and dynamic community of approximately 7,800 residents in close proximity to the Triad and Research Triangle area with arts, amenities, and high-quality education at all levels while maintaining small town ambiance.

**Responsibilities:** The Town Manager is responsible to the Board of Commissioners for the effective and efficient management of the Town operations and departments; making investigations, studies, and reports concerning town affairs for the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners as directed or deemed necessary; making recommendations for adopting such policies and measures as may be deemed necessary for the good government of the Town; and performing such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

**Requirements:** The ideal candidate will demonstrate a professional work history that has significant experience in municipal budgeting and finance, effective intergovernmental relations, personal community engagement, leading cohesive change, strategic planning, being adept at understanding and applying solutions to varying challenges, personnel administration, grant administration, procurement, economic and community development, and public infrastructure. Eligible candidates will have a minimum of five to seven years progressive municipal management and finance experience and a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, or related field. Ten years of executive experience and a Master's degree in Public Administration or related field is preferred. The successful candidate will possess proven team-oriented leadership abilities, strong communication skills, a high level of integrity, a strong work ethic, strong operational knowledge in budget and finance including familiarity with utility expansion projects, experience handling sensitive personnel matters, and demonstrate the ability to foster exceptional working relationships with elected officials, Town employees, members of the media, residents, and business community.

It is preferred that the selected candidate move within the city limits of Siler City; but at a minimum, the candidate must live within the municipal extraterritorial planning jurisdiction within one year of hire.

**Compensation:** Minimum starting salary is \$103,150 depending on qualifications. The Town offers a competitive benefits package.

**Application Process:** Applicants can find an employment application at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org). A resume, cover letter, and completed application should be submitted to Nancy Darden, Human Resources Director, at [ndarden@silercity.org](mailto:ndarden@silercity.org). This position is open until filled.

The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

decendent are asked to make immediate payment.  
 This the 27th day of January, 2022.  
 Lynn S. Craycroft, Executor  
 7616 Reams Ct.  
 Apex, N.C. 27523  
 J27,F3,F10,F17,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 22**  
 All persons having claims against **JAMES WATSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th 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 27th day of January, 2022.  
 CLYDE WATSON, Administrator  
 565 Stockyard Rd.  
 Staley, N.C. 27355  
 J27,F3,F10,F17,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 8**  
 All persons having claims against **DANIEL JAMES RYAN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th 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 27th day of January, 2022.  
 Jamie Lynne Cross, Administrator  
 3312 Wickslow Rd., Apt. 2  
 Wilmington, NC 28412  
 J27,F3.F10,F17,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 691**  
 All persons having claims against **DAVID P. SENKPIEL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the

against **BEVERLY FRANKS JOHNSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th 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 27th day of January, 2022.  
 Donna Johnson Decker, Executrix  
 123 Russell Webster Rd.  
 Siler City, NC 27344  
 J27,F3.F10,F17,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 741**  
 All persons having claims against **ROBERT STEVENSON LACKEY, A/K/A ROBERT S. LACKEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th 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 27th day of January, 2022.  
 Robert S. Lackey, Jr., a/d/a Steve Lackey, Executor  
 410 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
 J27,F3.F10,F17,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 657**  
 All persons having claims against **GARY PETERSON AKA GARY GRUETNER PETERSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th 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 27th day of January, 2022.  
 CHARLES E. NEWMAN, Executor  
 707 East Colonial Drive  
 Orlando, FL 32803  
 c/o Kendall H. Page, Atty.  
 210 N. Columbia Street  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
 J27,F3.F10,F17,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 All persons, firms and corporations having claims against The Estate of **JANE BECK BRYAN**, deceased, of CHATHAM County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before May 3, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to make immediate payment.  
 This 3rd day of February, 2022.  
 Clinton E. Bryan, III, Administrator  
 Of the Estate of JANE BECK BRYAN  
 C/O Pat Leigh Pittman, Attorney  
 Dunn, Pittman, Skinner & Cushman, PLLC  
 3230 Country Club Road  
 New Bern, NC 28562  
 F3,F10,F17,F24,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 All persons having claims against **ANNETTE H. SUTTON** aka Annette Elaine Sutton of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 9th day of December, 2021, are notified to present them to William Brent Sutton, Executor of the Estate of Annette H. Sutton aka Annette Elaine Sutton in c/o Dean P. Broz, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before May 12, 2022. Failure

to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Annette H. Sutton aka Annette Elaine Sutton. Those indebted to Annette H. Sutton aka Annette Elaine Sutton are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.  
 Dean P. Broz, Atty for the Estate  
 Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.  
 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
 Exchange West at Meadowmont  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
 F3,F10,F17,F24,4tc

**NOR MOODY** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of May, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.  
 This the 3rd day of February, 2022.  
 Phyllis H. Bayles, Executor  
 698 Jim Gilliland Road  
 Siler City, NC 27344  
 F3,F10,F17,F24,4tp

**NOTICE OF DISINTERMENT**  
 Notice is hereby given to the known and unknown relatives of those persons in nine possible burial sites, with the potential of more, located in an unmarked cemetery on property owned by Gregory W. Stafford, and located in Chatham County, North Carolina, Parcel No. 89255; that said cemetery is located on the West Side of the Mod parking area off of Sanford Road, Pittsboro, North Carolina; that there are approximately 9 unmarked graves found within the cemetery; that Gregory W. Stafford has been thus far unable to ascertain all of the the closest next of kin of any of the burials; that the subject graves to be moved will be relocated and re-interred in the graveyard of the Pittsboro United Methodist Church located at 71 West Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312. As complete a record as possible of those re-interred will be on file with the Register of Deeds of Chatham County, North Carolina. These unmarked graves will be removed under the provisions of North Carolina General Statute §65-106, and that Gregory W. Stafford will be responsible for all reasonable expenses pertaining under the provisions of North Carolina General Statute

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM**  
 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 6th day of January 2022, as Executor of the ESTATE OF **KHALID S. ISHAQ** aka **KHALID SULAIMAN ISHAQ**, Deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
 This, the 27th day of January 2022.  
 DENA HANNA, EXECUTOR  
 ESTATE OF KHALID S. ISHAQ aka KHALID SULAIMAN ISHAQ  
 c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney  
 Walker Lambe, PLLC  
 Post Office Box 51549  
 Durham, North Carolina 27717  
 J27,F3,F10,F17,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 3**  
 All persons having claims against **DAVID P. SENKPIEL**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 27th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22 E 038 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 The undersigned, Carol Phillips, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **RITCHIE RAY PHILLIPS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 3rd day of May, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
 This the 3rd day of February, 2022.  
 Carol Phillips, Administrator  
 c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate  
 Hopper Cummings, PLLC  
 Post Office Box 1455  
 Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 F3,F10,F17,F24,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 8**  
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\$65-106. This notice will be published at least once a week for four successive weeks in the Chatham News and Record in Siler City, North Carolina. Anyone having information about these graves or the next of kin please contact Gregory Wayne Stafford, 901 Jordan Hills, Chapel Hill, NC 27517. F3,F10,F17,F24,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS north carolina chatham county**  
Shawn E. Crutchfield qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on January 26, 2022, as the Administrator of the Estate of PAMELA LOU FLETCHER, 11138 NC HWY 42, Sanford, NC 27330. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by N.C.G.S. 28A-14-

1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before the 3rd of May, 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 payments to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to:

Deirdre M. Stephenson, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 1433, Sanford, NC 27331-1045. F3,F10,F17,F24,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified on the 28th day of January, 2022 as Executrix

of the Estate of **BENNETT WATSON COWPER ROBERTS, JR.**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make

immediate payment to the undersigned. This 3rd day of February, 2022. Angela Lane Roberts, Executrix of the Estate of Bennett Watson Cowper Roberts, Jr. c/o Gwendolyn C. Brooks Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 F3,F10,F17,F24,4tp

# JMArts' Latin jazz concert rescheduled for March

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet will now perform a free concert at Jordan-Matthews High School on Friday, March 11, JMArts announced Tuesday.

The concert, to be held at 7 p.m. in J-M's auditorium, had originally been scheduled to top off an afternoon student jazz clinic last Friday night until a third wintry weather forecast last week forced JMArts to postpone it.

Friday's Latin jazz clinic for student musicians still took place as planned, save for an earlier afternoon start time. From 1 to 3 p.m., the JM Jazz Ensemble, plus several 8th grade musicians from Chatham Middle and Silk Hope, explored and learned to play Latin jazz under the aegis of six acclaimed jazz musicians.

For both participants and observers, the experience was "absolutely outstanding," according to JMArts President Rose Pate.

"Most of our students have probably never seen musicians at that level in person and up close," Pate told the News + Record. "And the sectional clinics were well-planned and engaging, showing stu-



JMArts photo courtesy of Chip Pate

**Trumpet player Al Strong (left) and saxophonist Gregg Gelb of La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet perform during a Latin jazz workshop they led for student musicians on Jan. 28 in Jordan-Matthews High School. Participating students included the JM Jazz Ensemble and several 8th grade musicians from Chatham Middle and Silk Hope.**

dents the basics of how jazz works, giving them a chance to try improvisation, and demonstrating how to get optimal tone from their instruments. I can't wait for our whole community to hear this incredible group!"

Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet divided students into sessions by instrument — trumpet, trombone, woodwind and percussion. J-M 9th grader Kaleb Moffitt worked with other drummers during the clinic, where he played conga drums for the first time.

"When they [the band] came on stage and played Latin jazz, I'd

never heard of that," he said. "When they played their pieces, it all flowed together and when they had their solos, they came out and floated right back in. I thought it was beautiful. I got a little teary watching them; it was amazing."

During their 75-minute concert in March, Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet will also lead about two dozen student musicians in one number. The group's featured tunes include "Oye Como Va," "Cape Verdean Blues," "Mambo Inn" and "Son de la Loma." Scheduled to play are the band's regular five members, plus trumpet player



JMArts photo courtesy of Chip Pate

**Trombonist and bassist Andy Kleindienst of La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet leads Maggie Thornton, Emma Wieber and Gavin Campbell in a Latin jazz session for student trombonists at Jordan-Matthews on Jan. 28.**

Al Strong.

First formed around 10 years ago, Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Quintet plays regular gigs at festivals, schools and clubs across the state. They're a registered five-member band with the United Arts Council and regularly participate in Wake County's Artists-In-Schools program.

A Sanford native, Gelb is a professional saxophonist and jazz composer who also leads other North Carolina-based jazz bands like The Heart

of Carolina Jazz Orchestra and the award-winning Triangle Youth Jazz Ensemble. The band's other four regular members include cross-cultural percussionist Beverly Botsford, jazz pianist Steve Anderson, trombonist and bassist Andy Kleindienst as well as drummer Ramon Ortiz, who's originally from the Dominican Republic.

Because of Chatham's ongoing COVID-19 case surge and school policy, attendees will be required to wear masks while they enjoy the in-

door concert, as of Feb. 1. For any updated information, visit JMArts.org or JMArts' social media.

"Watching and listening reminded me of the work you have to put in, but there's this great outcome," Moffitt said. "You work hard day in and out, and you see everything come together from all the musicians, and it's amazing. ... Anybody who likes music should come to this concert."

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

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## Chatham scammer 'ripped off' hundreds of Triangle elderly. Now he owes them \$4 million.

BY TAMMY GRUBB  
Raleigh News & Observer

A Chatham County man who developed personal relationships with his victims, calling them "Momma" and "Poppa" while defrauding them of over \$3 million, was sentenced last Monday in federal court.

Jorge Alberto Garcia, 41, pleaded guilty in November to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and two counts of failing to file income tax returns, according to officials with the U.S. District Court's Middle District of North Carolina.

Prosecutors said Garcia, who ran "J&J Home Improvement" and "JH Home Improvements Inc.," failed to complete construction work for dozens of homeowners in Durham, Chatham and Orange counties. He also is known as "Alberto Garcia" and "Roberto Garcia."

He was sentenced Monday under a plea agreement to just over 10 years in prison, after which he will serve three years of supervised release and pay \$4 million in restitution. His original charges could have brought him up to 22 years in prison.

