

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | **FEBRUARY 10 - 16, 2022** | [www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com) | \$1

## Despite gains, there's not enough affordable housing in Chatham

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

Nearly 750 affordable rental units are still needed to meet the growing demand in Chatham, according to the annual report by the county's Affordable Housing Advisory Committee — despite an increase of 185 affordable units from 2019 to last year.

There are currently 1,582 affordable rental units in the county, the report found, but approximately 2,325 units are needed — with more need anticipated as substantial development continues in Chatham.

"The supply of affordable housing, whether it's rental or homeownership — the crux of the problem is there's just not enough of it," Susan Levy, the

committee's chairperson, told the News + Record. "There is a real, real, serious, significant shortage."

The data used is based on the American Community Survey's five-year datasets, which don't necessarily reflect the economic conditions of the pandemic, and don't count mobile homes or units in a building with fewer than 20 dwellings.

"There's a lot of caveats about the accuracy of that number," Levy said of the 2,325 projected units needed, "But it's the best we can do with the data we've got."

"... The problem is just going to keep getting worse as Chatham grows, so I think we're probably underestimating, if anything, the size of the

problem."

'An appalling figure'

Chatham County continues to see growth in single family homes — there was a 25% increase from FY20 to FY21, according to the 2021 State of Chatham County Report — and a sustained increase in the number of multi-family units. Chatham's population rose from 63,500 in 2010 to 76,300 in 2020, according to Census data, a 20.1% growth rate that ranked seventh in the state. Amid that growth and housing boom, the report says, "Affordable Housing continues to be a top priority in Chatham County."

Affordable Housing is typically defined as housing that

See **HOUSING**, page A8



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**More affordable housing is needed in Chatham. Last November, the town of Pittsboro approved a plan requiring 7.5%, or 1,650, of the Chatham Park's 22,000 market-rate housing units — to be affordable housing.**

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Chatham County museum showcases local Black history in temporary exhibit

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — A new temporary exhibit at Chatham's Historical Museum showcases the county's Black history — from the triumphs to the tragedies — during Black History Month.

The display at the museum — located in the county's historic courthouse in downtown Pittsboro — features three main components: a timeline of events in Chatham County from the start of the Civil War until present day, a bulletin board and binder filled with information about notable Black Chatham residents, and a display case with information regarding the six documented lynchings that occurred in the county.

"The idea was to have something about Black history in Chatham County, and Mary Nettles had the idea to do something about Black history out of this collaborative environment," Museum Coordinator Cindy Schmidt said.

Nettles serves as the president of the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham (CRC-C) and Chatham Community branch of the NAACP. She said her vision for the display came from wanting to show Chatham's history through a



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Museum volunteers and community members joined forces to create the Black history exhibit. From left: Martin Goodman, Adele Kelly, Wanda Pender, Cindy Schmidt, Patty Walters and Mary Nettles.**

perspective that's been historically repressed.

"Black history in Chatham is an essential part of the story of the county," Nettles said. "The history needs to be told, the good and the bad."

NAACP and CRC-C member Adele Kelly was also involved in the development of the display. She said one of the exhibit's intentions

is to address some of the county's harsher history, including Jim Crow laws and violence toward people of color.

"Although no one alive today participated in this violence, its shadow is still with us," Kelly said. "The exhibit tells the hard history of the Jim Crow white supremacy

See **EXHIBIT**, page A3

### CHATHAM'S REVALUATION

## Property value is too high? You may have gotten relief.

*Here's the skinny on last year's reval.*

**BY BILL HORNER III**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — If you weren't happy with the valuation of your Chatham property in the assessment done by the county's tax office in 2021, and you appealed that valuation, there's a good chance things went at least slightly your way.

A full 78% — 1,319 parcels out of a total of 1,694 appeals, or formal protests of revaluation — resulted in reductions in value. Those reductions came as the result either from pre-hearing agreements with the county's tax office staff or from rulings made by the county's board of equalization and review, the commissioner-appointed group which held a series of hearings with property owners that concluded last fall.

The net reduction in those valuations was more than \$138 million, or 16.6% of the total tax value of the revaluation appeals made — saving those taxpayers a little more than \$900,000 on their collective tax bills.

Right at 18.5% of hearings resulted in no change in the assessed value, but a handful — 61 parcels, to be exact — ended up having valuations increased, sometimes because property

See **PROPERTY**, page A6

## Lecture to tell 'untold history' of Chatham's free people of color

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

The Chatham Community Library and Chatham's Community Remembrance Coalition will commemorate Black History Month by co-sponsoring a virtual lecture about the contributions of Chatham's free people of color during the Revolutionary War.

Given by David Morrow, a lawyer and writer based in California, the lecture — "Patriots of Color in Chatham County: Untold Stories" — will highlight his genealogical research that began with his own family tree, and expanded to over 6,000 names across multiple states and countries.

The program is free and will be held via Zoom from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19. To attend, register at [shorturl.at/gxE05](http://shorturl.at/gxE05).

Morrow was the first in his family to prove lineage to a Black patriot, as well as the first Black member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), where he now serves as secretary for the executive board. 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," which has over 600 members.

Originally from Washington, D.C., Morrow now lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Erica and their son

David III. In addition to SAR, he is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the Bachelor-Benedict Club of Washington, D.C., and the Diversity Working Group for the National Genealogical Society.

Morrow has been a speaker at multiple national conferences on issues of diversity in the legal profession, and was the inaugural director of the Men of Color Project for the American Bar Association. He has appeared on numerous 40 Under 40 lists with the National Bar Association and the Business Journal and was honored by the National Bar Association in 2013 as the Young Lawyer of the Year.

See **HISTORY**, page A3

## Chatham Senior Games sign-ups open in March

**BY VICTORIA JOHNSON**  
News + Record Staff

Chatham's seniors will have another shot at the gold — and a good time — this spring during the 2022 Chatham County Senior Games & SilverArts from April 29 to May 13.

Starting March 4, adults 50 years and older may register online for the games at <http://torch.ncseniorgames.org>. Interested seniors without email or internet access may alternatively fill out and send in printed registration forms.

"We usually send them out to all the athletes before either virtually or, you know, if they don't

See **GAMES**, page A8

# 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 Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro.

**The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14. The meeting will be held remotely on Zoom, as well as be livestreamed on the town's YouTube channel.

**The Chatham Hospital Board of Trustees** meeting will be held virtually at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 15. The public is invited to attend. If interested, contact Cindy Seawell in advance at 919-799-4014 for the access information.

**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

**CCDP Public Notice Text:** - Notice of change in venue for the Chatham County Democratic Party East and West Siler City Precinct meetings. These meetings will not be held at the polling locations as specified (Earl B. Fitts Community Center and Chatham County Senior Center respectively) due to facility availability. A combined Zoom meeting is scheduled for Feb. 19 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Please join friends, neighbors and fellow Democrats for a virtual community gathering. If you would like information about the link to sign-up, simply contact either Jesse Scotton (East Siler City) at 919-548-0810 or Pam Hawe (West Siler City) at 919-610-2450. Hope to see you there!

**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.chatham-

libraries.org, or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or 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 2: February 16, Wednesday, 3 p.m., or Google Apps: February 23, Wednesday, 3 p.m.

**Siler City Parks and Recreation** announces Homeschool Recess - Enjoy the Open Homeschool Recess Program (a non-structural program open for families to play and have fun). Free program - no registration is required, however a waiver must be signed at each session. Guardians must supervise their children. Program is not designed to meet official Homeschool requirements. Basketballs will be provided. Face coverings required while inside the gym. If you have any questions, call 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, in progress now. 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 & Recreation** 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-intermediate), and adult beginners will be held Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

-- **Spring pickleball classes** will be offered March 5 - May 7. Lessons for ages 11-18 will be held Saturdays 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., adult beginners will be held Saturdays 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., and adult intermediates will be held Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is now open with a registration fee of \$85 which covers the entire season. Multi-participant discounts available. To register, please visit [tennisbloc.com](http://tennisbloc.com) and search for programs offered in Siler City. Registration will remain open until sessions are full. For more information, email [info@tennisbloc.com](mailto:info@tennisbloc.com) or contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at (919) 742-2699, email [recreation@silercity.org](mailto:recreation@silercity.org), or visit the Town Website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org).

**The Chatham County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)** has scheduled its 2022 quarterly meetings at 10 a.m. and the locations will be announced on the county website at [readychatham.org](http://readychatham.org) under the LEPC tab. For information concerning hazardous material facilities in Chatham County or the LEPC in general, contact Emergency Management at 919-545-8191. The first scheduled meeting is 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 hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

**The Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham County Courthouse in the Circle. More info at <https://chathamhistory.org>.

**Second Bloom** 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 **JMA-CoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMA-CoronaConcert 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.