"The lengthy sentence in this case reflects the depravity of the scheme," said Sandra Hairston, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Prosecutors said Garcia was hired to complete home renovation projects between September 2015 and April 2020. Many of his clients suffered physical or mental disabilities, court documents noted. He and his wife, Helen Smith-Flores, have not filed personal or business federal income taxes since 2007, records showed. The couple had a joint income of \$3.2 million from 2014 to 2018, officials have said. Smith-Flores also is charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering. Court records show those charges were dismissed as part of her husband's plea bargain.

### Unfinished repairs, bad checks

Agents with the IRS Criminal Investigation division told prosecutors that Garcia, who never had a state general

contractor's license, developed personal relationships with them, calling them "Momma" and "Poppa." He would ask them to solicit more work for him from their neighbors, the agents testified.

His clients, some of whom live with physical or mental challenges or on fixed incomes, paid Garcia before work was completed with personal checks, credit cards or by withdrawing money from investment accounts.

Homeowners who paid with a check told investigators that Garcia told them to leave the "to" line of the check blank or to issue the check to his wife, who investigators said would deposit the checks into her personal account or a business account for her Durham restaurant, La Cacerola Cafe and Restaurant. Flores then would withdraw cash or issue a cashier's check to her husband, the release stated.

The couple also cashed some checks at their bank or the client's bank, it said. Garcia solicited more than one loan from some of his clients, prosecutors said, getting a loan twice in one day from one client who did not remember writing the first check. When clients, their relatives or law enforcement confronted Garcia about the unfinished work, investigators said he would promise again to send workers, or return some of the money, either in a small amount or with a personal check that would be returned for insufficient funds.

The FBI and the IRS Criminal Investigations Division worked with local law enforcement, including the Durham Police Department, Chatham County Sheriff's Office, Chapel Hill Police Department, Carrboro Police Department and Cary Police Department, to bring charges against Garcia and Smith-Flores.

"The victims in this case trusted Jorge Garcia, but unfortunately they were manipulated and deceived," said Robert Wells, the FBI's Special Agent in Charge in North Carolina. "Garcia ripped off hundreds of elderly victims to fill his own pockets. Now he will pay for his crimes serving a federal prison sentence where he can't swindle anyone else."

# PERRY

Continued from page A1

water treatment facility off of U.S. Hwy. 15-501 to film a video discussing the ways the infrastructure bill could impact Pittsboro, specifically regarding its issues with water quality.

“The infrastructure initiative from the president has a water treatment and wastewater treatment component that amounts to something like \$50 billion, and \$10 billion is specifically for PFAS (treatment),” Price said. “I would think there would be some combination of Pittsboro pursuing that or, as part of a broader regional effort, there’s some major regional efforts underway, and we hope to have federal support with those.”

Pittsboro has had its fair share of issues with access to clean water — the Haw River, which supplies the town’s drinking water, has been polluted on several occasions with likely human carcinogens, including PFAS, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane. The town has searched for solutions, ranging from improvements to its own treatment plant to forming a drinking water partnership with Sanford and three other municipalities.

“This is the biggest single investment in this country’s history towards water treatment,” Price said. “For unfortunate reasons, we have a reason to be pursuing that here.”

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would provide \$55 billion to expand clean water access across the country, according to the White House’s website. Perry said federal funding could be the key to

helping Pittsboro solve the pollution issues the residents have faced for generations.

“A couple of years ago, nobody even knew what PFAS was, and now we have a \$10 billion investment specifically for that forever chemical that we’ve been drinking for a while,” Perry said.

Perry said funding from the infrastructure bill could also help the town access more filtration technology to better treat the polluted water coming into the drinking supply. She said with assistance providing by the bill, Pittsboro could build a water treatment plant — in partnership with other municipalities — which would be able to keep up with the contaminated water for a larger region.

“We need the new technology that is going to come from what would be a regional water plant that would have high tech,” Perry said. “In the long run and as our growth progresses with Chatham Park, we are going to need a new plant along Jordan Lake.”

Misinformation surrounding the infrastructure bill has caused some confusion among policy makers, according to Price. He said some members of Congress have indicated the funds provided by the bill were not allocated for infrastructure, but those seem to be based on misguided information.

He said at least one North Carolina Congressman claimed only a limited amount of money was going toward infrastructure. But when Price inquired of his colleague about figures he’s quoted, he said they had only considered highways as infrastructure.

“So, buses don’t count,

trains don’t count, airports don’t count, broadband doesn’t count, water treatment doesn’t count, I mean, it doesn’t make sense,” Price said. “There should be a broader definition about what infrastructure is, and I’d (dare) anyone to claim that water treatment is not infrastructure.”

Price said this bill isn’t the first example of the federal government provided assistance in regards to infrastructure. He noted a historical trend in federal investment into infrastructure when in his early years as a congressional representative, he was able to secure funding for Holly Springs to build its first wastewater treatment plant in the town’s history. Price also said now, the federal government needs to support small communities like Pittsboro as they continue to grow.

Perry said she believes a bill like the bipartisan infrastructure initiative is crucial in providing the money needed to take on improving the town’s water systems. Without financial assistance from the bill, Pittsboro would not be able to complete the projects Perry says is necessary to provide residents with clean water without outside financial assistance.

“When you think of a small town like us, less than 5,000 people, trying to raise taxes or water fees to be able to build a \$50 or \$60 million plant on Jordan Lake, it’s understandable why we need federal help,” Perry said. “It’s just isn’t possible for a small community to do that on their own.”

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

## CHATHAM LOVES SENIORS

# Early volunteerism paves way for Walton at Council on Aging

BY JIMMY LEWIS  
Chatham Council on Aging

*(Editors Note: This is part two of a four-part February series in conjunction with “Chatham Loves Seniors,” a month-long celebration designed to value Chatham County’s older adults and to fight back against ageism.)*

Volunteerism was never optional for Juliana Walton.



Juliana Walton

As a young girl growing up in Britain, Walton watched her aunt take on a dazzling array of civic responsibilities. When she became a teenager, an absence of a person on a group or committee simply meant that Walton would be drafted into duty. Discussions to the contrary proved fruitless.

“I was fortunate to be brought up by an old aunt,” Walton recalled. “My mother died, and (my aunt) was the matriarch of the family, very Victorian. She was not rich, but well-off. And she was either the chair, or the secretary of president of everything going in our area. Growing up with her, I had to fill in the gaps. She would send me to do this, and as I became a teenager, she started making me fill in for the absentees of people on the various groups. If somebody couldn’t do it, I was made to do it!”

That spirit of compulsory volunteerism has catapulted Walton into an active tenure with the Chatham County Council on Aging. She’s chosen to make the

**‘If somebody couldn’t do it, I was made to do it!’**

— JULIANA WALTON

Council her sole area of community involvement, taking on various tasks such as kitchen duty and serving as chair of the Council’s senior advisory team.

Walton, now 81, arrived from Britain for the first time in 1989. She’s never stayed permanently, instead going back and forth as needed.

“I’ve volunteered all my life,” she said. “When I was living in a different country, I volunteered. I volunteered through my lunch hour. I was volunteering since I was a child. I was brought up that way! It was always said to cover whatever or fill in whatever gaps since I was 10 or 12.”

Indeed, if there’s a need, Walton can usually be counted on to fill the void.

“I think I’m just following a pattern,” Walton said of her volunteerism. “In Britain, I belonged to the local area, the local government. I volunteered for all the (aging) organizations. When I was very young, I volunteered with younger people. As I matured, I joined the (aging) organizations.”

Walton has only one regret regarding her volunteer service — something that would be disputed by COA staff.

“The only think I would have done differently was try to find belonging to something in the community, and then come to the Council on Aging,” Walton said. “By not belonging to the community, I think I’m limited in what I can do for the Council on Aging.”

## CHURCH NEWS

### HICKORY MOUNTAIN BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be a Bible Conference, a time of renewal and revival, at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church on Tuesday, Feb. 8. Sessions will be held at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; lunch and dinner will be provided for the event.

Services will be held at 1094 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Rd., Siler City.

Nightly revival services will also be held Monday, Feb. 7 and Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m.

Special speakers will be Stephen Dagenhart of Taylorsville; Stoney Benfield of Prospect Baptist Church of Albemarle; Neal Jackson of Beulah Baptist Church; Camron McGill of Lake Church of White Lake; Randy Hobbs of New Hope Baptist Church of Burlington; Steve Moore, Emmaus Baptist Church, Bob Wachs of Bear Creek Baptist Church, and Cody Bullman, Bethlehem Baptist Church of Morganton.

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ERASING THE GAP

# Siler City's newest 14U team aims to fill town's middle school football void

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — It's been 43 years and counting since the last school-sanctioned football program at a Chatham County middle school.

And barring any unexpected announcements, that isn't changing anytime soon.

A group in Siler City, however, is aiming to fill the void by giving players an alternative.

Ryan Johnson, head football coach at Jordan-Matthews High School, is leading the charge on a brand new football team called the Siler City Jets, a 14U program that has its sights set on beginning play

this fall.

Despite the team's branding, it has no affiliation with the already existing Siler City Jets — a member of the Quad County Recreational Football League for ages 6-12— but instead acts as a branch of Pittsboro's East Chatham Chargers, which plays its games in the East Wake Football League.

"We're working toward the ultimate goal of every school having middle school football, period," Johnson told the News + Record, "but this is an avenue that the East Chatham Chargers have allowed us to be under their umbrella and have this opportunity."

As it stands now, players in

Siler City are unable to play football once they turn 13 years old because that's when they "age out" of the Jets' organization. That means that if athletes want to continue playing and avoid a two-year gap before high school, they're forced to either make the cross-county trek to Pittsboro to play for the Chargers or take their talents outside of Chatham.

For Johnson — a Siler City native that was hired to coach his alma mater in 2021 — those players having the opportunity to stay in Siler City and compete in their hometown is the focal point of why he helped

See FOOTBALL, page B2



Staff photo by Simon Barbra

The view from the 20-yard-line marker during the Jordan-Matthews Jets' home game against Randleman last March. The new 14U Siler City Jets will play their games at Jordan-Matthews' football stadium.

## 'THE MENTALITY OF A WARRIOR'



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Northwood 138-pounder Andrew Kimbrel (on mat, left) applies a gut wrench and snatches an ankle to drive Ben Musser of Orange back to the mat during their match in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 3A dual-team playoffs on Monday night. Orange pulled out the win, 45-27.

# Chargers storm back from 39-3 deficit but fall just short in 1st round match vs. Panthers

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record Correspondent

HILLSBOROUGH — Northwood suffered through a four-year drought since its last appearance in the NCHSAA team wrestling duals in 2017.

But it took nemesis Orange High School just one night to crush the Chargers' dreams of advancing past the first round of the tournament.

Monday's 45-27 loss might have gone according to expectations, with No. 15 seed Northwood, a team that nearly didn't have a season due to the lack of a coach, taking on perennial powerhouse Orange, the

No. 2 seed in the 3A East.

But this gritty Chargers squad did everything but hang its head. Some had epiphanies about their talents. Others drew motivation from the sting of losing and unfulfilled dreams.

As a team, they made a strong statement that it will be back here next year, even better, with a fire in its belly and ice in its veins. At least that was the overwhelming mood stemming from the post-match huddle.

"I do think that (qualifying for state duals) is definitely a leg up on what we've done in the past," 170-pounder Cliff Davis said after the loss. "We've had, I would say,

even better athletes in the past few years and they still haven't accomplished what we have as a team. It's just miraculous that the team we pulled together this year worked as hard as they did, and I'm proud of everything they've done."

Davis said some Northwood wrestlers might not have been mentally prepared for this stage, but vowed the team would use the experience to come back even better next year.

The Chargers were at an immediate disadvantage, giving up 12 forfeit points. They haven't had anyone at 106 pounds all year,

See WRESTLING, page B3

# Championship Weekend proved the NFL is TV's best drama

I used to think the NBA was the sports world's version of a soap opera.



VICTOR HENSLEY  
Sports Editor

From an eclectic cast of characters to, at times, unreasonable drama — the Clippers-Rockets locker room skirmish of 2018 first comes to mind — the NBA has been just as much of a wacky reality T.V. show as it has been a renowned professional sports league.

Yet, one major on-court concept has been missing throughout most of the NBA's 76-year history: parity.

Parity is one of sports fans' most frequently used buzzwords.

It's often used to describe sports like the NBA and college football where, more often than not, the championship contenders and winners typically have very little variety.

For example, the NBA had four straight seasons, 2015-2018, with a Finals matchup between the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers. In total, Golden State made five consecutive appearances.

That's the total opposite of parity.

In recent years, however, the NBA has shown that it can, in fact, be a bit more versatile.

Last year, the Phoenix Suns (last Finals appearance: 1993) and Milwaukee Bucks (1974) faced off for the Larry O'Brien Trophy, with the Bucks earning their first title since the 1970s.

But after this past weekend — and an entire parity-filled season — the NFL may just be making a move to snatch the soap-opera crown from the NBA.

And it all started on Saturday with a tweet heard 'round the world.

## The GOAT in limbo

My Saturday afternoon workflow was rudely interrupted when my phone buzzed with a Twitter notification from esteemed ESPN insider Adam Schefter that set the world ablaze.

"Tom Brady is retiring from football after 22 extraordinary seasons, multiple sources tell @

See DRAMA, page B4

# The NBA All-Star voting process needs some tuning

Last week, the NBA All-Star starters were announced.



MAX BAKER  
CN+R Intern

Like many people, I really didn't care much at the time. The actual game is fun for the players and fans, but the talk-show media pundits really make too big of a deal about who got snubbed.

However, this year was different. As a Golden State Warriors fan, I've watched more than 90% of their games this season. I've seen the brilliance of Stephen Curry and his struggles when Draymond

Green went down with an injury. But more surprisingly has been the resurgence of Andrew Wiggins. The former No. 1 overall pick fell short of many expectations in Minnesota before being traded to Golden State two seasons ago.

Since joining the Warriors, he's found his role as a key wing threat and not the main scoring option that many thought he might one day be. He's developed as a contributor on the league's No. 1 defense and is shooting a career-best 41.6% from behind the arc.

But is he worthy of being an All-Star starter? Not a chance. However, it's not his fault.

The format of the NBA All-Star voting requires a vote for

three forwards and two guards. It uses a combination of the fan vote (50%) and media and player voting, which make up the other half. The format places too much power in the fans' hands, when in reality, the game is more for the players. Klay Thompson was a top-five vote getter for his position despite missing the majority of the first half of the season.

This year, many of the Western Conference forwards suffered injuries and thus hurt their chances. So why can't the fans vote in three guards if one is more deserving?

The Phoenix Suns have the league's best record, but none of their players are represented as a starter. Devin Booker

and Chris Paul were both worthy candidates.

All-Star appearances are used to define a player's legacy and they shouldn't be penalized for that. It's neat to see fans rally around Wiggins, but if it's going to be used against other players' Hall of Fame candidacies, the fan vote shouldn't hold half the weight.

Wiggins and fellow teammate Draymond Green both received a lot of votes at the forward position, but why did Wiggins receive more votes than the potential Defensive Player of the Year? It's possible his Canadian roots helped and K-pop star Bam Bam voiced his support on social media.

On ABC's Saturday night

game between the Brooklyn Nets and Warriors, analyst Jeff Van Gundy proposed a different solution. He said that the vote should be split five ways: 20% fans, 20% media, 20% players, 20% referees and 20% solely stats based.

I'm not sure that I agree completely with that format, but it makes more sense. The referees have the closest eye to the most games and it takes away some of the power from the fans.

Maybe the results would remain the same, but at least it balances the weight among the vote.

Max Baker can be reached at 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

It happened again. Last week, we were hit yet again by the winter weather bug, which postponed two major basketball rivalry matchups — Jordan-Matthews vs. Chatham Central, Northwood vs. Seaforth — and a host of other events as the area experienced snow for what seemed like the 15th weekend in a row. However, the forecast looks mostly clear this week (as of this week's print edition), so there should be plenty of room to see the state wrestling playoffs in action, along with some of Chatham's top-tier basketball programs like the Chatham Charter men (20-1 this season) or the Northwood women (18-1). No matter what you choose to watch this week, just be glad there isn't snow falling to postpone it. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, February 2**

Track: Northwood, Seaforth at Eastern Alamance (Polar Bear #3), 4 p.m.  
Basketball: Chatham Central vs. Graham (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews at Lee County (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: Woods Charter vs. Chatham Charter (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

**Thursday, February 3**

Swimming: Jordan-Matthews at Regional Championships (Greensboro Aquatic Center), time TBD

**Friday, February 4**

Basketball: Chatham Charter at Triangle Math & Science (women at 4:30 p.m., men at 6 p.m.)  
Basketball: Jordan-Matthews at Chatham Central (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Northwood at Orange (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Seaforth at North Moore (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)  
Basketball: Woods Charter at Clover Garden (women at 6 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.)

**Saturday, February 5**

Basketball: Chatham Central vs. Bartlett Yancey (women at

1:30 p.m., men at 3 p.m.)  
Basketball: Woods Charter women vs. Southern Wake Academy, 4 p.m.

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, January 24**

No events took place due to winter weather.

**Tuesday, January 25**

Track: The Northwood Chargers ran alongside 21 other teams in the second Eastern Alamance Polar Bear indoor track meet, where they placed 5th in the men's events (20 points) and 9th in the women's events (11 points). Coming in the top 10 of their respective women's events were senior Caroline Murrell (2nd, girls 1600-meter run, 5:10), sophomore Rokia Sissoko (5th, girls 55-meter dash, 8:30; 6th, girls 300-meter dash, 48.27; 3rd, girls high jump, 4-00.00), junior Hailey Hirschman (7th, girls 55-meter dash, 8.41) and freshman Elizabeth Acker (10th, girls 55-meter dash, 8.75; 10th, girls 300-meter dash, 51.31). Placing in the top 10 of the men's events were senior Marco Sanchez (4th, boys 300-meter dash, 38.18), junior Christian Glick (4th, boys 1000-meter run, 2:47.01), junior Jackson Adams (6th, boys 1000-meter run, 2:48.51), junior Zachary Peterson (2nd, boys high jump, 5-02.00), senior Jacob Acker (4th, boys high jump, J5-00.00) and the Boys 4x800 Relay Team (senior Colin Henry, Adams, Sanchez, Glick; 1st, 8:39.73).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Cummings Cavaliers, 48-45, in the rematch between the two teams. Leading the Jets on the night was senior Eillia Wright (16 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a lopsided game to the Cummings Cavaliers, 74-55, on the road.

Basketball: The Northwood women dominated the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 70-24, on the road.

Basketball: The Northwood men routed the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 62-39, on the road.

Basketball: The Seaforth women handily beat the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 55-34, at home.

Basketball: The Seaforth men thrashed the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 64-47, at home.

Basketball: The Woods Charter women annihilated

the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 65-16, at home. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Lexi Smollen (29 points) and sophomore Chloe Mitchell (24 points).

Basketball: The Woods Charter men earned their first win of the season against the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 52-43.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men crushed the River Mill Jaguars, 66-27, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Adam Harvey (22 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals, 1 block) and freshman Beau Harvey (12 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals).

**Wednesday, January 26**

Basketball: The Chatham Central women earned a convincing home victory over the North Moore Mustangs, 57-23.

Basketball: The Chatham Central men defeated the North Moore Mustangs, 62-49, at home in their first game since Jan. 7.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women fell to the Southern Alamance Patriots, 60-34, at home. Leading the Knights on the evening was junior Tamaya Walden (10 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men crushed the Southern Alamance Patriots, 62-24, to extend their winning streak to 11 games. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Aamir Mapp (21 points, 9 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals, 1 block) and junior Adam Harvey (21 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal, 1 block).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Providence Grove Patriots, 59-41, at home. Leading the Jets on the night was senior Eillia Wright (27 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 5 steals).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a close game to the Providence Grove Patriots, 60-51, at home.

Basketball: The Northwood women earned a comfortable win over the Western Alamance Warriors, 53-17, to extend their winning streak to 8 games.

Basketball: The Northwood men defeated the Western Alamance Warriors, 48-24, at home.

Basketball: The Seaforth women decimated the Cummings Cavaliers, 54-22, to stay unbeaten in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference at 5-0.

Basketball: The Seaforth

men were beaten handily by the Cummings Cavaliers, 71-42, on the road.

**Thursday, January 27**

Swimming: The Seaforth Hawks won both the men's and women's Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Championships in a conference meet alongside Jordan-Matthews (2nd in both) and North Moore (3rd in both). Winning their respective individual categories for the women were Seaforth's Sophia Serrano (1st, girls 200-meter freestyle, 3:03.91), Seaforth's Shayna Whitney (1st, girls 100-meter freestyle, 1:20.48), Seaforth's Charley Howard (1st, girls 200-meter IM, 2:48.55; 1st, girls 100-meter backstroke, 1:15.99), Jordan-Matthews' Emma Wieber (1st, girls 100-meter breaststroke, 1:59.42), Seaforth's Kaleigh Dodd (1st, girls 50-meter freestyle, 35.48) and Seaforth's Lillian McFall (1st, girls 100-meter fly, 1:42.06; 1st, girls 400-meter freestyle, 6:19.78). Winning their respective individual categories for the men were Seaforth's Broden Jones (1st, boys 200-meter freestyle, 3:01.13; 1st, boys 50-meter freestyle, 32.10), Seaforth's Evan Hepburn (1st, boys 200-meter IM, 2:33.76; 1st, boys 100-meter breaststroke, 1:13.50), Seaforth's Ben Lajoie (1st, boys 100-meter fly, 1:10.60; 1st, boys 400-meter freestyle, 4:43.33), Seaforth's Mikel Kokas (1st, boys 100-meter freestyle, 1:16.82) and Seaforth's Jackson Vaughn (1st, boys 100-meter backstroke, 1:16.57).

**Friday, January 28**

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women lost a nail-biter to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 56-54, to fall to 10-7 on the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (26 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocks), junior Lillian Jones (11 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal) and sophomore Delana Loflin (6 points, 13 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men dominated the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 70-14, to improve to 20-1 on the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Adam Harvey (13 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks) and freshman Brennen Oldham (13 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 2 blocks).

Basketball: The Northwood women routed the Person Rockets, 76-32, to improve to 18-1 on the season.

Basketball: The Northwood

men earned a double-digit win over the Person Rockets, 50-35, to improve to 14-3 on the season.

Basketball: The Seaforth women earned a strong win over the Chatham Central Bears, 44-20, to improve to 9-7 overall on the season and a conference-best 6-0 against Mid-Carolina 1A/2A opponents, while the Bears fall to 4-10 overall. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Gabby White (15 points, 17 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals, 5 blocks), freshman Sydney Ballard (12 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 blocks) and freshman Peyton Collins (10 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals, 4 blocks).

Basketball: The Seaforth men eked out a win against the Chatham Central Bears, 57-48, to improve to 7-6 on the season, while the Bears fell to 3-7. Leading the Hawks in the win were sophomore Jarin Stevenson (19 points, 19 rebounds, 2 assists, 7 blocks) and freshman Chris Walker (9 points, 8 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals), while senior Nick Jourdan (19 points) led the Bears.

Swimming: The Northwood Chargers swam alongside five other Central 3A conference opponents, where they won the conference championship in the women's events (563 points) and placed fifth in the men's events (160 points). Placing in the top three of their respective individual women's events for the Chargers were Holly Thesing (2nd, girls 200-yard freestyle, 2:06.45), Bianca Perez (3rd, girls 200-yard freestyle, 2:11.84), Abigail Emrich (1st, girls 200-yard IM, 2:14.24; 1st, girls 100-yard butterfly, 1:00.63), Julia Earnshaw (2nd, girls 50-yard freestyle, 24.86; 2nd, girls 100-yard freestyle, 55.64), Mia Corrado (1st, girls 500-yard freestyle, 5:16.58; 1st, girls 100-yard backstroke, 1:00.10), Maya Sipper (3rd, girls 100-yard backstroke, 1:08.14) and Lauren Emrich (1st, girls 100-yard backstroke, 1:13.66). There were no top-three individual finishes for the Chargers on the men's side.

Basketball: The Woods Charter men lost handily to the River Mill Jaguars, 60-38, to fall to 1-10 on the year.

**Saturday, January 29**

All events postponed due to wintry weather.

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## FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

co-found the team. "We really wanted to make sure that the guys that are aged out of the recreation department had other options," Johnson said, "and that you don't need to leave your home school or your friends or transfer to other schools because we want to keep you here. That's the biggest part."