## How did you LAND here?



### HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?

## 89 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 37 Units**

- 0 Arthur Minnis (54.43 Acres)
- 0 Lamont Norwood (96.37 Acres)
- 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
- 911 Golfers View (.586 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)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 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)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 10 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)
- 388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)

685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)

0 Mays Chapel Road (365 Acres)

0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units**

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

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Buyers) 1 Units**

- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 21 Units**

- 22 Sycamore Lake Road (Siler City)
- 1624 Hadley Mill Road (Pittsboro)
- 11 Crosswinds Estates Drive (Pittsboro)
- 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
- 570 Abeyance Road (Moncure)
- 2221 Brisbayne Circle (Raleigh)
- 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)
- 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
- 5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Siler City)
- 200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
- 1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
- 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
- 4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
- 130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
- 117 Foxwood (Sanford)
- 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 9 Units**

- 73 Dairymont Drive (Pittsboro)
- 40 Pinehurst Lane (Siler City)
- 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
- 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
- 4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)
- 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
- 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)
- 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
- 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

### PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 6 Units**

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
- 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 1 Units**

- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 4 Units**

- 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
- 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
- 745 Mert McManus Road (Bear Creek)
- 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)



Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMJtpSnFXJU>

Chatham & Randolph County Real Estate and the Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina (TBMNC)

# Chatham News + Record

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

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# EXHIBIT

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system that deprived our Black neighbors of their rights and enforced that system with vigilante mob violence.”

This “vigilante mob violence” included Chatham’s six documented lynchings. One of the victims — Eugene Daniel — was just 16 years old when he was murdered by an angry mob in Pittsboro after being accused of attempted rape in 1921.

The museum’s display case features Daniel’s death certificate, along with soil from the site of his murder; Daniel was memorialized in a day-long series of events on the 100th anniversary of his lynching last September. The other lynchings involved married couple Harriet and Jerry Finch, as well as three men named Lee Tyson, John Pattishall and Henry Jones.

“It is true history that has been hidden and never told — we need to remember what our country has forgotten,” Nettles said. “Everyone must tell the whole truth and accept the hard history.”

The timeline created by museum staff features some of that “hard history” — such as the Civil War, the start of Jim Crow laws and the Civil Rights Movement — and shows what was happening around the county during that same time, including those lynchings.

“Putting those (the lynchings) in context with other events in Chatham County is what we were trying to do,” Schmidt said. “We have to recognize what was going on in the national and state environment in order to put the Chatham events in context.”

The timeline wall also asks visitors two questions, according to Schmidt — what was happening when you were born, and what surprised museum-goers about the sequence of events highlighted on the board?

Why those questions? Schmidt said she wanted visitors to see how quickly change can come and how drastic it can be.

**We must be willing to acknowledge the issues that divide us and move forward.**

**MARY NETTLES**, *president of the East Chatham chapter of the NAACP*

“We’re hoping people will take a look at the sequence of events and notice that the last lynching in Chatham County was in 1921, and there was a Black principal at Horton High starting in 1948,” Schmidt said. “The placement of the dates should help people understand what was going on in the county.”

Museum volunteer and exhibit coordinator Wanda Pender helped arrange the Black history exhibit and display using information provided by Nettles, Kelly and her own research.

The third part of the exhibit — a visual dedicated to the lives of notable Black Chatham residents — features the biographies of various citizens from the museum’s website.

“This took a lot of research and thinking to try to find what you need for the museum,” Pender said. “It’s a lot of research and communication to try and figure out what you are trying to do.”

Those featured on the bulletin board include some of Nettles’ personal role models from Chatham’s history.

“I stand on the shoulders of several Black and white citizens in Chatham County, including the 18 individuals on the board,” Nettles said.

The significance of the Black history display is different for each museum volunteer and others involved in arranging the exhibit. For Schmidt, she sees it as an example of change, as well as the emergence of Black leadership in Chatham County.

“You can take a look from 1964 or so on through today and see how many people in Chatham County leadership have been people of color,” Schmidt said. “I think it is a marvelous way to showcase all of these folks that since 1964



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

**The Chatham County Historical Museum is featuring a new exhibit dedicated to the history of Black Chathamites.**

**The Black History exhibit will be on display from Feburary until the end of March.**

Museum Hours: Open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
Admission is free

have been out there and putting themselves into leadership positions.”

For Pender, she was able to learn about the Chatham of the past and compare it to the Chatham County of today. She said she hoped other lifelong residents like herself can learn from the harsher aspects of Chatham’s past.

“The lynchings should be considered a part of that history, but look where we are today,” Pender said. “The museum as a whole will give you an idea of what Chatham County used to be, and then you can compare it to where we are now.”

For Nettles and Kelly, the exhibit also serves as a way to help start those hard conversations about the history of racism.

“The exhibit’s intent is to



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

**East Chatham NAACP President Mary Nettles flips through a binder filled with biographies of notable Black Chatham residents through the county’s history.**

encourage Chathamites to visit the museum and start conversations which help with the understanding of our past,” Kelly said. “This broadened knowledge will help us grow, foster better race relations and allow our county to move forward together. We hope to encourage communication and help the community heal.”

By acknowledging the tragic parts of Chatham’s history, Nettles said the community can work more toward finding equality for all residents.

“It is important for more

Chatham County residents to be aware of and accept the true history of the county,” she said. “Racism affects everyone, not just the Black and Brown population. We must be willing to acknowledge the issues that divide us and move forward. What’s done is done, but now, everyone has the opportunity to do better and contribute to a future favoring equality and justice for all.”

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

# HISTORY

Continued from page A1

This week, the News + Record spoke with him about his research on patriots of color and his hopes for his upcoming Chatham presentation. The following interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

**How did this event come about, in terms of the idea itself and the process of setting it up?**

**David Morrow:** The library is setting it up and asked me to speak. My family’s from North Carolina — my parents were born there. I actually wasn’t, I was born on a military base in Michigan, but most of my family’s still in North Carolina.

Chatham County [Community] Library had reached out, I told them about my research — I had attended one of their programs and I posed some questions and then they Googled me. Then I was like, “I’d love to do a presentation on patriots of color during Black History Month.” So that’s kind of how it all came about.

**Where did your interest in researching patriots of color come from?**

Growing up, my family always talked about their deep roots in North Carolina, and so I was really aware of family history — probably more so than the average African American out there — but I didn’t know the deep history that I ended up uncovering. My background is I’m a lawyer, I’m based out here in Los Angeles, but I am also a genealogist on the side. That’s one of my passion projects. I started that work back in 2007 — I knew that I had a unique family history, and so I wanted to just learn more about that and I uncovered even more than I

was expecting.

That unique part was just about being descended from African Americans who were never enslaved, but living in North Carolina. Of the slave-holding states, North Carolina had, I think, the second- or third-largest free population of people of color before 1860. On my dad’s side of the family, multiple family lines of mine were from these different communities that were racially mixed — African Americans, Native American origin — and so I wanted to learn more about that. In that process, I learned about the number of people that were in my family tree, and from that particular community in Chatham County who fought in the Revolutionary War.

Being a military kid, I’ve always been fascinated with military conflicts, one being the Civil War, which is always interesting, but then the Revolutionary War, which is interesting, too. For me, I didn’t realize the extent that African Americans had played in that war. I think most people make false assumptions that all Black people were enslaved or that no one fought in that war conflict, when in fact, there were thousands of black soldiers commissioned then. What’s unique about North Carolina, and particularly Chatham County, is that there were at least 30-something black patriots in that community.

So as I was uncovering the four in my tree, because there’s about 30-plus families that all kind of married each other over a 200-plus year period, there were other folks in the community that also fought for independence. I’ve been trying to document and research those individuals and their families and share that with a lot of their descendants, who still

live in Chatham, Siler City, and then Alamance County and Orange County — between those three right there, that’s pretty much where I would say 75% of my dad’s family still lives to this day, and they’ve been there since the mid-1700s.

I view this as untold history that’s pertinent to those still living in Chatham, and is just interesting about a certain community’s contribution to the founding of this nation. And then I like to share a little bit about the lives in which they lived during that time period because they walked a line, right? If you were a free person of color at the time, you had to walk around with papers all the time that said you were free or you could be thrown into bondage. So they had their white neighbors, they had the enslaved and then there was them, in the middle trying to figure it out.

**Can you say more about this being untold history?**

African American history and race in general, especially in the South, is very complex and it’s not just one story.

But back then, I think it was unique for North Carolina, and particularly Chatham — the largest counties that had free people of color were down in Robeson and Granville and then number three was the Chatham, Alamance, Orange area. There’s no historical marker about this community. There’s churches that still exist right now that were built by this community, one being Burnett’s Chapel — there’s a lot of people buried out there, pretty much huge chunks of my family tree buried out there somewhere. Many of these families were landowners, and so there’s still parts of it being lived on by their descendants. So you have a continuous land own-

ership story for African Americans that reaches back almost 200 years in North Carolina, which also is very unique.