While Johnson was brainstorming the idea for the team last year, he reached out to Chasidy Parker, the president of the East Chatham Chargers, to try and find out how her organization's been so successful.

From there, he realized there was value in creating the Jets underneath the Chargers' umbrella, so he asked Parker if it would be possible, and after some consideration from their board, it became official.

Perhaps most importantly, the Jets won't be required to conform to the Chargers' branding — good news for Johnson, who grew up playing in the Northwood/Jordan-Matthews rivalry.

"She said, 'Hey, we will accept you under our name and we'll allow you to be the Siler City Jets and you won't even have to wear green,'" Johnson said with a laugh. "She's just been phenomenal, she's been great, communicating daily with us



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**The Jordan-Matthews Jets throw up their helmets in the post-game huddle after their final game of the 2020-21 season. While the new 14U Siler City Jets won't be directly affiliated with J-M, the team will help bolster the varsity program moving forward.**

about this." In their inaugural season, the Jets will join the Chargers as members of the EWFL, where they'll play against at least three other teams — the Durham Firebirds, Fuquay Varina Bengals and Raleigh Revolution — in a nine-week regular season beginning in late August with games taking place each Saturday.

Their home games will be played at Jordan-Matthews' football stadium, another plus for players and fans based in Siler City.

And so far, the team's drawn plenty of interest. At the first information meeting in J-M's cafeteria last Thursday evening, Johnson said there were at least 20 players and their families in attendance, citing a sense of excitement around the

team already. "It went well, but it was kind of an informal meeting because some things still need to be tightened up, but we just wanted to give them information so they could see what's going on and give them a platform to ask questions," Johnson said. "It was a good turnout."

As important as this is for middle schoolers across Siler City, who will

finally have the chance to play football just miles from their homes, it's also a major upgrade for J-M's program.

"It's going to be huge because their won't be a void there," Johnson said, while also mentioning that there are already talks of running a coaches clinic in the spring to help teach coaches J-M's system.

His plan is to gather

the coaches from Siler City Parks and Recreation — from both Siler City Jets organizations — and develop offensive and defensive systems that players will already be familiar with when they get to J-M their freshman year.

"If you research the most successful programs ... the base system, offense and defense, those kids know that when they get to high school," Johnson said. "We're all responsible for their success on the field, so if we're on the same page, it makes things a lot easier. ... It's huge to have that consistency across the board."

His clinics will be a way for coaches to communicate, learn from one another and discover the

best ways to prepare their athletes for the next level of football.

While there may still be plenty of details to iron out, Johnson mentioned that the general timeline has a formal interest meeting planned for sometime in March, followed by registration in May.

"I'm excited, man," Johnson said, "because it's something that needs to be there. To me, it's a no-brainer. ... This should have been done a long time ago. And to be able to come back home and be able to assist and put this in place, I'm pumped."

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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THE CLIPBOARD | JASON MESSIER, CHATHAM CHARTER MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Knights aiming to rebound with potential No. 1 seed on deck

Chatham Charter's men's basketball team is on the verge of posting its third-straight one-loss regular season. With a 20-1 record (5-0 in Central Tar Heel 1A conference) through the team's first 21 games and just six games left on the schedule, the Knights are trending toward a potential No. 1 seed in the 1A East of the NCHSAA playoffs.



Messier

way, playing defense, closing out the right way. If you're doing all those things the right way, you can hold your own against those top teams. It's a matter of teaching how to go about doing the things, it's not a matter of just saying, 'We're more athletic than you, we're just going to outrun you or just be more athletic than you.' Because I've always had this saying that I say over and over and it's, 'What do you do when you run into a team that is just as athletic as you, just as big as you?' because then it comes down to that coaching and it comes down to the fundamentals of the game, who's doing things the right way?

**Last year, you guys had a 12-1 record entering the playoffs, but the first round didn't really go your way. What are you doing this year to ensure you don't suffer another first-round exit?**

I think last year, not playing as many games, you still didn't get that chance to have that camaraderie that the guys have as far as playing that team basketball. Right now, we've already played 21 games, so we've already played seven more games this year. Early on, especially, we had a nice mix. We got to play Southern Alamance just last week, a larger 4A school that's battled some teams. Their record at the time, I think, was 6-6, but they've had some closer games and we did a really good job against them. And then in our last game, we've got Seaforth, so we've got a couple of games there that we're hoping will just kind of give us different looks for the type of teams that we may face going into the playoffs.

Come playoff time, you don't know who you're going to see. When the

**Jason Messier**

**Role:** Head Coach, Men's Basketball  
**Experience at Chatham Charter:** Eighth season  
**Notes:**

- He's the only men's basketball coach that Chatham Charter's ever had, helping start the varsity program in 2013
- He led the Knights to a Final Four appearance in the 2019-20 season, where the Knights lost a close game to Winston-Salem Prep
- Chatham Charter is not only the only coaching job he's ever had, it's also the only teaching job he's ever had
- From the coach: "When we started this program, we always had the vision of doing it the right way ... I was just fortunate to have the right people around me at that time, like some of the parents, that would help me with that vision."

**Chatham Charter Knights**

**Conference:** Central Tar Heel 1A  
**Record:** 20-1 (5-0 in conference)  
**Upcoming schedule:**

- Wednesday, Feb. 2: at Woods Charter, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 4: at Triangle Math & Science, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 8: vs. Woods Charter, 7:30 p.m.

seedings come out, there could be upsets here, there could be upsets there, but really, we just continue to preach the particular style that we play. We're really based on that team basketball. We don't rely on just one guy, where you can stop that one guy or that one guy can have a bad game and you lose. We really rely on that team basketball, where we have multiple guys on the floor that are able to score points and I think that can help you weather a few adverse conditions. We may have games where a guy steps in and, in the previous game, he may have only five points and, next thing you know, he's sitting here with 21 points the next day. I think that the team concept of basketball that we push and that we promote, just that physical, aggressive style of defense that we promote, I think those are things that are going to bode well for us no matter who we play.

**Now that you only have a few games left in the regular season, what's the key for you guys closing this thing out on a high note?**

Well, we close with six

games and five of those are going to be conference games. We're still keeping our rigorous practices, where we're just continuing to challenge the guys and trying to get them to challenge themselves each game, whatever the goal may be, whether it's to hold this team to 25 points, to hold them to 30 points, to have this many steals or this many whatever. These guys aren't settling, we're constantly challenging them to motivate themselves for success. And really, this bunch of guys is as motivated a bunch as we've ever had. And I'm talking even with our regional finals team. I think they really have bought into that culture, they've really bought into those things that we preach as far as defense and team basketball. And just like any time, when we get to the playoffs and find out who we have, we'll prepare for that particular team.

We're a tough match-up for a lot of different teams. We can play a lot of different styles. Earlier in the year, we were kind of that run-and-gun team, but as my young guys have continued to improve — and then even my juniors, because one

of them, Adam Harvey, didn't play his freshman year because of injury — we're still learning how to play differently. I just think that we haven't even peaked yet. We're getting to that point where I think we're going to be playing our best basketball as we get toward the state playoffs.

**One of the things that Chatham Charter has been known for in recent years is what you've been able to do with some of the younger players — you had Adam Harvey playing well as a sophomore last year, now it's Beau Harvey and Brennen Oldham as freshmen this year. I'm sure some of it is their own individual talent, but what have you done to help them grow and get to the point where they can actually contribute their freshman and sophomore years?**

I've always been one to kind of throw them into the fire. What I mean by that is that I like to have them out there early. As soon as they are going into their freshman year, they come to our summer workouts, where we go to jamborees where we're playing against bigger schools. I know it's summer, but usually those bigger schools have more to choose from as far as players that are looking to play basketball. And we have players that are returning from our team last year that continue to show these values as far as what the expectations are, what the culture is, what the standards are of how we're going to go about doing things. If you were to watch our young guys, especially the two starters (Beau Harvey and Oldham), you see that they're better players now than they were when they came in. I even have one of my former players, Jordan Hamilton, that comes and practices and he'll work with my big guys on certain things. It's not only back-to-the-basket post-up stuff, it's about everything we do and how it fits into our offense, how

it fits into our defense. We just continue to have that standard.

**The way you guys play basketball, it seems like on any given night, any player can shine. But even with your team-focused philosophy, do you have any players in particular that you're most impressed with this season?**

Well, I don't know if I can really just single out any player. The reason I say that is because a lot of our success is attributed to that concept of team basketball. I think my guys that have come back from last year have set the expectations for these new guys that we have coming up and how we're going to go about doing things. It sounds like I'm trying to take the easy way out here, but I just don't think that there is just that one player. Obviously, the freshmen, as they've continued to grow as players, have been great, but I think that even with our experienced players, we've had guys like — the other night, when we played Southern Alamance — Aamir (Mapp) and Adam (Harvey) really rise to the occasion. And then we may have had another player who maybe didn't have the stats that they're accustomed to having, but they played really good defense on a key offensive guy on the other team or they facilitated through their assists or their hustle. So our success is really based off of that concept of team. What we push to the guys is that you just never know when your number is going to be called, when you're going to have to step up, whether it's because of foul trouble or because a guy's struggling in the game. I don't think that I can give you just one guy. I always felt those teams that have just one dominant player, you can game plan for that, but how do you game plan for those teams that have multiple options?

## WRESTLING

Continued from page B1

and it's been here today, gone tomorrow at 285 pounds. But in matches wrestled, the teams split 6-6 in wins, with Orange holding a much closer 33-27 points edge. The difference was bonus points. Orange racked up five falls and one decision to three pins and three decisions for the Chargers. Orange also had a 12-5 advantage in takedowns.

Northwood first-year Head Coach Joe Harris saw plenty to be excited about after his team fell behind 39-3, but refused to surrender.

"We had a five-win streak, and three of them were pins" while rolling up 24 unanswered points, Harris said. "These guys, whenever they are down, they have the heart in them, and they have the drive and the will to where they want to push on and keep fighting because they know they're good, and they know they can win."

"It's just like the mentality of a warrior," Davis said of the mood on the bench when the score was spinning out of control. "Everybody's got to come together, and you've got to be self-motivated. You're willing to fight a battle if you have to, and push through what you've got to do."

Harris acknowledged a sense of pride in guiding the Chargers back into the playoffs. He was young and untested, a late hire for the job and initially the only coach in the mat room. "They couldn't find a coach," said Harris, a Northwood



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Northwood 145-pounder Ron Walker (top) cranks on the neck of Avery Clark moments before he powered the Orange wrestler to his back for a pin in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 3A dual-team wrestling playoffs on Monday night.**

alumnus. "I know when I was wrestling I loved it, and I didn't want them, especially the seniors, to go without a year of wrestling, so I told them I would take the position.

"Going in, I was a little nervous with them, but these guys listen, and they're willing to work hard," he said. When former Northwood wrestler Josue Pena came on board as an assistant coach, the situation became more manageable.

Harris is turning his attention now to getting his wrestlers ready for the Feb. 11 regional qualifier for the state individual championship tournament.

"From up to this point they were a team, but now it's their time," Harris said. "I want it for them, but they've got to want it for themselves."

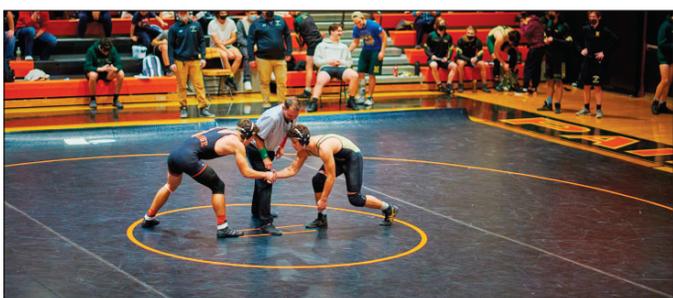
During Monday's match, Orange raced to a 27-0 lead on the strength of the two forfeits, a pair of pins and a decision. Northwood didn't get on the board until the 120-pound match when Coltrane North-

ington squeaked out a 6-5 win over the Panthers' Braden Crawford. Northington scored the initial takedown in the first period, and got a reversal in the second. Crawford had an escape in the second period and reversed Northington in the third to take a 5-4 lead, but Northington got the final reversal to secure the win.

After giving up pins at 126 and 132, the Chargers went on a tear.

Andrew Kimbrel outscored the Panthers' Ben Musser, 6-3, at 138 pounds. After giving up a first-period takedown, Kimbrel earned a pair of reversals to go up 4-2 after two periods. Musser escaped in the third and hit a deep leg shot, but Kimbrel stuffed the move, hit a blistering cross-face and spun behind for a takedown to seal the win.

Northwood 145-pounder Ron Walker decked Avery Clark in the second period in a wild match. Walker fell behind 2-0 when Clark got a buzzer-beating takedown to culminate a lengthy funk fest scramble. But



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Northwood wrestler Ryan Brinker (right center of mat) and Orange grappler Brendon Worsham (left center of mat) square off for their 182-pound match in the 1st round of the NCHSAA 3A dual-team playoffs Monday night.**

in the second period, Walker trapped a leg and bulled Clark to his back for the fall.

"I tried my best, I put him in the world-famous neck crank and I pinned him. I was in disbelief," said Walker, who had only used the move one other time in a match, but had been practicing it the past two weeks. "I noticed in other matches Orange doesn't really put their head up, but when they do, it's not with strength. So I put it in there and I was like, 'Oh, my God, I'm going to do it.'"

When he started the season he wasn't expecting to make varsity, and didn't think he was at a level with other wrestlers in the mat room. Decking an Orange wrestler in the state playoffs was a moment of self-awareness.

"I just realized, I'm the best wrestler here," Walker said. The pin "gives me both momentum and motivation."

At 152 pounds, the Chargers' Ian Morrison hit a roll and reversed Sam Crawford after

giving up the initial takedown, wrapped up a far-side cradle and clamped the Orange grappler in the first period.

At 160 pounds, Northwood's Ethan Kuball gave up a pair of takedowns to Andre Hill and trailed 4-2 after hipping into the Orange wrestler and stepping over for a reversal. Kuball chose neutral to start the third period, converted a single-leg to a double-leg takedown and slapped on a near-side cradle for three back points and a solid 7-4 decision.

Davis, a returning state qualifier, capped the winning streak for Northwood, showing the lights to Nate Hecht in their 170-pound tilt.

"I wrestled the guy before just once. ... I won that by a hair" while he was suffering from an arm injury, Davis said. "This match I had to really re-adjust defensively. I knew what he was going to do. He does the same stuff. The second period I just felt him get weaker on the one side, so I cranked on the armbar. I just went for it."



Submitted photo

## Signing with the Bobcats

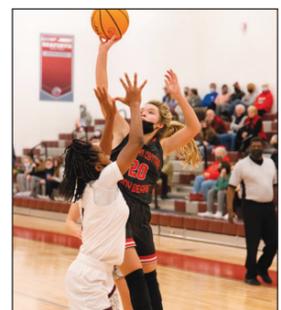
Northwood senior Colin Henry (center, in yellow) signs his letter of intent to run cross country for the Bobcats at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk next fall. Henry is a 4-time all-conference runner, 4-time all-regional athlete and 4-time state qualifying competitor for the Chargers' cross country team, earning him the title of 2021 Northwood Cross Country Men's Runner of the Year. He also ran indoor track & field for Northwood, where he's a state qualifier in two events in 2021-22. '(Lees-McRae) is going to get a hard worker, someone who's dedicated, who's going to take it seriously and who's going to do things outside of the two hours you may have with him,' Cameron Isenhour, Northwood's head cross country and track coach, told the News + Record. 'He definitely brings that consistency.'

## The first of many



Staff photos by Simon Barbre

Last Friday, Seaforth hosted Chatham Central for the teams' first-ever meetings in men's and women's basketball. The Hawks, stacked with some of the area's most talented underclassmen, pulled out wins in both matchups. But despite the 2-0 sweep, there's little doubt that the Bears-Hawks rivalry will be one to watch for years to come. Here, Seaforth freshman Gabby White (3) throws up a floater in the second quarter of the Hawks' 44-20 victory over the Chatham Central Bears last Friday. White, the Hawks' leading scorer on the season, had a double-double on the night with 15 points and 17 rebounds.



Chatham Central junior Jaylee Williams (20) drives and shoots over Seaforth freshman Gabby White (3) in the Bears' 44-20 loss to the Hawks last Friday.



Chatham Central senior Nick Jourdan (20) shoots a fadeaway jumper in the Bears' 57-48 loss to the Seaforth Hawks last Friday. Jourdan knocked down five 3-pointers en route to a team-high 19 points on the evening.

## DRAMA

Continued from page B1

Jeff Darlington and me," the tweet read, accompanied by a "BREAKING NEWS" graphic.

From there, the tweet — and the news — blew up. (As of Tuesday morning, the tweet had 143,500 retweets and 271,900 likes.)

Other NFL reporters began confirming the reports, adding their own insight and things they've heard around the league. As it stood, the G.O.A.T. was hanging it up.

On social media, there was an emotional outpouring from fans — ranging from Patriots and Buccaneers fans thanking him for the memories to fans tweeting "ding dong the witch is dead" to signify their relief that he won't be crushing their team's Super Bowl dreams any longer — and tributes from other sports teams, prominent figures, his teammates and even the NFL itself, which posted multiple graphics with #ThankYouTom attached.

But as the hours passed, there was one notable person missing from the discussion: Tom Brady himself.

Throughout it all, Tom remained silent.

And not long after the news broke, more information came out to muddy the water.

At 4 p.m., a report from

Michael Silver claimed that Brady had contacted the Buccaneers' general manager, Jason Licht, to say that he "has not yet made a final decision on retirement."

Then, 51 minutes later, a tweet from NFL Network's Mike Silver read: "Checked in with Tom Brady Sr. who tells me, and I quote, 'This story Mike is total conjecture. Tommy has not made a final decision one way or the other and anybody else that says that he has is absolutely wrong.'"

Scheffter has since doubled down on his original report, stating that Brady has indeed made his decision, creating a standoff between some of the NFL's biggest media members and Brady's camp.

But, on Tuesday morning, just before the News + Record went to press, Brady made his official announcement via his Instagram page in a lengthy, eight-slide statement (which garnered nearly 3 million likes in 4 hours), part of which read:

"This is difficult for me to write, but here it goes: I am not going to make that competitive commitment anymore. I have loved my NFL career, and now it is time to focus my time and energy on other things that require my attention."

The NFL simply isn't going to be the same without Brady in it, having spent the last 22 years

as one of the faces of the most popular sports league in the country.

And as a 24-year-old sports fan, I've never watched an NFL season without Brady in it (aside from the 2008 season in which Brady tore his ACL).

Next year is going to be ... strange, to say the least.

But, whether it was the unexpected standoff between Brady and NFL reporters or his emotional final goodbye, I was living for the drama surrounding this story all weekend — and early week — long.

### Who could've scripted this?

As interesting as Saturday's Brady-related spectacle was, Sunday's conference championship games were even more action-packed.

To start, Joe Burrow and the No. 4 Cincinnati Bengals conquered the NFL's biggest villain, the No. 2 Kansas City Chiefs, on the road in the AFC Championship Game to advance to the team's first Super Bowl since 1988 after a miraculous 18-point comeback.

After being down 21-3 in the first half, the Bengals went on to win in overtime, 27-24, after picking off a deep pass from Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes in OT and relying on a 31-yard field goal from rookie kicker Evan "Shooter"

McPherson to walk it off.

According to Axios, entering Sunday, teams down by 18-plus points this season were a combined 1-115.

Now, they're 2-115.

Then, in the evening slot, the No. 4 Los Angeles Rams overcame a 17-7 fourth-quarter deficit to break the hearts of the No. 6 San Francisco 49ers, 20-17, after a last-second interception by the Rams' defense, snapping the team's six-game losing streak to its division rival.

It was the eighth game this postseason decided by one possession and the fifth in the last two weeks

decided by 3 points or fewer.

With the Bengals' upset and the Rams' home-stand, this marks the first time in NFL history that both teams in the Super Bowl are seeded 4th or lower — a testament to just how wild and upset-filled this postseason has been.

Conversely, the NBA has never had a matchup of two No. 4 seeds or lower. Score one for the NFL in the drama department.

Aside from Super Wild Card Weekend — which was mostly a snooze fest — this has been one of the most exciting NFL post-

seasons we've ever seen, jam-packed with last-second finishes, the toppling of top seeds and plenty of unexpected drama.

And, with the two teams we have left, just about anything could happen in Super Bowl LVI.

So, on Feb. 13, decide who you're rooting for, grab your popcorn and prepare to watch one of television's best dramas at work for one final time this season.

You're almost guaranteed to be entertained.

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



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

February 3rd through February 9th

### Thursday, February 3rd

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Take Off Pounds Sensibly](#) at 1:00 PM

### Friday, February 4th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM

### Monday, February 7th

- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM

### Tuesday, February 8th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM

### Wednesday, February 9th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM
- [Diabetes Discussion Group](#) at 10:30 AM

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



The free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will run Feb. 5-April 16 in Pittsboro and Siler City. For more information and to schedule an appointment, call the Council at 919-542-4212, extension 225.

The COA has temporarily suspended in-person activities and classes through Friday, February 18. 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](http://chathamcoa.org) or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

**Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)** 365 NC-87 N  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
919-542-4512

**Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)** 112 Village Lake Road  
Siler City, NC 27344  
919-742-3975

PITTSBORO ROTARY

# Queen Of Hearts

Virtual Bingo Fundraiser  
Thursday, February 10 • 7pm

All Proceeds Benefit  
The Karen Sbröllini Heilman  
Scholarship for Local  
High School Seniors

1 Bingo Card = \$10  
3 Bingo Cards = \$25

Register online: <https://tinyurl.com/2h8fmwjd>

**Rotary**  
Club of Pittsboro



# Council on Aging to hold virtual Black History Month celebration Feb. 10

BY JIMMY LEWIS  
Chatham Council on Aging

PITTSBORO — A celebration of Black artists across a variety of disciplines will be the theme of the Chatham County Council on Aging's annual Black History Month Celebration, set for Thursday, Feb. 10.

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. through the Zoom virtual platform, the program will feature a number of local Black artists, including senior members of the Council on Aging. In addition, the musical talents of the late classical music enthusiast, Pittsboro's Daniel Hadley, will be featured via video.

Slated to appear are Diali Cissokho, Ebony Grissett Delgado, Hamidou Sissoko, Edith McCaskill, Lysandra Weber, Onicas Gaddis and Eva Green.

Cissokho, a musician and cultural arts educator originally from Senegal, is a Pittsboro-area resident who formed the band Kaira Ba. Together, the five-person group "blend[s] the traditions and rhythms of West African music with subtle timbres of the American South," according to INDY Week's Sam Haw.

Delgado, the owner of Chatham Dance Connection, is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she performed on the dance team known as the "High Kickin' Heels." A proponent of tap dancing, Delgado cites her main fluencies in tap as well as jazz.

Sissoko, originally from West Africa, came to the U.S. in 2001 as a mechanic working on car engines. Trying to maintain his welding skills, he began creating sculptures in his



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging choral group will be one of the featured groups at the agency's annual Black History Month celebration, set for Thursday, Feb. 10.

Chatham County yard, with his work appearing at the Fearington Folk Art Show in 2015. Sissoko's work is described by Elisabeth Lewis Corley as "meticulously constructed and finished, whimsical, beautiful and surprising."

McCaskill, who sings under the name of Deja Belle, got her start in singing and songwriting in Washington, D.C., and resides in Pittsboro after initially moving to High Point. She released her debut album "U.N.I." in 2019, a six-track collection that is a "fusion of dynamically arranged neo-soul and afrobeat music, delivering messages of love, yearning, faith and resilience."

Weber, the owner of geek-chic fashion, entered the fashion industry with a mission of helping "women find clothing that helps them feel good about themselves." A graduate of

The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC, Weber's clothing line revolves around body positivity and options in a variety of sizes.

Gaddis, a painter and author, allows a difficult childhood to fuel his art, which he terms "spiritual expressionism." Born in Alabama as one of 12 children, the demands placed on a single mother ultimately caused a young Gaddis to be placed in foster care. His first book, an autobiography entitled "Who Am I?" is available online. A second book, "From the Beach, to the Bricks," is set to describe his move from Florida to North Carolina, where he moved to be closer to his two children.