**What will the event itself look like?**

It will be me doing a virtual presentation from the West Coast. I’ll dive into my history and my connections to the community, and highlight these 32 men who fought in the Revolutionary War. I’ll go into some detail on certain ones — which regiments they fought in, which battles and where their descendants are right now, which is they’re all over that area in North Carolina.

Part of this is also important for me because, through my research, I’ve joined the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), which is a Genealogical Society similar to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). My hope is that this research could help other descendants of this community apply for membership into these organizations, because I think again, there’s a false assumption about African Americans in history in general. These organizations can have Black members; we fit the criteria.

**Why is it important that people know this kind of information? In other words, why is it important to you to rectify cases where people aren’t aware of the contributions of this community?**

Because it goes to the very heart of who’s American. There’s this whole thing when it comes to race, as if somehow we’re not part of this country’s origin, or current state, and the contributions that we’ve done to create the current version of America.

So I see these types of stories, and I see them in my own family tree, it’s like, “Oh, I’m clearly American. I mean, I’m

definitely of African origin, but my family’s been here before America was America and during and after it became America, so what else could I be?” In the civil rights era, during the protest movement, signs would say, “Go back to Africa,” as if we weren’t already here. It’s such a funny thing to think, well, what does it mean to be American? Does it mean to only be white? Well actually, the fabric has been diverse from its inception.

I see these stories, especially in history from years ago. We learn about George Washington or Thomas Jefferson, but maybe we should learn more about Benjamin Banneker, who was the first person to actually die in the war conflict, and he was a Black man. And then understanding that everyone has a piece of this history. It’s not just for certain people that can lay claim to our founding fathers or to what occurred 200-plus years ago.

What I’ll add on to that about the organization is that SAR has been super welcoming to me. I actually spoke at the California officers meeting out here in Anaheim about a week ago. I actually sit on the board for Los Angeles; I’m the secretary on the executive board.

I haven’t felt as if somehow I wasn’t wanted — I just think that for these organizations, the level of proof you have to show is sometimes hard to demonstrate if you’re a Black person, and the documentation may not be all that sound, or may not be there. You know, old family stories don’t count, you have to have an actual written record to demonstrate your connection to that period of time to join these types of organizations — that’s very easy for the white population. For African Americans, one, I think it’s only about 25% of Black people descend

from those that weren’t slaves, so the vast majority of most African Americans’ trees are going to be that of enslaved people, which means you cannot go back before 1865 and the Civil War — that’s where your tree will end. For that other percentage, I think if you can demonstrate your connection to that period of history, then you should join these organizations and change the narrative.

**What do you hope participants get out of attending?**

They learn something about the area that they did not know. History is history because people write about it, but if you don’t write about it and you don’t remember it, how can it be actual history? So for me, it’s important to share this history, the documentation to say, “Hey, this is what Chatham County did during that time period. This is what the African American community contributed to the nation’s inception, and let’s not forget that.” Let’s not forget about the people in our own community. Let’s not forget about the people who are literally the families that are still living down the street from each other.

One goal is just education and making sure people remember this; the second one is, I would like to do a historical marker. I think this comes to that level where I think this county should lay claim to 30 individuals who fought in the war effort that were people of color. So those are my goals: one is education, a historical marker in Chatham somewhere near Siler City, and then to increase the roles of members of this community within SAR and DAR.

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Finally living life to the fullest

It started out as small, almost insignificant worries — did I remember to turn off the light? Did I remember to pack my laptop for school?

Soon those niggling, nagging worries turned into crippling fears: What if I get killed and never come home? What if my loved ones get hurt or die in some freak accident? What if I lose everything I know and love?

I live with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) and major depressive disorder (commonly known as depression) and have for as long as I can remember. But I didn't know how significant its long-term impact on me was until recently.

For one, I had an amazing childhood — no traumatic events occurred that would have contributed to my anxiety and depression. I have amazing parents, siblings and friends who always supported and continue to support my dreams and pursuits.

I do remember, however,

often stressing about small things, mostly in regard to my school work. I would become nauseous on the morning of important tests when I was very young; the first incident I remember this happening was for standardized testing I had in 3rd grade. When I would not perform as well on tests as I would hope, the nauseous feeling would return, and I would cry for hours.

The anxious feelings would continue through my academic career, from elementary school up until I graduated with my degree from UNC-Chapel Hill.

My family has a history of various anxiety and depressive disorders, which should have been a warning sign for me as I started to show the same symptoms as some family members. But still I thought what I was experiencing was “normal” and I continued on with my life without fully seeking treatment.

As I started my journalism career after college, the episodes only worsened. New stressors presented new triggers — would I have enough money for food? What if I'm not cut out for this work? How will I pay for my car, cell phone, rent, Wi-Fi and other utilities?

While those concerns are normal for adults, the stress began to consume my life and turned into paranoia. I stopped taking care of myself by skipping meals or overeating, canceling plans with friends and family and, ultimately, shutting myself off from those closest to me. I was afraid to step foot outside of my apartment due to the paralyzing fear of what lurked beyond my front door.

Truthfully, every day was hell. I couldn't do anything without a paralyzing fear consuming me, causing me to come up with fictional scenarios that sent me spiraling into a dark mental place. Some days, I wished I would disappear — or do something worse — just to make the anxious worries and tortuous thoughts stop.

I lived in this paranoia-filled world for over a year when I got a call about a job opening at the News + Record. My life was starting to take a turn for the better, but the paranoid thoughts continued to consume me and even became worse. Ultimately, this affected my ability to perform well at work.

As I started to feel the quality of my work and my relationships suffer, I felt as if I had no

purpose and there was not a point in trying anymore. In my mind, I had become my worst fear — a complete failure.

That was my wakeup call: I could no longer let my paranoia and anxiety control my life and make me feel worthless. I was ready to take control of my life once and for all.

I made an appointment with a new doctor to talk about my concerns and to take the official tests to see if I had an anxiety or depression disorder.

Turns out, I had both GAD and depression.

I scored the highest score possible on the anxiety test, as well as scoring fairly high on the depression questionnaire. My doctor prescribed me a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, more commonly known as an SSRI, which works by slowly increasing the levels of serotonin in the brain. He also shared with me his own experience managing his anxiety and depression disorder, which made me feel more comfortable sharing my own experiences to make sure I received the best treatment going forward.

It has been over a month since I started the medicine my doctor gave me. Honestly,

I never knew how exciting life could be until I started to see the medicine's effects.

I no longer want to blockade myself in my apartment — I want to explore all of the wonderful places around me and try new things. I have found myself waking up, excited to start work for the day. I started trying new styles of clothes, trying to make new friends and better the relationships I have. I also have noticed an improvement in the quality of my work, and in general, the return of purpose and motivation to my life.

I spent years denying myself of this life because of the stigmas surrounding mental health, and admitting to myself — let alone other people — that I was struggling seemed unimaginable for a long time.

I want to encourage those who may be where I once was to speak up for themselves. It was the best decision I have ever made, and I understand how hard it is to share experiences of anxiety and depression. But life is too short to live in fear, and now I can live my life to the fullest.

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

## Noticing small wonders

Famous children's book author Margaret Wise Brown once remarked wryly to a former professor: “When you talk to a child, he may not be listening to you at all. He will just be feeling the fur collar of your coat.”

Yes, the author of “Goodnight Moon” and other children's classics featuring cute little animals did wear a lot of fur.

More importantly, her simple observation also conveyed Brown's guiding mantra known as “here and now.”

She believed that children focus upon objects that appeal to their senses in the moment. This laser-like fixation can be maddening when you are late for an appointment, and you've already told your child to put on his shoes three — no, four times! But noticing the here and now can also be holy.

Melissa A. Butler is a teacher, writer and consultant whose work revolves around “the art of noticing” what is before us. According to Butler, this noticing approach “honors the wisdom and immensity of small things.” I have learned this paradox of the immensity of small things from my children who, like many kids, are resident experts of the here and now.

The other day, in my parents' basement, my son and daughter, ages 6 and 4, played for 30 minutes with a single red balloon. They began by batting it in the air, trying to keep it from hitting the ground and shrieking with laughter when it did.

Tiring of this game, my daughter suggested that they name their balloon. After a brief yet intense caucus, they agreed upon Cherry. My son declared that Cherry was freezing, which meant that it needed to be nestled in a bed of old blankets. A few minutes later, Cherry was ready to get up, and they all tromped to the other side of the room where they were promptly ambushed by imaginary monsters! My kids defended Cherry with karate chops and flying kicks; the balloon suffered no collateral damage in the melee.

Not every day affords the leisure of a trip to my parents' home, but Butler advises adults to make time to “wonder” (in both senses of the word) about small objects with their imaginations: “Let yourself play, notice what happens.” Through noticing with patient, holy attention, we can make sense of the huge, often overwhelming world. We narrow our focus to what we can hold in our hands and wrap our arms around. As poet William Blake put it, “Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand.”

Before my children dashed upstairs for lunch, they handed over Cherry to my safekeeping. As I held the balloon, I remembered when my kids were not much bigger and how I cradled them when they were red-faced from crying. “There, there,” I'd soothe them. “You are safe. You are loved.”

This memory was a small thing. But the wonder of it was that I realized how badly I need to hear those same assurances: You are safe. You are loved. Cradling Cherry, I suddenly felt lighter. Then, I hustled upstairs after my little loved ones.

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.”



## Price of gas, fuel driving us crazy

It was a really nice thing for the dinosaurs of years ago to give up living so they could turn into crude oil and eventually become gasoline.

Apparently, however, there weren't enough of them doing that since supply seems to be in short supply, at least based on the price at the pump.

That's what my one course in high school economics and the semester I was exposed to “Economics for Dummies” in college tell me. The great truth I remember from those classes was the idea that a short supply of a product increases demand and that, in turn, increases the price to be paid for the product — whether it's gas, pencil sharpeners, or cheeseburgers.

Given the rapidly rising cost of gasoline and diesel fuel, that must be what's happening. I certainly can't imagine anything so dastardly as price fixing or gouging or taking advantage of the public. And it certainly can't have anything to do with political posturing or manipulation. No, not at all. It must really be what our big brothers in Washington tell us and that they're doing all they can and then everything else to take care of us. We must really be looking at a worldwide shortage of petroleum products and it's showing up at the pump.

The other day my truck was sucking fumes. It was time to pull up to the pump. By the time it was all over, I had squirted enough fuel into the tank to balance the Montana state budget or at least build a new aircraft carrier.

My feeble brain tells me the real problem here isn't the supply of fuel or gas or oil but a much more sinister issue — greed. And since that's not likely to change anytime within the next millennium, if we

make it that far, I've begun working on changing some habits.

First and foremost is generally just cutting out some driving. I remember Sunday afternoons as a little guy when my folks would load up the family trickster after church and dinner and off we'd go to visit Great Aunt Modine in Whoever-ville and stay out until the cows came home. Later after obtaining the greatest document in the free world — a driver's license — my running buddies and I would spend those Sunday afternoons riding here and there and then going back again.

Now we don't do that. We spend Sunday afternoons resting our eyes or watching the grass grow. And more folk are driving without benefit of a license — or auto insurance. I once heard a driver's license examiner say numerous folks drive to the test center, fail the test and then just drive away.

The situation has also helped me learn to combine trips. Now instead of one trip to the grocery and one to the pharmacy and one to the barber shop and one to this store and one to that store, I try to get my hair cut on the way to pick up the nerve medicine as we move toward the grocery to replenish the milk and bread supply just before the next winter blizzard. The only problem with waiting two weeks between haircuts means sometimes the bread runs out and the milk goes away.

I've also taken to coasting a lot. That's not a really a good idea on U.S. Hwy. 64, but there are still many rural paved roads here and there with hills and dips just made for snow sledding and truck coasting. I've found a couple where you can go a mile or two and maintain the speed limit without ever touching the accelerator.

Along with the coasting is a related opportunity — not driving so fast. I've about given up doing

much more than 50 mph or so. And sometimes out on the back roads — and there are still lots of them — I tool along at 40 or 45. That beats the likelihood of a speeding ticket and the resulting insurance increases. Plus you can see lots more of the countryside that way.

All this has to be taken with a grain of salt, of course. In some places if you don't get over 45 or 50, you'll get run over, so I try not to be an obstacle. And folks don't like you coasting if they're trying to get from Point A to Point B before the end of the day.

There are other options available, of course. If we lived in town, I'd walk or use a bike (maybe), but we don't and I'm not. There's nothing really good about putting a foot-powered two-wheeler out in front of a chicken truck or a pulpwood hauler, although many folks don't believe this.

So what does all this newfound desire to keep MegaFuel from wrecking the ol' family budget actually accomplish?

I don't know. Haven't put a pencil to it. But I do know it makes me feel better. And I'm dense enough to believe if we can ever curb our gas appetite to the point the big boys are swimming in it or drinking it, we might see the cost go down. An added bonus would be if the Great Father(s) in DC would actually do something for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Average American and not use life events — like the value of a dollar — as a political pawn.

Worth a try.

Bob Wachs is a native of Chatham County and retired long-time managing editor of the Chatham News/Chatham Record, having written a weekly column for more than 30 years. During most of his time with the newspapers, he was also a bi-vocational pastor and today serves Bear Creek Baptist Church for the second time as pastor.

# VIEWPOINTS

## Political labels can be artificial

In this era of increasing partisan polarization, the “middle” is shrinking before our eyes. This is a familiar claim, and it’s not entirely without foundation. In a new Gallup poll, for example, 36% of respondents identified themselves as moderates. Back in 1992, 43% of Americans told Gallup they were moderates. Still, when you graph those poll results over the entire 30-year period, the result bears little resemblance to the cliff that today’s media chatter might lead you to expect. The line slopes gently downward. And here’s another trend that might surprise you. The share of Americans identifying themselves as conservative has changed little. It was 36% three



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

decades ago and is 36% today. It’s the liberal label that has become more popular, rising from 17% in 1992 to 25% today. Although it may seem straightforward to measure ideology by asking poll respondents them to label themselves, I’ve long had doubts about this practice. The words “conservative,” “liberal,” and “moderate” have no fixed and universally accepted meanings. They mean different things to different people. Indeed, by requiring that respondents choose only one of the responses, pollsters force artificial distinctions on people who may not think in rigidly categorical terms. Someone might consider herself conservative because she’s frugal with money and goes to church every Sunday while also considering herself moderate (“I’m a reasonable person, not an extremist”) and liberal (“I’m open-minded and try to see the good in everyone I meet”). When analyzing political

behavior, then, or teaching one of my classes, I tend to rely on polls that asked more pointed questions or delve into specific issues. Fortunately, Gallup supplements its self-identification test with many such questions. Consider this question, asked since the early 1990s: “Some people think government is trying to do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses. Others think that government ought to do more to solve our country’s problems. Which comes closer to your view?” Unlike the results of the self-identification test, the answers to this question about government activism have gyrated quite a lot over the years. Most of the time, the former position (the more conservative one) is significantly more popular than the “government ought to do more” position. During much of the 1990s and 2010s, for example, about 60% picked the right-leaning position while only 32% picked the

left-leaning one. During recessions, wars, or other crises, however, the lines converged or even crossed. Just after the 9/11 attacks, 50% of Americans wanted government to be more active vs. 41% who said it was doing too much. The gap was even larger in 2020 as the COVID crisis hit (54% to 41%), though it flipped back to a conservative edge (52% to 43%) in 2021. You see something like the same pattern for this Gallup question, which is even more specific: “In general, do you think there is too much, too little, or the right amount of government regulation of business and industry?” During most of the last three decades, a plurality of respondents said there was too much regulation. The only exceptions were in the first year of the financial crisis and the first year of the COVID crisis, when “too much” and “the right amount” were roughly tied. Care to guess the year when

business regulation was the least popular? The answer may surprise you. It was 2011, the year before Barack Obama was reelected president, when 50% of Americans said there was too much regulation, 24% said there was too little, and 23% said it was just right. There have been some sizable shifts in public opinion since the early 1990s, but they don’t have much to do with fiscal or economic policy. Today’s voters are far more accepting of same-sex marriage than they were then, for instance. Taken as a whole, though, poll results suggest the extremes aren’t really growing rapidly at the expense of a truly vanishing middle. Polarization isn’t the same thing as radicalization.

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

## They just want your money

Have you heard from President Trump today? Or is your email box filled with messages from prominent Democrats?



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

“Friend, please don’t be the reason Trump’s social site fails. If you are reading this and haven’t given up on President Trump and the fight against Big Tech, don’t ignore this message! Please hurry and add your name NOW — we only have 15 minutes left to reach our goal! However, if you continue to ignore our messages and refuse to add your name, all of our efforts will be for nothing and Big Tech will WIN! Friend, please don’t be the reason Trump’s social site fails. If you are reading this and haven’t given up on President Trump and the fight against Big Tech, don’t ignore this message!”

After urging the reader to make a commitment to “join” the new social media site, the real purpose of the solicitation begins. “A Personal Note For You: “Friend, we want to say thanks for being one of our Top Trump Patriots. As the radical Left ramps up their efforts to destroy President Trump’s legacy and America First Agenda, your help means more than ever. “The cold, hard fact is this: the Democrats’ dangerous agenda is growing in strength and numbers every day. Senate Republicans are the BEST check that we have on the left’s growing power, but it’s not enough. “We need a Senate Republican Majority back at the helm to save President Trump’s legacy and get our country back on track. As one of our Top Trump Patriots, we hope we can count on your support.”

There is a button to click to make a donation, but not to Trump or his new social media site. In small print, the prospective donor can read that the money will go to “Blackburn Tennessee Victory Fund,” all for U.S. Senator Marcia Blackburn, all for her reelection campaign. Unless, of course, Trump somehow gets a cut for each donation. So, there you are. If you are getting this kind of message, read carefully before you give. If you are not getting such messages, be thankful.