Green, a fourth-generation basket weaver, teaches locally at various community colleges

and holds membership on the board of directors at North Carolina Basket Association, belonging to the Chapel Hill Basket Guild, Chatham Weavers Basket Guild and the Chatham Artists Guild.

Representing the Council on Aging will be Chatham County SilverArts participants Bonnie Reaves (singer), crocheter Christine Degraffenreidt, cheerleader Debbie Lee, basket weaver Marian Goldston and the Council on Aging Choral Group.

Chatham County Senior Games & SilverArts is scheduled for April 29 to May 13 with opportunities to qualify for the North Carolina Senior Games & SilverArts. SilverArts disciplines include the literary arts, performing arts, visual arts and heritage arts. For more on North Carolina Senior Games & SilverArts, visit ncseniorga-



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

The vocals of the late Daniel Hadley will be featured via video during the Council on Aging's annual Black History Month celebration on Thursday, Feb. 10.



Courtesy of the Council on Aging

Chatham County SilverArts participant Christine Degraffenreidt brings her crocheting acumen to the Council on Aging's annual Black History Month celebration on Thursday, Feb. 10.

To request the link and login information to the Zoom conference, email Liz Lahti at liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org or call 919-542-4512.

# A 2022 election recap ahead of gerrymandering suit

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed a Republican-led bill last Friday — after the News + Record went to print — that would have further delayed the 2022 primary from May 17 to June 7.

The primary is likely to still take place May 17, but could yet be delayed. With the N.C. Supreme Court set to hear the gerrymandering suit on Wednesday morning, here's another look at the main election updates, starting with the legislature's November passage of new state political maps.

**Nov. 4:** The Republican-led state legislature passed three new political maps — for U.S.

Congress, N.C. House and N.C. Senate — along party lines. 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.

A lawsuit was issued against the maps the day they passed, with more expected.

**Dec. 6:** Filing for the March 2022 primary was set to start at noon and end Dec. 17.

Shortly before filing was set to begin, an order to temporarily block filing for the U.S. House, N.C. Senate and N.C. house races was filed, and reversed later that evening. But on Dec. 8, the North Carolina Supreme Court halted filing for all races and delayed the primary election until May 17 due to pending gerrymandering lawsuits. The primary was originally scheduled for March 8.

**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, for a May 17 primary. (The municipal elections, originally set to take place in November 2021, were pushed back due to the incorporation of delayed Census results.)

**Jan. 14:** The state's Supreme Court said 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, according to previous statements from the state BOE.

**Jan. 19:** The General Assembly passed a bill that would further delay

the primary until June 7. The move was planned by Senate Republicans, the Raleigh News & Observer reported Jan. 17, and would give the Republican-majority state legislature more time to redraw the state's political district maps if the N.C. Supreme Court rules them unconstitutional. Many state Democrats, including Gov. Roy Cooper, criticized the bill, and on Wednesday, Democratic lawmakers voted against it. The bill went to the governor's desk, who ultimately vetoed it.

Cooper had 10 days to act on the bill before it automatically passes into law, excluding Sundays, which was Jan. 29.

State Democrats criticized the Republicans' efforts to delay

the primary, 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.

**Jan. 28:** Cooper vetoed the bill to further delay primaries to June 7. The primary is likely to occur May 17, but could yet be delayed if the legislature overrides the veto, or if the N.C. Supreme Court moves the date. An override is unlikely given that every Democrat previously voted against the bill.

"This bill is an additional attempt by Republican legislators to control the election timeline and undermine the voting process," Cooper said in a release. "The constitutionality of congressional and legislative districts is now in the hands of the North Carolina Supreme Court and the Court should have the opportunity to decide how much time is needed to ensure that our elections are constitutional."

Under the May 17 primary date, the deadline to finalize the contested maps is between Feb. 14 and 23.

**Feb. 2:** The N.C. Supreme Court is set to hear the gerrymandering suit to decide whether the trial court's order stands, or if the maps must be redrawn. 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, 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.

For an update following the trial, look online at [chathamnewsrecord.com](http://chathamnewsrecord.com).

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

# CHATHAM IS BOLD!



25TH ANNUAL SCOUT AUCTION

# History continues for Siler City troop

CN+R Staff Report

**SILER CITY** — This year marks the 25th Scout Auction fundraiser for Scout Unit #924, sponsored by the First United Methodist Church in Siler City.

Beginning 1997, this fundraiser was held for 24 consecutive years until last year, when it was canceled due to COVID-19. The 25th annual auction will continue this year and take place at the sponsoring church at 6 p.m. on Feb. 5. The inclement weather date is Feb. 12.

In late 1996, when the Cub Scout Pack was beginning a new year, its funds were at an all-time low with 35 boys on charter. Wanting the Pack to continue, Tony Brewer, then Scout District Executive, recommended the Pack hold a “cake walk” to raise money.

Pack Committee Chairperson Valerie Dorsett started brainstorming about how to make fundraising even more successful. Believing the Siler City community would welcome the opportunity to



Submitted photo

**Past auctions, like this one from a recent year, have helped raise funds for Scout Unit #924, sponsored by the First United Methodist Church in Siler City. The 25th annual auction is set for Feb. 5.**

support the local scouting program and the deserving youth, Dorsett reached out to area businesses and was delighted when the community showed

support and made generous donations of various items and gift certificates of service — all to be auctioned off at the first auction fundraiser.

Cub Scout Committee Member Betty Jo Oldham-Mann approached Michael Rogers about holding an auction to help the scouting program.

Rogers, the marketing teacher at a local high school at the time, and an auctioneer, volunteered his team’s services to help the program thrive.

The first auction/cake walk was held at the First Baptist Church in Siler City. The First United Methodist Church had not completed building its new facility since the devastating fire in 1995. Over the years the list of businesses and donations has grown and changed along with the attendees of the auction. The auctioneering process has also come a long way and is now computer automated versus the handwritten list system to track sales. Rogers and his team from Rogers Auctioneers has held each of the auctions to date.

For more information on the fundraiser or the scouting program, contact Annette Wiedner, Cub Scout Committee chairperson, at 919-704-6389; Chad Moore, Boy Scout Troop Committee chairperson, at 919-444-9168; or Valerie Dorsett at 919-704-6461.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### VITA appointments ongoing

Appointments for Chatham County residents are currently being taken for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), which begins Friday, Feb. 4, and runs through April 16.

Sponsored by the Chatham County Council on Aging, this free program is a service of the IRS, where IRS-trained volunteers assist with income tax preparation at no cost to the taxpayer.

With changes in tax rules, taxpayers may be eligible for a refund even if their income falls below reporting requirements.

Persons and families of all ages with low-to-mid-

dle income are eligible for the VITA program, and eligibility questions will be asked when making an appointment.

To schedule an appointment, call the Council on Aging at 919-542-4512, extension 225.

### Your tax refund can support endangered wildlife in North Carolina

**RALEIGH** — Officials with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission request that anyone filing a 2021 North Carolina state tax return consider donating a portion of their refund to the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund.

Contributions will support research and conservation management projects for the state’s most vulnerable wildlife populations.

“The tax-check off program is the most significant source of non-federal funding for projects that support our state’s nongame and endangered wildlife species,” said Sara Schweitzer, assistant chief of the Commission’s Wildlife Management Division. “Sea turtles, freshwater mussels, salamanders and other wildlife species without a designated hunting and fishing season all benefit. The funding benefits game species too because they often live in the same habitats.”

Taxpayers can participate by checking line 30 on their North Carolina state income tax form, or by telling their tax preparer they would like to donate. If using tax preparation software like Turbo Tax, e-filers simply enter the amount they’d like to contribute to the N.C. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Fund when prompted.

“Any amount goes a long way toward outreach activities and programs. When the Wildlife Commission can match grants using donations, it increases the dollars it can spend on programs.

For example, a \$100 tax refund donation results in an additional \$185 for wildlife diversity initia-

tives through grants, Schweitzer said.

If you do not expect a refund but want to support nongame wildlife, direct donations can be made to the N.C. Wildlife Diversity Endowment Fund.

Learn more about the agency’s nongame and endangered wildlife projects and programs on the Commission’s Wildlife Diversity Program reports webpage.

### Pittsboro Gallery seeks artists

**PITTSBORO** — Pittsboro Gallery of Arts is currently seeking high quality 2-D and 3-D Artists to join its community of local and regional artists bringing

Fine Art and Fine Craft to Historic Downtown Pittsboro.

If you are an Artist, working in or around Chatham County and the Triangle area, you can apply for juried membership in our cooperative Gallery.

Located at 44-A Hillsboro Street, the spacious Gallery is well positioned to become a destination Fine Art experience for the growing population of Chatham County and the surrounding areas

You can find more details about membership included with the application at <https://pittsboroarts.org/membership>

The deadline for applications is March 1.

— CN+R staff reports

**Get paid to become an EMT**

**We're looking for non-certified, highly motivated individuals who are interested in entering the exciting world of prehospital emergency medicine!**

### Job Qualifications:

Safely operates an EMS ambulance to respond to calls both emergency and non-emergency in all types of weather and road conditions. Assists the assigned paramedic with patient movement, stretcher loading/unloading and retrieval of required medical equipment as directed. Upon arrival at the appropriate destination, restocks, and prepares the ambulance for the next assigned call. Washes, cleans and disinfects the ambulance each day at the beginning of your tour of duty.

- High School Diploma or GED.
- Current valid NC driver’s license with at least 2 years of good driving history required.
- Emergency Vehicle Operators Course, preferred.
- First Aid certification, preferred.
- Must obtain EMT certification through the FirstHealth EMT Academy within 9 months from date of hire.

**FirstHealth**  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Apply now to join our team.



# CCCC salutes alumnus E. Eugene Moore with naming of Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College alumnus E. Eugene Moore is being recognized for his \$2 million gift to his alma mater with the naming of the future E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center in his honor. The Center will be located at the former Magneti Marelli facility.

Moore, who grew up in Bear Creek and currently lives in Sanford, is Chief Executive Officer of Bear Creek Arsenal (BCA) — an international company located in Sanford which has customers in all 50 states and other countries as well.

“Mr. Moore, a CCCC alumnus, is a model of generosity. His gift will support many scholarships, the purchase of additional state-of-the-art equipment, and an endowed faculty position (the first at CCCC) — the complete package necessary to ensure more students successfully complete their educational goals,” said CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman. “In addition, Mr. Moore’s donation will also help with the necessary redesign of the E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center. This center will enhance our response to expanding and relocating company needs — whether it’s customized training, general educational programming, temporary work space, or other resources, the E. Eugene Moore Center will be the regional hub.”

donation would not only provide opportunities for many of our local residents, it will also help sustain Lee County’s exceptional economic growth.

H. Julian Philpott Jr., Chairman of the CCCC Board of Trustees, noted: “Mr. Moore is a wonderful example of a person who took supreme advantage of his education and training from CCCC and turned it into a highly successful business and manufacturing career. His most generous gift to the CCCC Foundation is a wonderful investment in the College that will assist students in accessing outstanding educational opportunities and reaching their career goals. His donation will help CCCC, our students, and our industries obtain maximum educational and training benefit from the E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center, the new name for the former Magneti Marelli property that our Lee County Commissioners generously acquired for the benefit of the College.

“We feel that the E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center will be an exceptional driver of economic growth in Lee County and our service area for years to come. We are grateful for Mr. Moore’s generous donation that will help students’ educational and career dreams become realities,” said Philpott.

Moore became a CCCC student in the fall of 1969, as soon as his tour in Vietnam with SeaBee Team 0914 ended.

“The school was a lot smaller than it is now,”



Courtesy of CCCC

Central Carolina Community College alumnus E. Eugene Moore is being recognized for his \$2 million gift to his alma mater with the naming of the future E. Eugene Moore Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center in his honor. Pictured are, left to right: Nicole Allen (Moore’s daughter); E. Eugene Moore, Monica Purvis (Moore’s daughter), Ruby Moore (Moore’s wife), Chad Moore (Moore’s son), CCCC Foundation Board Chairperson Lynda Turbeville, and CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman.

said Moore, who studied Tool and Die Making when the school was known as Central Carolina Technical Institute. “The teachers were all very good and very interested in helping the students learn.”

Moore remembers school personnel Ray Epley, Robert Brown, Jerry Stevens and Percy West. “Fellow students were all very nice,” said Moore. “It had a very ‘community’ feeling.”