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

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

## Legalizing marijuana is a step to be taken carefully

**TO THE EDITOR:**

Thank you for the informative article (“Pittsboro hemp dispensary owner has reservations about medical marijuana bill”) in the February 3-9 News + Record concerning hemp and the N. C. Compassionate Care Act, which among other things would make the use of marijuana as medicine legal in North Carolina. While there is mounting evidence that marijuana is effective in treating some physical conditions, the step toward legalization should be taken deliberately, as with any other prescription medication proposed for general use.

Chatham Drug Free, Chatham County’s alcohol, tobacco and other drugs prevention coalition, and its predecessor, Chatham Community for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth, have worked for the past 17 years teaching Chatham County youth and their parents about the dangers of both legal and illicit drugs. Recently, the Coalition’s efforts have been dedicated to problems associated with prescription medication and especially opioids, many of which are legally prescribed medications but have caused much physical, mental and emotional pain in our community.

There is clear evidence across multiple studies that a youth’s perception as to the harmfulness of a drug directly affects that youth’s intention to use and eventually use that drug. Simply put, if a youth doesn’t think the drug is harmful, he/she/they are more likely to use that drug.

If the N. C. Compassionate Care Act was to pass, it is our hope that it include strict prescribing guidelines and a robust educational component targeting youth, reinforcing the messaging that, like all prescription medications, being legal does not mean it’s safe.

**George Greger-Holt**  
Pittsboro

*The writer is the coordinator of Chatham Drug Free ([www.chathamdrugfree.org](http://www.chathamdrugfree.org)).*

## No longer excited about that \$2 million donation

**TO THE EDITOR:**

Wow! Central Carolina Community College was given a \$2 million donation that will help

## LETTERS

expand educational opportunities at this institution from an alumnus, E. Eugene Moore.

What could be better? So how did Mr. Moore acquire such an fortune that allows him to make this generous donation?

He is the chief executive officer of Bear Creek Arsenal, an international company that sells gun parts to all 50 states and abroad. Somehow learning this has diminished my excitement of this donation. Mr. Moore is part of an industry that puts guns into hands of people in our already overarmed population.

Need parts for the AR-15? This is the place to go!

**Adele Kelly**  
Pittsboro

## How about pulling together for fair representation?

**TO THE EDITOR:**

We draft these comments after church this past Sunday morning, having heard a powerful message focused on God’s grace and the importance of ending division.

We firmly believe in fairness, unity and the basic tenets of democracy. We were thus elated to hear the N.C. Supreme Court’s call for redrawing of proposed legislative and congressional districts which would have further divided us and jeopardized such cornerstones of democracy as equality, citizenship and voting rights.

It was disappointing, though, that the court’s decision was not unanimous.

Rather than focusing on how to get more justices elected to allow gerrymandered districts, we are praying for reasoned citizens to demand an end to such efforts that discriminate and spur division.

In 2022, let’s pull together and create a nonpartisan path forward in North Carolina that can serve as a model for the nation in offering fair representation. Let’s defend democratic values for today and future generations.

**Dawn and Dennis Streets**  
Pittsboro

## Truly saddened by the turmoil. What have we unleashed?

**TO THE EDITOR:**

The other day, out with my wife in our car, I came to a “T”

intersection in our rural area and stopped. As I scanned both directions, the right was clear and to the left an SUV was approaching, quite a distance away. We turned right and drove for a bit; eventually the aforementioned vehicle came up from behind with flashing lights and beeping horn. By now my speed was approaching 50 in a 55 mph zone. Quite acceptable considering ever present deer. What to do!

The big SUV’s chrome bumper was no more than two feet away; I was unsure of its intent. Was the driver enraged that I had the gall to be in front of him on a country road? Was he trying to see the decal on my window to determine what branch of military service I had been in? Or did he need to get to a bathroom forthwith?

Given the tenor of the overall behavior of the world environment, I decided to put on my blinker, pull off onto the shoulder and let him pass unimpeded by my presence on HIS road. He pulled around us in the no-passing zone blaring his horn all the way. No, I did not give him the one-finger salute!

Not long ago, to see another person on our backcountry roads would be cause for recognition with a friendly wave of the hand. I wish I could report that this was an isolated incident, but it no longer is. The world seems on a hair trigger! I’m pretty good at not overreacting or being pulled into interactions with people with whom I know nothing about, but on occasion I, too, fail at civil discourse. My body and soul are weary. COVID, politics and politicians, limited store inventory, high prices, and bad news seemingly every day are exhausting.

I’m quieter now than ever; unable to understand the world I live in. I’m a person of logic, facts, science and sensibility. Those attributes no longer seem to be the coin of the realm. My thoughts are not in the majority because there is none in an evenly split country. To look at history and project a calm outcome to our current state does not seem realistic. What have we done? What have we unleashed? I seek answers but have found few.

Saddened by the turmoil, I wish you peace.

**Jim Vanderbeck**  
Pittsboro

## 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](mailto:bhorner3@chathamnr.com); or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

## Chatham News + Record

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

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# PROPERTY

Continued from page A1

owners felt the county's valuation was too low.

In light of all that, here's the skinny on the 2021 revaluation and what's next for Chatham property owners.

## Revaluation? What revaluation?

North Carolina law requires all counties to re-appraise all real property within the county at least once every eight years. Chatham County is on a four-year reappraisal cycle, as are most larger counties in the state. Re-appraisals distribute the overall property tax burden equitably across the county based on updated fair market values.

Chatham's commissioners used the new market values, based on a Jan. 1, 2021, "snapshot," to set a county-only tax rate of \$.67 per \$100 valuation, which was then used to calculate the tax bills mailed out to property owners each summer.

## Who did the revaluation, and how?

Every residential, commercial, agricultural and industrial parcel, and every other privately owned piece of land, was visited by one of the staff of appraisers from Vincent Valuations, a contractor hired by Chatham County to perform the revaluation.

In most cases, measurements were taken and any improvements — from an added structure such as a home or outbuilding to a concrete pad or new deck — were noted.

Data entry was input into the company's computer system, and then recent sales of properties in Chatham were analyzed and valuation models and schedules were built for the appraisals to make sure valuations reflected the current market value.

All appraisals were checked again before finalized; notices with new valuations were mailed March 26, 2021, to each Chatham parcel owner.

## "Market value" — what does that mean?

Market value is the most probable price a property would bring in an open and competitive market, based on the home or property and sales of comparable properties.

## I rent; I don't own a home or any land in Chatham County.

Then for you, the revaluation is largely a non-event — although it's always good to know your county's property rate.

## What were the results of the revaluation?

Three-fourths (75.2%) of the nearly 46,000 Chatham properties assessed in the county's state-mandated reappraisal process saw valuations increase, while 24.8% saw values go down.

Some changes were negligible — a few hundred dollars up or down — while others, particularly homes in neighborhoods with new construction and many sales, saw significant jumps in assessed value.

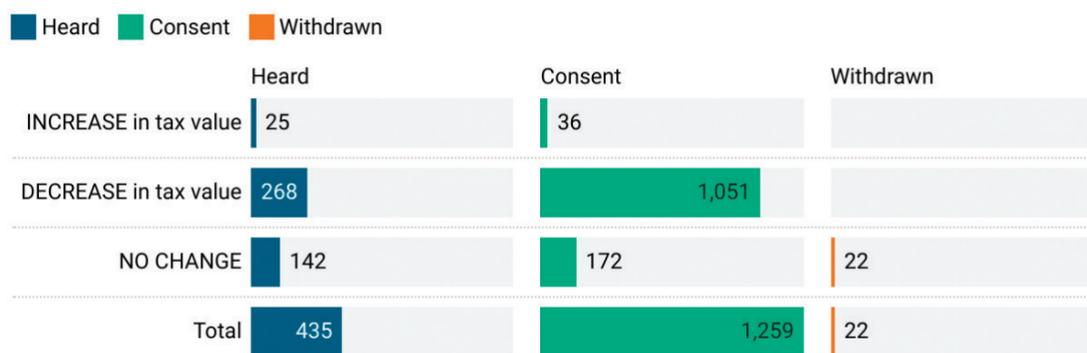
The totals: Chatham's 2021's assessed value was \$13,163,036,786.

## Why did numbers go up so much?

That can be tied to, in part, the high demand of people wanting to live in Chatham, with its proximity to economic centers in Greensboro, Durham, Raleigh and Chapel Hill — and new development built within Chatham in

# RESULTS: Chatham County Revaluation Hearings

A total of 1,716 appeal hearings, based on the results of Chatham's 2021 property revaluations, were initiated by county property owners. Here are the results:



**HEARD:** The county's Board of Equalization and Review heard a total of 435 appeals. Of those, 61.6% resulted in a lower property value. **CONSENT:** Agreement on value reached with taxpayer by county staff prior to the case being heard by Chatham's Board of Equalization and Review. An agreement on value 1,259 of the 1,716 hearings initiated ended in a "consent" agreement.

Chart: CN+R graphic by Bill Horner III • Source: Chatham County Tax Office • Created with Datawrapper

## Post-hearing changes in valuation

Net change in valuation, in dollars, of Chatham County properties where revaluations were appealed in 2021.

	Net change in valuation	% change
HEARD (435 appeals to Board of Equalization and Review)	-\$20,306,914	-10.3%
CONSENT (1,259 appeals settled in tax office)	-\$117,951,450	-19.0%

Table: CN+R graphic by Bill Horner III • Source: Chatham County Tax Office • Created with Datawrapper

the past two years. As demand increased, so did prices.

Then there's the general trend: according to the National Association of Realtors, the average price of an existing home in the U.S. jumped from about \$275,000 at the end of 2019 to \$358,000 in December — a 30% increase.

## How did Chatham's reappraisal numbers compare to other counties?

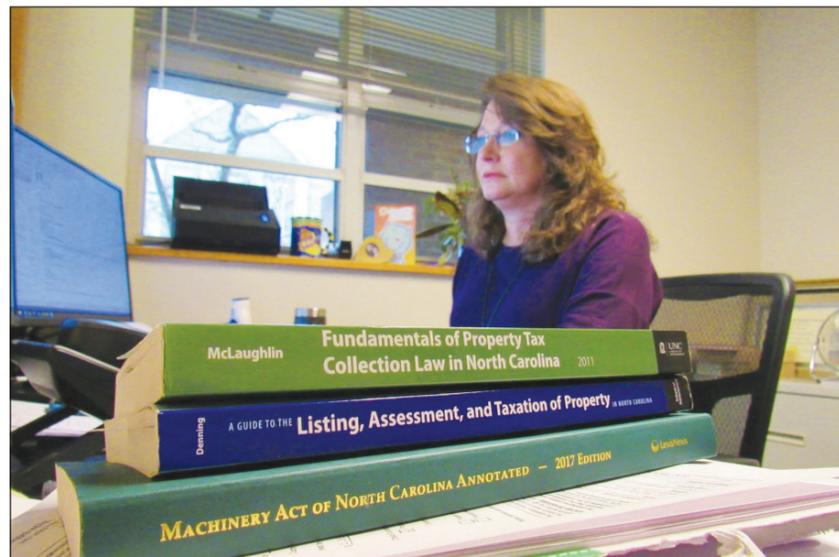
By comparison, other N.C. counties' 2021 reappraisal increases ranged from lows of around 8% (Surry, Davie counties) to similar to Chatham's (Stanly and Orange at 16%, Buncombe at 18% and Jackson at 18.07%) to the high in Union County, adjacent to Charlotte, which saw a total valuation increase of 36% — all before appeals and hearings, of course.

## So what about these hearings?

The county mailed notices to property owners with the new valuation of their homes or parcels last March 26. County commissioners appoint a group — called the Board of Equalization and Review — to hear appeals from property owners who felt the new assessment valuations were too high or, in rare cases, too low.

The board's purpose is simple: hear and review property owners' appeals about the valuation of their real estate and personal property and sift through owner-provided evidence — then determine whether the valuation was on the mark. Members of the board of E&R are Lillian Alston, Herbert Gaines, Peter Hewitt, Sandra Nettles and Bibi Haddad; alternates are Leonard Kreisman, Dave McKay and William Euker.

Staff at the county's tax office provide a first-level "appeal," examining evidence presented by a property owner. Unless there's a "consent" or agreement about the value — in those cases where the county's tax office agreed with the property owner that the value should be reduced, for example — the appeal goes to the board of equalization and review, which is tasked with applying state laws in a consistent, uniform and non-discriminatory man-



CN+R file photo

## Chatham County Tax Administrator Jenny Williams.

ner so that all property owners receive a fair and impartial hearing and an accurate assessed value.

## Did Chatham have a lot of appeal hearings?

Not really. During the revaluation, Ryan Vincent, who headed up the revaluation, told the News + Record he advised Chatham officials to anticipate a "10-10-10" reaction to a reappraisal — with 10% of parcel owners (in Chatham's case, about 4,600 of the nearly 46,000 parcels appraised) appealing initially on at least an informal basis. About 10% of those — which in Chatham's case would be 460, or 10% of the 4,600 expected informal or inquiries — would go the county's board of equalization and review.

The actual numbers: 1,716 (less than half of Vincent's expectation) parcels had appeals initiated, and the board of E&R actually heard 435 appeals — very close to Vincent's projection of 460.

## I meant to appeal but didn't. What can I do now?

You have until April 25th to appeal your valuation for 2022. It won't impact your 2021 tax bill, which was due Jan. 5, but it can help you out with your 2022 tax bill.

## I saw on Facebook that a lot of property owners were upset about the revaluation.

What you may have seen was the Facebook page called "Chatham County Real Estate and 2021 Tax Assessment." It was created by Katie

Hicks, a Siler City real estate agent who works for eXp Realty of the Triangle Region, which has offices in Raleigh and Greensboro.

Hicks, who has been a real estate professional since 2002 and has also worked in banking, set up the page to help Chatham residents understand the revaluation process and how best to appeal revaluations. The page has 98 members; she told the News + Record she helped about 20 residents by doing a market analysis on their homes as they considered making appeals.

She says she's not necessarily upset about the valuations, but rather hopes that county's revaluation and tax rates "justify the means" — and hopes county commissioners and county leaders spend tax dollars wisely and pursue growth wisely, as well.

"Once you bring up the tax value, they never bring it down," she said.

Hicks also said it's difficult in rural areas like Chatham County to find good comparables to make an accurate valuation. Her research and documentation helped a few homeowners get reductions, she said.

Meanwhile, she remains concerned about the lack of affordable housing in Chatham and also worries about another real estate bubble; she said she sees some signs similar to those preceding the 2008 crisis, which sent home values crashing.

As for her own home? Hicks and her partner purchased a "fixer-upper" near Siler City Country Club and recently added about 900 square feet to it. In that part of the county, valuations

didn't increase so much.

"I didn't dispute my revaluation," she said. "If anything, it was too low."

Jenny Williams, Chatham's tax administrator, said she and her staff monitored the discussion on the page. She pointed out one person who posted there about the valuation of their home increasing by \$143,000 since 2020.

"Well, it's not since 2020," Williams said. "It's since the previous appraisal [in 2017], right? And I'm sure you're aware there's been a lot of sales of property since then."

## My home's tax value skyrocketed. Can I sell it for what the county tells me it's worth?

It's more complicated than that, because it depends on so many factors — not to mention your buyer. But in a seller's market — which we're in right now, and have been for a while — "market value" is a good place to start. Part of what drove up valuations in Chatham County was that so many homes have sold for far more than their prior assessed market valuation.

Property is valued based on the market value in the area, Williams points. Market value is not determined by the tax office; it is determined by the activity in the local market. "Market value is based on what potential buyers and sellers believe property is worth," she said. "Sale prices of property directly reflect the property's worth."

## I still don't understand all this.

Go to the "Tax Admin-

istration" section of the county's website ([www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/tax-administration](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/tax-administration)) to get more information.

## I think I remember getting a tax bill. When are taxes due?

Property taxes were due Sept. 1; the deadline to pay taxes was Jan. 5, so if you haven't paid yet, you're late. Interest of .2% was added on Jan. 6th; interest of .75% will be added each month the tax bill isn't paid.

At this point, Williams says about 95% of billed property taxes have been collected.

Thinking about not paying? Good luck with that. Non-payers could have tax refunds reduced by the amount of taxes owed, have wages garnished or show up in a list of property owners who haven't paid taxes that the county will publish in the News + Record sometime in between March and June.

And don't forget one other deadline that's passed: county property listings were due Jan. 31; if you received a listing query from the county and haven't returned it, it's now late.

## I'm curious about recent property sales. How can I check out property sales data?

The Chatham County Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department has launched the Comparable Sales application, an interactive mapping application which can be used to explore recent property sales data within Chatham County. Residents may enhance understanding of their property's tax appraisal value by examining sales of properties similar to their own. Go to <https://gisservices.chatham-countync.gov/property-sales>.

## Are there any tax relief programs available?

Williams, in the county's tax office, actively encourages taxpayers who are elderly or disabled and qualify to apply for exclusions. This program excludes from property taxes, the greater of \$25,000 or 50% of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner.

To be eligible for this exclusion, you must be a permanent resident of Chatham County, age 65 or older, with an income not exceeding \$31,900 or a permanent resident of Chatham County, totally and permanently disabled, with an income not exceeding \$31,900. The disabled veteran exclusion program excludes the first \$45,000 of the appraised value of a permanent residence owned and occupied by a Chatham County resident, who is either an honorably discharged disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of an honorably discharged veteran who has not remarried. Form NCDVA-9 must be completed by the N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs. The completed NCDVA-9 form and application must be filed at the Tax Office by June 1.