Moore credits his CCCC education as being beneficial for his career. “CCTI, as it was called back then, gave both hands-on experience in the shop area and classroom studies that complemented the shop area,” said Moore. “The classroom covered areas like drawings, blueprint reading, metallurgy,

which has been very helpful and areas that would have taken much longer to acquire this knowledge without the formal education.”

Moore, who graduated in the spring of 1971, then started his business — originally a two-person operation doing repair work.

From there, his business expanded.

From 1984 to 2015, his business did subcontracting machining for a global off-highway system group, manufacturing components that supplied equipment to off-highway construction and mining work. Some of the components were on equipment two miles underground in diamond mines — and Moore’s business was the only company in the world manufacturing these parts.

From 1986 to 2015, his business did subcontract machining for an international automotive company that supplied finished assemblies to the automotive manufacturers, being able to supply over 400,000 parts a week as needed.

From 1989 to 2005, his business supplied painted and machined parts to an international company that markets and sells power tools. For over 10 years, Moore’s business was the largest supplier to a 2,300-person assembly plant.

“It has always been our desire to have our own product. For many years, we manufactured parts/equipment with other companies’ names on the product,” said Moore, adding that BCA was formed in 2013 using the personnel and equipment that had been used in Moore’s Machine Company Inc. to make this dream become a reality.

BCA grew from 300 employees in January 2019 to as many as 762 employees in 2020 and 2021.

Moore attributes the success of his company to good people.

“It always comes back to good people,” said Moore. “Three main areas make up a good company — good people, good facility and good customers. As long as BCA keeps good people, BCA will meet the challenges of our ever-changing world.

“Having good people allowed us to grow the capabilities of our facility and as we grow our facility, we are able to add more people. As we add better people, we are able to grow and increase our customer base,” said Moore.

Moore and his wife Ruby have three children — Chad Moore, Monica Purvis, and Nicole Allen, and eight grandchildren — Meg, Tucker, Belle, Finn, Montgomery, Oliver, Harper Lee and Glosson.



Courtesy of CCCC

CCCC alumnus E. Eugene Moore poses in front of the Manufacturing and Biotech Solutions Center that will bear his name.

“Sanford is experiencing a period of unprecedented economic growth. Excellent opportunities are arriving for high-paying technical careers,” said Lynda Turbeville, CCCC Foundation Board chairperson.

“The impact of the donation of Mr. Moore and his family will go on for generations in this community. There is no way to quantify the number of students and families who will see their lives changed through education and careers. It is seldom that one has the opportunity to meet someone with the vision of Mr. Moore. I remain awed and humbled by his selfless generosity,” said Turbeville.

Dr. Emily C. Hare, Executive Director of the CCCC Foundation, said she is grateful for Mr. Moore’s generosity to his alma mater. “E. Eugene Moore is a prime example of a student who took full advantage of his educational experiences at CCCC and excelled to build an international company. His success story is an inspiration to all. And, through his success, his financial support will help to boost the college and the Central Carolina community by aiding both current and future generations.”

The CCCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization affiliated with, but independent of, the college. It receives donations of money and equipment on behalf of CCCC and uses them to promote the educational mission of the college and assist students through scholarships and grants.

“We have been successful, and we owe a lot

of this to CCCC and the community,” said Moore on the importance of giving back to the college. “It is our desire to make our world, our country, our community, a better place to live and work in. It takes not only better education, but also the right education for the people in our community to be able to achieve an improvement in people’s lives. With better education should also come higher paying jobs, with higher paying jobs comes a better lifestyle, a more secure environment, a desire to be better citizens, and the ability to raise a good family.

“Having more educated and trained people locally will make our community more appealing to corporations and businesses to locate to our area. The more businesses we have locating in our community, the more better paying jobs there will be for the people in our community,” said Moore. “The more better paying jobs and the more successful companies we have in the community, the better our community will be. This will allow us to have great public schools, great health care and great recreation for our citizens.”

Moore said he greatly encourages other people to contribute to CCCC. “The more we contribute to CCCC, the more and faster CCCC can grow,” said Moore. “The more CCCC grows, the more people they can improve education for.”

For information on giving to the CCCC Foundation, contact Dr. Emily C. Hare, Executive Director of the CCCC Foundation, 919-718-7230, or ehare@cccc.edu.

# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Jan. 19, Jared Ashley Tabor, 44, of 510 Easy St., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for simple assault, assault by pointing a gun, assault on a female, communicating threats, disorderly conduct and weapon law violations. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on Jan. 28.

On Jan. 19, Jonathan Michael Shipman, 24, of 852 Clarence McKeithan Rd., Sandy Creek, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony D. Norton for pre-trial release violations, assault on a female and communicating threats. He was issued a \$3,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Jan. 20, Octavio Hernandez, 34, of 184 Camel Back Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Devin Smith for sexual assault, assault on a female and trespass of real property. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on January 26.

On Jan. 20, Christopher Sean Evans, 33, of 3100 Regency Park, Cary, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for assault by pointing a gun. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on Feb. 2.

On Jan. 20, Denise Jacqueline Harris, 35, of 2801 Millbrook Manor Circle, Raleigh, was arrested by Deputy Jonathan Frazier for misdemeanor probation violations. She was issued a \$25,000 secured

bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on Feb. 15.

On Jan. 21, Robyn Ana Rodrigues-Herrera, 21, of 2294 N. Pea Ridge Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for obtaining property by false pretense, possession of stolen goods/property and larceny by an employee. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 24, Taiia Lanae Gladden, 23, of 338 Martin Hill Ave., Asheboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for larceny by an employee. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 24, Tammy Lane McDonald, 46, of 338 Martin Hill Ave., Asheboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for larceny by an employee. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 24, Michael David Teague, 46, of 884 Pearleman Teague Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for assault on a female and communicating threats. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Jan. 25, Danny Joe Phillips, 47, of 8795 Siler City Glendon Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for possession of stolen property/goods, larceny, and Domestic Violence protective order viola-

tion. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 25, Yush Kahmyu Smith, 24, of 260 Laura Johnson Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for damage to personal property and communicating threats. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Jan. 25, Larry Ray Maness, 50, of 24 Big Horn Dr., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to appear. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on Feb. 1.

On Jan. 26, Jason Ray Woody, 39, of 65 Rolling Springs Dr., Spring Lake, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for Possession with Intent to Manufacture/Sell/Deliver methamphetamine, possession of methamphetamine, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for controlled substances, fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, driving while license revoked, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to maintain lane control, reckless driving to endanger and possession of a stolen vehicle. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

Woody was also arrested by Deputy Soles for five counts of failure to appear, each in a different county. For the first count, he was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled

to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 7. For the second count, Woody was issued a \$52,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County Superior Court in Sanford on Feb. 21. For the third count, he was issued a \$800 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on Feb. 28. For the fourth count, Woody was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on Feb. 15. For the fifth count, he was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Moore County District Court in Carthage on Mar. 9.

On Jan. 26, Amy Ellissa Hammer, 33, of 511 Effie Welch Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for trafficking in methamphetamine and possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver a Schedule II controlled substance. She was issued a \$100,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 26, Millie Helen Enos, 66, of 601 Joe Brown Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for exploiting a disabled/elder trust. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Rockingham District Court in Reidsville on Feb. 24.

On Jan. 27, Joseph Frank Herring, 39, of 480 Herring Path, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for obtaining property under false pretense and identity theft. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to ap-

pear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 27, Christopher Sean Evans, 33, of 1600 Business US 64 E, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for resisting public officer and assault on a government official/employee. He was \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 15.

On Jan. 27, Noah Chandler Sheets, 31, of 157 Parker Rd., Mount Airy, was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for child support violation - out of state. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 2.

On Jan. 28, Breana Alexis Daye, 23, of 295 Plaza Dr., Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for failure to appear. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 22.

On Jan. 28, Cassie Danielle Jordan, 34, of 5004 Old Coleridge Road, Ramseur, was arrested by Deputy Reid Kirkman for two counts of failure to appear. She was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 8.

On Jan. 29, Christen Blythe Griffin, 39, of 69 Highveld Ave, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for Domestic Violence protection order violation. She was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District

Court on Feb. 16.

On Jan. 31, John Barrett Hayes, 47, of 361 S Fork Bethel Church Rd., Snow Camp, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for stalking and Domestic Violence protective order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Jan. 31, Brandon Sean Browne, 27, of 2828 Vanstory St., Apt 3C, Greensboro, was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, larceny of a motor vehicle, driving while license revoked, speeding and aggressive driving. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Jan. 31.

On Jan. 31, Jonathan Wayne Harris, 41, of 902 East Main St., Durham, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for breaking and entering a motor vehicle and larceny. He was issued a \$3,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on Feb. 3.

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# Chatham students win national awards at Junior Theater Festival Atlanta

From the Pittsboro Youth Theater

ATLANTA — Several students representing Pittsboro Youth Theater in Pittsboro won national awards and other recognitions at the 2022 Junior Theater Festival Atlanta, which took place from Jan. 14 to 16 in Atlanta and online.

Catherine Hall, a Pittsboro Youth Theater student, received a Freddie G award for Outstanding Student Direction & Choreography, while Student Megan Dydynski made it to the callback for future video shoots for “how-to” choreography videos. Additionally, students Catherine Hall and Odin Withrow were distinguished as All-Stars, an outstanding group of young performers at the festival.

The festival — known as JTF Atlanta — is an event dedicated to rewarding and celebrating student-driven musical theater programs.

At the festival, each group performed 15 minutes of a Broadway Junior musical for adjudicators. Pittsboro Youth Theater performed selections of Disney’s Frozen JR. to Broadway actor Katy Geraghty (Groundhog Day Original Broadway Cast), director, choreographer and educator Kikau Alvaro (University of the Arts), and educator and adjudicator Nicholas Sostillio.

“The pictures these young performers made on the stage took my breath away,” Geraghty said. “It was so much fun to watch them do a show they clearly love so much! When you make a three-tiered human lift to represent Elsa’s ice castle, you are doing it right.”

Alvaro added: “Wow! This group was having a blast on stage. They showed us strong ensemble work with complicated and difficult group lifts. They have an imaginative team. The craft of musical theatre was present and storytelling was very clear. I know that Pittsboro Youth Theater brings heart to everything they do!”

“Pittsboro Youth Theater brought Elsa’s powers to the stage by using the ensemble to create the magic effects,” Sostillio. “With real life sisters playing Anna and Elsa, Pittsboro Youth Theater felt like a real family.”

Tammy Matthews, PYT’s Artistic Director said, “2022 JTF Atlanta was an unbelievable opportunity for Pittsboro Youth Theater kids. Where else in the world could our most-accomplished actors compete with 128 other youth



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Pittsboro Youth Theater’s 2022 cast of actors.



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Libby Hall and Odin Withrow were among the cast members in PYT’s ‘High School Musical.’



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

PYT’s Catherine Hall, who won two awards at the Junior Theater Festival.

theater organizations?”  
 Craig Witter, PYT’s Technical Director said, “It was wonderful that Pittsboro’s theater-loving kids got to experience such a big-time event with 3,000 other great young performers. They got to experience so many things that most kids or adults just never do: a real convention in a huge convention center, a hundred other kid casts having a blast and performing in one place, and truly motivational speeches and performances by real Broadway stars who themselves recently started their acting careers as young children. Absolutely awesome.”

**About the 2022 JTF Atlanta**

Called a “rousing celebration of theatre” by the New York Times, the Junior Theater Festival applauds and

empowers young people and educators creating student-driven musical theater around the globe.  
 The 2022 JTF Atlanta was an incredible and safe weekend of singing, dancing, acting, and learning. The festival worked with experts to modify the event to meet and exceed local, state, and federal safety guidelines. Festival policies included implementing mandatory masking and authenticating vaccinations or negative COVID test results for all attendees.

Tony Award winning actor Ali Stroker performed the headlining concert. Actors Tommy Bracco (Disney’s Newsies: The Broadway Musical) and Kara Lindsay (Disney’s Newsies: The Broadway Musical) took part in a special Newsies panel via video.

Additional talent appearing at the festival and cheering the



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Amari Bullett and Lily Guaman also starred in PYT’s ‘High School Musical.’