Residents may go to [www.chathamcountync.gov/taxrelief](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/taxrelief) and click on the property tax assistance evaluator to check qualifications for a tax relief program.

## More questions?

Questions about the reappraisal process may be directed to the tax office at 919-542-8211 or [tax.revaluation@chatham-countync.gov](mailto:tax.revaluation@chatham-countync.gov).

# N.C. political maps ruled unconstitutional. What's next?

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Rev. Albert Reddick was the first person to file on Dec. 6, before filing was halted and the primary delayed to May 17. A former Siler City mayor candidate, he's filing for the Dist. 4 commissioner seat.**

court that initially heard the case and let the maps stand will have until Feb. 23 to make a decision regarding the redrawn maps.

On Monday, N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore told reporters at the N&O and WRAL that Republicans do plan to draw new maps, possibly even this week — this after Democratic lawmakers said earlier on Monday they hadn't heard anything from Republicans regarding a schedule for redrawing them. At the same time, Republicans are still considering appealing their loss to the U.S. Supreme Court.

N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein, a Democrat who filed a legal brief in the case arguing that the maps were unconstitutional, announced the supreme court's ruling on Friday.

"Under our constitution, political power must be 'vested in and derived from the people' (and) our government must be 'founded upon their will only,'" Stein wrote on Twitter. "Our elected leaders flout that principle when they seek to perpetuate their power irrespective of the will of the voters."

Under the current timeline for a May 17 primary, candidate filing and rescheduled municipal elections will resume at 8 a.m. on Feb. 24 and end at noon March 4. That means filing could begin the day after new maps are approved, which could complicate things if either party appeals the trial court's decision.

The state Supreme Court already moved the primary once, from March 8 to May 17, due to the pending gerrymandering suits. Republican lawmakers passed a bill

on Jan. 19 that would have again pushed the primary back — this time to June 7. Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed that bill on Jan. 28, saying the decision should be left up to the court.

"This bill is an additional attempt by Republican legislators to control the election timeline and undermine the voting process," Cooper said in a release at the time. "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."

Sen. Natalie Murdock — Chatham's Democratic incumbent representative in 2022 under the now-overturned maps — wrote ahead of the trial that "we should expect the map drawers to at least strive to draw district maps that reflect the nature of who North Carolina is today," even if the state constitution permits partisan advantage in redistricting.

"If you were to gauge North Carolina's changing demographics over the past decade based on Republican congressional and legislative maps, you'd think that our state has grown significantly whiter, older, and more rural since 2010," she wrote in a Jan. 27 Medium piece for N.C. Senate Democrats. "The Republican-drawn maps reflect the North Carolina that the GOP wants to see, not North Carolina as it truly is. Republicans want to gerrymander away our state's growth and our identity. We can't let them do that."

Sen. Valerie Foushee, who has represented Chatham and Orange

## THE VOTING DISTRICTS CONTROVERSY

# A historic win against gerrymandering — but the fight continues

BY BOB PHILLIPS  
Common Cause NC

## ANALYSIS

This past week, the people of North Carolina won a historic victory in the decades-long fight against gerrymandering.

The N.C. Supreme Court on Friday issued a landmark decision in our case that sets a clear precedent moving forward. For the first time ever, the court's majority ruled that partisan gerrymandering violates North Carolina's Constitution. The justices struck down gerrymandered congressional and legislative districts and ordered new maps drawn.

The decision is an especially powerful win for North Carolina's Black voters, who were most hurt by the legislature's extreme partisan gerrymandering. And it's a win for everyone who believes in a healthy democracy.

Some background: every 10 years, North Carolina's congressional and legislative voting districts are redrawn to account for population changes shown in the latest U.S. census. That's called redistricting.

But when politicians abuse redistricting and manipulate our voting maps to unfairly cling to their power, that's gerrymandering. When politicians gerrymander, we the people are deprived of our freedom to choose who represents us.

This past fall, the Republican-controlled legislature engaged in a deeply flawed redistricting process that sorely lacked transparency and ignored public input. GOP legislators

brazenly defied legal requirements designed to protect voting rights for Black North Carolinians.

In the end, the Republican legislative majority pushed through extreme gerrymanders that would have caused profound and lasting harm to the people of our state, especially hurting Black communities.

We couldn't allow our state to suffer for yet another decade under illegal districts. And so we challenged those extreme gerrymanders in court.

The N.C. Supreme Court found that the gerrymandered districts "are unconstitutional beyond a reasonable doubt." With its ruling, the high court made it absolutely clear that partisan gerrymandering is unlawful in North Carolina.

This momentous ruling is reason to celebrate. But the fight for fair maps is not over.

Now we must ensure that new districts are drawn free from racist or partisan gerrymandering, with complete transparency and robust public input, keeping communities together and protecting the right of all North Carolinians to have a voice in choosing their representatives.

The N.C. Supreme Court has given the legislature until Feb. 18 to draw new maps that meet constitutional standards. We will continue to be vigilant in every step of the map-drawing process.

Beyond this historic court ruling and the upcoming redraw, we

have more work yet to do. Ultimately, our state needs to enact lasting redistricting reform.

For far too long, gerrymandering has afflicted North Carolina, with both major parties guilty of it throughout the years. And for decades, we at Common Cause NC have advocated for an end to the practice.

We've worked with Republicans and Democrats to put forward legislation that would take redistricting power out of the hands of politicians and entrust it with an impartial citizens commission to draw voting maps free from gerrymandering.

As a matter of fact, today's top Republican leaders in the legislature — N.C. House Speaker Tim Moore and N.C. Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger — both supported the creation of a citizens redistricting commission when their party was in the minority 12 years ago. We invite Speaker Moore and Sen. Berger to return to the cause of fair redistricting.

Last week's state Supreme Court ruling is a crucial gamechanger in our fight for fair maps. Now, we must make sure we have new districts that are free from illegal gerrymandering. And we need to enact lasting redistricting reform that puts North Carolina's people above party politics.

*Bob Phillips is executive director of Common Cause NC, a nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to upholding the core values of American democracy.*

counties for eight years, joined her Democratic colleagues in praising the court's decision. Foushee, who would no longer serve Chatham if reelected under the now struck-down maps, announced in November that she is running to represent the Triangle in the 6th

Congressional District of the U.S. House.

"This is great news for Democracy!" Foushee said on Twitter on Friday. "Once again, the courts have sided with voters and with our Constitution."

In Chatham, Board of Elections Director Pandora Paschal previously

told the News + Record, "We are moving forward with planning to conduct the Primary Election(s) as scheduled on May 17, 2022, until we hear otherwise."

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Council on Aging partners with Brown University in research study

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Council on Aging has been

selected as one of six Meals on Wheels programs in the country to partner with Brown University on a research study concerning social connection and loneliness.

The Council was

selected for the study in part due to its response to the COVID-19 pandemic upon closing its two centers to in-person activities on March 16, 2020. Staff members quickly mobilized to provide virtual activ-

ities, including exercise and educational programming via the Zoom platform. Weekly conference calls with Council staff enabled clients to keep abreast of the latest happenings, while the "friendly

caller" program allowed isolated seniors to hear a comforting voice on the other end of the phone during the early days of the pandemic.

"We are excited to have this opportunity to work with Meals on Wheels

and Brown University to evaluate how effective our social connection programs are, and the impact they have on our clients," COA interim director Lacey Monte said.

As part of the study, a combination of Council staff, volunteers and clients will undergo one-time interviews for their feedback.

### COA seeking Meals of Wheels drivers

The Chatham County Council on Aging is seeking regular and substitute Meals on Wheels drivers for routes in Pittsboro, Siler City, Goldston, Bennett and Bear Creek. Individuals will deliver meals on the same day each week between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., and the route takes roughly an hour.

Substitute drivers are needed for all delivery days, Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Linda Saum, Volunteer Coordinator, at 919-542-4512, ext. 226 or email linda.saum@chathamcouncilonaging.org.

— CN+R staff reports

# TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SPORTS CAMP

Central Electric awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships annually to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, or Randolph counties. A young man will be selected to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a young woman will be selected to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

To be eligible to apply, the student must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation if selected to attend.

**The deadline for all applications is March 31.**

Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to apply, or to find out more information on the scholarships.



**Central Electric**  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# GAMES

Continued from page A1

have emails, then we send them out a package," local games coordinator Liz Lahti told the News + Record, "and then we'll have some available at various places throughout the community, too."

"Early birds" who register by March 18 will pay a \$10 registration fee; after March 18, the fee rises to \$15. Registration closes on April 1.

All registrants will receive an official games t-shirt, "a nice goodie bag" and "lots of swag," said Lahti, who's also the manager of the COA's Eastern Chatham Senior Center. The games won't cap the number of participants.

"We're not going to limit anybody," Lahti said. "The more the merrier."

Put on by the county since 1996, Chatham's Senior Games & SilverArts offer more than 15 events — and four different art contests — to men and women of 11 different age groups, from age 50 onward. It's one of 53 local programs statewide overseen by North Carolina Senior Games Inc, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting wellness and health education year-round among North Carolina's senior residents.