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Megan Dydynski, a PYT cast member.

young artists were actor Krystina Alabado (Mean Girls, Broadway), actor McKenna Michael Bisaha (Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical tour, Broadway), actor Katy Geraghty (Groundhog Day!, Broadway), actor Jake David Smith (Disney’s Frozen on Broadway), actor Daniel J. Mertzluft (Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical), actor Luca Padovan (Disney’s Newsies: The Broadway Musical), author and playwright Jodi Picoult (Wish You Were Here, Breathe), screen-

writer, songwriter and novelist Dean Pitchford (Footloose, Broadway), music orchestrator Macy Schmidt (founder of The Broadway Sinfonietta), Michael Wordly (The Color Purple, US Tour), and actor Daniel Yearwood (Hamilton).

Groups enjoyed a New Works Showcase of performance selections from upcoming Broadway Junior® musicals presented by JTF groups, and other mainstage performances featuring powerhouse Broadway guests and took part in workshops.



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Odin Withrow in a scene from PYT’s ‘High School Musical.’

**About Pittsboro Youth Theater**

Pittsboro Youth Theater shares theater training and performance activities with young people and adults in and around Chatham county. Tammy Matthews and Craig Witter founded the youth theater in 2012. Since then hundreds of local children and adults have participated in its hundreds of performances, and more than 12,000 people have attended its on-stage productions. 2022 marks the group’s first time at the Junior Theater Festival.

# Regan resigns from N.C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature; Leto, Marty appointed to roles

From the Chatham County Council on Aging

After serving as Chatham County’s delegate to the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (STHL) for many years, Ed Regan resigned effective Jan. 12.

In reflecting on his service, Regan shared that he has “thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to work with fellow seniors from across the state to achieve the goals of the STHL.”

Dennis Streets, former executive director of the Chatham County Council on Aging, acknowledged “the many ways that Ed has contributed in

his advocacy. He has been a leading and informed voice for some many issues important to seniors and their families in Chatham and throughout North Carolina.”

Robin Leto, who had been serving as alternate to the STHL, has been appointed as delegate. As a nurse and dietician, Leto brings to this volunteer position extensive experience in health and human services. Among her many volunteer roles, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Council on Aging, has been a counselor for the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP), and assists with the Council’s nutrition

program.

David Marty will be replacing Leto as Chatham’s Alternate to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature. He, too, brings a wealth of experience. Marty was formerly president of the Council’s Board of Directors and currently serves on the board of CORA. In addition, he is one of the Council’s volunteer Community Ambassadors and a member of the Home and Community Care Block Grant Advisory Committee.

The North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature was created by the North Carolina General Assembly in July 1993 to provide information to seniors on the legislative process

and matters being considered by the North Carolina General Assembly, promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues before the NCGA and assess the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a forum modeled after the governing body.

Each of North Carolina’s 100 counties is entitled to one delegate, and most counties also have an alternate delegate. Delegates and alternates must be age 60 or older. The North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services provides staff support for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature in cooperation with the 16 Area Agencies on Aging, which are responsible

for conducting the selection of delegates and alternates.

In the case of Chatham County, the Area Agency on Aging at the Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) appoints the STHL delegate and alternate. Along with representing Chatham County on the STHL, Ms. Leto and Mr. Marty will also serve on Regional Aging Advisory Council of the Triangle J Council of Governments.

For more information about the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature, visit [www.ncseniortarheellegislature.org/](http://www.ncseniortarheellegislature.org/). For information on the Triangle J Area Agency on Aging, log onto [www.tjco.org/aging](http://www.tjco.org/aging).



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

As a winter storm blew in for the third straight weekend in N.C., CN+R photographer Kim Hawks awakened early to check on accumulation. 'It was too dark to see much of anything except snow sticking to evergreen palm and magnolia leaves and bare dogwood branches,' she said. The snow lingered for a brief time before mostly melting by day's end — at least in sunny spots.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## Another snow

A hearty woodstove fire and snow storms go together. After enjoying the snow at 4 a.m., Hawks reported it felt great to come inside and warm up beside the fire.

# Chatham County seeks applicants for advisory committees

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County is seeking individuals to fill several vacancies on key advisory committees.

Service on committees is a great way for interested residents to have a voice on issues of interest and make a difference in the community. Applicants must live in Chatham County. The deadline to submit applications to serve is 5 p.m. on Feb. 11.

Some of the vacancies are assigned to specific areas of the county identified by county commissioner election districts located on the county website: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=21144>. Residents also can look up their commissioner district for their address on the NC State Board of Elections website: <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup>.

An online application to serve on the committees can be found at: <https://chathamnc.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommitteeForm>. Applicants also may contact Lindsay Ray at [lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:lindsay.ray@chathamcountync.gov) or 919-542-8302 to get a printed application.

Most committees are currently meeting virtually but will resume in-person meetings when restrictions are lifted.

### Appearance Commission

The Chatham County Appearance Commission has two vacant seats and seeks applicants for the open slots. They especially need members with expertise in plant knowledge, landscaping and landscape design.

The Appearance Commission establishes and oversees programs to enhance the appearance of the county. The commission also reviews and comments on non-residential site plans for Business, Industrial, Conditional Zoning Districts, and Special Use Permits. It typically meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in Pittsboro or virtually at 6 p.m.

The people appointed to fill both vacancies will serve an unexpired term ending on June 30, 2023, but would be eligible for reappointment for a full three-year term. All appointees must live in Chatham County.

More information about the Appearance Commission can be found on the county website: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/appointed-boards-and-committees/appearance-commission>.

### The Board of Health's responsibility is to protect and promote the health of the community, and it is a great way to make a difference.

tees/appearance-commission.

#### Board of Health

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 Board of Health is the policymaking, rulemaking and deliberative body for the Chatham County Public Health Department. The Board of Health's responsibility is to protect and promote the health of the community, and it is a great way to make a difference.

The Board of Health will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, who will appoint a professional engineer to serve the three-year term. The appointed engineer will be eligible to serve an additional three-year term once the first term expires.

Board of Health meetings are held 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.

Those with questions about serving on the Board of Health may call 919-545-8391. More information about the Board of Health can be found on the county website: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/public-health/board-of-health>.

#### Environmental Review Advisory Committee

Chatham County seeks applicants to fill two vacancies for its Environmental Review Advisory Committee (ERAC), which advises the Board

of Commissioners on environmental policy and related county ordinances and serves on the Chatham County Watershed Review Board.

The Board of Commissioners especially seeks applicants with environmental expertise or interests.

One vacancy is for Commissioner District 5, and the second vacancy is for District 3. The people appointed would serve a partial term ending on June 30, 2023, but those appointed would be eligible for reappointment to a full three-year term. Anyone interested in the position should apply regardless of where they live in the county.

The ERAC typically meets six or more times a year on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Pittsboro area. More information about the ERAC can be found on the county website: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/watershed-protection/environmental-review-advisory-committee>.

#### Board Of Equalization And Review (Tax Review Board)

Chatham County's Board of Equalization and Review (BoER) has a vacant alternate seat. The BoER's purpose is to hear and review property owners' valuation appeals of their real estate and personal property.

The BoER's important role is the second level of review. Staff-level reviews are the first level. The board must apply state laws in a consistent, uniform and non-discriminatory manner so that all property owners receive a fair and impartial hearing.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Must be at least 18

years old;

- Have lived in Chatham County for at least two years prior to appointment;
- Owns real estate property in the county;
- Be knowledgeable about real estate matters; and
- Have good moral character.

If appointed by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, the person appointed would serve until Dec. 31, 2024. Members of the BoER receive a stipend of \$15 per hour for their service, but the number and length

of the meetings vary depending on the number of appeals filed. New members are required to attend a training session to understand their roles under state law and the appeals process.

Except for revaluation years, most meetings of the BoER are held in the spring, but a few may be held in the fall to hear appeals related to personal property.

Most of the meetings are during the daytime, but some may be held in the evenings to accommodate taxpayers' schedules, usually for

revaluation appeals. On rare occasions, special meetings may be called on such issues as business personal property audit appeals or review of late applications for tax exemptions.

Individuals with questions about the BoER and its role, may contact Jenny Williams at 919-545-8404. More information about the BoER also can be found on the county website: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/appointed-boards-and-committees/board-of-equalization-and-review>.

## Patriots of Color in Chatham County

### A Community Discussion by David Morrow



In recognition of Black History Month, join Chatham Community Library and the Community Remembrance Coalition - Chatham (CRC-C) for "Patriots of Color in Chatham County: Untold Stories" with David Morrow, who will discuss the many contributions of Chatham County's free people of color during the Revolutionary War.

David Morrow began researching and documenting his own unique family history in 2007. He was the first in his family to prove lineage to a Black patriot and the first Black member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

He is also the co-founder of the Facebook group "Native & Free People of Color of Alamance, Chatham, Caswell, Granville, and Orange Counties in North Carolina". With over 600 members the group has become a valuable resource for the North Carolina African American genealogy community.

This program is free and open to the public. **Registration is required.**



COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE COALITION CHATHAM

*Truth, Justice and Reconciliation*

Register at [tinyurl.com/cclmorrow](https://tinyurl.com/cclmorrow)

**Saturday, Feb. 19 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. via Zoom**



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[www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org)



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the Drive. Please understand that  
appointments made online have priority.**



*Happy Birthday to our Beautiful Angel*  
**Ashley Nicole Pyrtle**  
*February 4, 1990 - April 26, 2008*

*Our hearts are broken but we will see our Angel again in  
Heaven one day! We love you,  
Daddy, Mama, Caroline & Lauren*

*~ Sleep well my princess, each passing day is a day  
closer to seeing you again! ~ I love you always, Mom*

*The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word  
of God stands forever. ~Isaiah 40:8*



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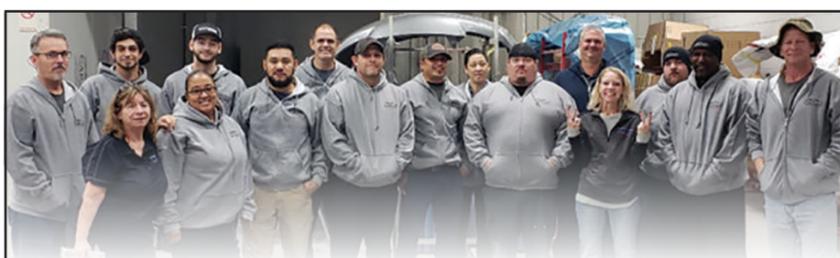
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	2			7				4
1					2		3	
		8	3			9		
4				2				7
		2	6			8		
	5				8		1	
		1		4			7	
5					9	4		
	7		5					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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### MAGIC MAZE

### RUSSIAN FAMILY NAMES

R Y W T R O L J G E B Y W U R  
V P N K I G D B Z X V S Q O V  
M E K I V G V E C A Y W U S O  
**S M I R N O V** Q V P N L J H N  
F E V L L I S O V E E X E L A  
C E A O I Y S T R O D X V U V  
S G K Q R S P T E O Z E N M I  
V O P O P T A K L N D O B J H  
S R F E C B E V Z E Z E R E Y  
X O V O L V A P V U Y U F O L  
T V O K L O V O L I A H K I M

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

- |         |           |         |          |
|---------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Alexeev | Kuznetsov | Pavlov  | Sokolov  |
| Egorov  | Lebedev   | Petrov  | Vasiliev |
| Fedorov | Mikhailov | Popov   | Volkov   |
| Ivanov  | Morozov   | Smirnov |          |

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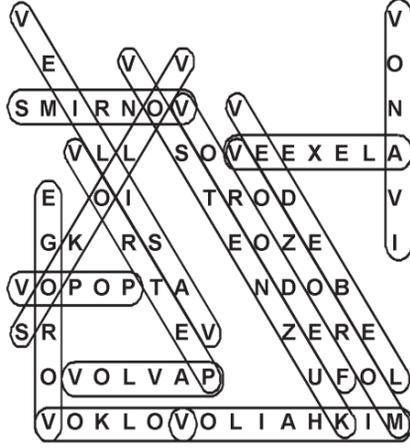
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### RUSSIAN FAMILY NAMES



### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



"Would you mind filling out this questionnaire about our service?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## LAFF-A-DAY



"Don't even say hello to him, Evelyn—he's in no mood for it."



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



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