Local Games participants who place first, second or third in most events qualify to compete in the annual Senior Games State Finals held in the fall. State Finals winners can then participate in the National Senior Games every two years, and participants who place nationally can choose to compete at the international level.

"So, it's almost kind of like the Senior Olympics," Lahti said. "We've had some swimmers in Chatham County that have moved all the way up to the international level. We have a lot that have moved on to Nationals, but International

## The games will offer these events:

- Cycling
- SilverArts
- Archery
- Track/field
- Football & softball throw
- Fun walk
- Golf
- Disc golf
- Croquet
- Swimming
- Tennis (women's and men's singles; women's and men's doubles; mixed doubles)
- Men's and women's bocce
- Horseshoes
- Bowling
- Basketball shoot
- Corn hole
- Pickleball
- Table tennis

## SilverArts categories include:

- Visual arts
- Literary arts
- Performing arts
- Heritage arts

als, you know, it's just a higher caliber ... so that's kind of cool."

Local SilverArts winners can compete in a statewide competition as well, she added, though no national competition yet exists. Chatham's games also offer disc golf, an event not found at the state level.

While the local games may qualify people for high-level competition, however, they're not just for serious athletes



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Liz Lahti, the local coordinator of the Chatham County Senior Games, right, cheers with the Chatham Charmers during the 2020 Senior Games' drive-by ceremony. This year's games will return on April 29.**

who practice all year-long. The games also welcome casual athletes and people simply interested in having some fun.

Chatham's games tend to see — and celebrate — all kinds of participants, Lahti said, among the couple hundred flocking to the events every year. At one end of the spectrum, many serious swimmers, tennis players, runners and pickleball players practice year-round with an eye for placing and competing in the state finals. On the other end, many participants just take advantage of the opportunity to pick up an old sport and meet new people.

"We had cheerleaders that maybe were cheerleaders back in the day, and they hadn't done it for a while, but it can give them an excuse to go back to, you know, their first love, to get involved. It was kind of sweet," Lahti said. "... You have other ones that are like, 'You know what? I just want to meet people, and how hard would it be to put the basketball in the hoop?'"

"Then," she added with a laugh, "we have other people who signed up just for the t-shirt."

Beyond wellness, competition and fun, she's seen participants enter and leave the games with a great sense of pride, accomplishment and challenge.

"They're so happy — this one guy sleeps in his medal," Lahti said, laughing. "... There's a gentleman who is one of our cyclists, and his whole family came out — I mean, his grandchildren, his great grandchildren — and they cheered him on and took pictures. It was just so cool because they were just really rooting for him, you know?"

The games' events take place all throughout the county — and sometimes even outside of it. In previous years, for instance, cyclists, archers and runners have competed in and with neighboring Orange County, though only against fellow Chatham participants.

Inside county lines, participants might head over to Siler City Country Club for golf, to Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill for bocce and croquet, and to the Duke Center for Living at Fearrington in Pittsboro for swimming.

"We're all over the place, you know," Lahti said, "... we try to get out in the whole community, you know, just to give more people access."

The hope this year is to offer the games in person with the usual COVID precautions — much as they did last year — and bring in more players. Last year, the games saw just over 150 participants, down from nearly 250 in pre-pandemic 2018.

"But you know, we don't know what's gonna happen with COVID," she said. "... I mean, you're kind of just hoping for the best but preparing for the worst."

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

# HOUSING

Continued from page A1

does not cost, through rent or mortgage payments, more than 30% of a person's gross annual income, including utilities and insurance.

The committee's report focused on rental units in Chatham, but more affordable for-sale housing options are needed too. The median home value in Chatham County is over \$338,000, the Tri-

angle Business Journal reported, which has risen 9.4% in the last year, according to the National Association of Realtors.

The county — as well as the town of Pittsboro — has regularly discussed affordable housing solutions at commissioners meetings in recent years. Still, the growing need for affordable units is outpacing gains made, Levy said.

Black and Hispanic households are disproportionately impacted

by the affordable housing shortage, Levy said during a presentation of the report to county commissioners last month, with Black and Hispanic people comprising about 20% of the county's population, according to Census data. The medium income for those households is 50-60% lower than that for white households, the report said.

"That continues to be an appalling figure and reflects systemic racism,"

Levy said during the January presentation. "It also shows there's a disproportionate impact on those folks when it comes to affordable housing."

The data also shows that the gap between the number of existing low-income renter households and affordable units continues to widen. There was a more than a 25% increase in low-income renter households from 2019 to 2021, but only a 13% increase in available affordable units during the same period.

There are 2,325 cost-burdened low-income renters households, the report says, many of whom still can't afford the recently planned affordable units in the county.

For example, the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners voted 4-1 in November to approve the last of Chatham Park's "additional elements" components — requiring 7.5%, or 1,650, of the planned community's 22,000 market-rate housing units — to be affordable housing. This was a large increase from Chatham Park's original proposal in 2016, when the development offered to make 1% of its residential developments affordable housing units. Of those, the News + Record previously reported, 90% of the units will be multi-family homes, such as duplexes, apartments and more, while the other 10% will be allocated for single-family homes.

Still, the agreement defines an affordable unit as one for which rent/mortgage and utilities does not exceed 30% of 80% of the annual median family income (MFI) divided by 12. The median family income for 2021 in Chatham is \$86,400, according to the county's affordable housing website. Under the Chatham Park affordable housing agreement, affordable units and utilities could then cost upwards of \$1,700 per month for a 4-person household, or \$1,200 for one person.

That 80% number is the cutoff for MFI that is considered affordable housing, Levy said, with income levels further broken down to 60-80%, 30-60% and 0-30%. (Affordable workforce housing is considered 80-120% of MFI.)

"As you go up the income scale, the problem becomes a little less, but it's definitely severe at the low end of the scale, and the 0 to 30% is the

hardest group to reach," she said. "The market isn't going to create housing that's affordable to people below, like 60% of median income, for example, without some kind of either requirement or subsidy — you can't do it. It just isn't financially possible to do it without that."

"More than what we're doing now"

Developer Tim Booras, owner of Siler City's CAM (Chatham Advanced Manufacturing) megasite, says potential tenants looking there always ask where their employees will live.

"Siler City housing inventory is not adequate for several hundred or even thousands to take up roots here," he said.

And while Booras points to housing in Chatham Park as a place that could absorb many working families, there remains a need for "affordable and moderately priced single-family homes, apartments and garden homes."

He says he's working on a concept plan for a possible Siler City project that would enable a pivot to additional affordable housing, if needed.

In the meantime, some gains for lower-income renters have been made, though renters in the 0-30% income level still have few options. One exception, Levy said, is UNC Farm at Penny Lane in Pittsboro, a project partly operated by the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health. The operation, which received its full ask of \$54,000 from the county in 2020, construct tiny homes to serve "people with mental illness and other health conditions living on a fixed income."

Most other projects focus on renters in the 60-80% income level, and then the 30-60% group.

In August, Wallick Communities Inc. was selected for tax credits to build 72 affordable units in Siler City behind UNC Hospital in Chatham Business Park. This income-restricted development, which is expected to come online in 2023, is receiving \$85,000 from the Housing Trust Fund (2020-2021 cycle) and will be built on formerly county-owned land.

The Chatham County Housing Trust Fund (HTF) was created in 2018 and since then has provided nearly \$600,000 in grants and low-in-

terest loans to projects that create and preserve affordable housing units across Chatham. The HTF helped create 162 new affordable housing units, 90 of which are now open and online. The remaining units are expected to open in 2023, the report says.

In 2021, the Emergency Housing Fund (EHF) served over 40 households, at the time the report was written, "by working with community partners, the Department of Social Services and Court programs to assist with emergency hotel stays, utility assistance, as well as eviction and foreclosure prevention."

Levy said the county is also working toward securing grants to help preserve existing affordable housing options by funding any necessary repairs, as well as developing its new unified development ordinance with the need for affordable housing in mind.

Last year, commissioners also designated a portion of income from additional sales tax to go toward affordable housing.

"They've shown their support," Levy said of the commissioners, "but you know, I think we could always use more and do more."

The development team behind a 370-acre proposed mixed-use project south of Briar Chapel talked about the need for more affordable housing last August during a presentation to county commissioners.

"On the question of affordable housing in my seven years on the board, this is the first private developer of any stripe to come forward," then-Commissioner Jim Crawford said, "and their initial card on the table will be they want to provide affordable workforce housing, period. So I take that seriously."

The county recognizes the need for affordable housing is a significant issue, Levy said, but that may not be enough.

"Over time, it's going to probably require more than what we're doing now," she said. "Just based on what I've seen, for example, in Orange County, which has a really significant affordability problem — and I think we're fast approaching that."

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

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# OBITUARIES

## JENNY LYNN PASCHAL CRANFORD



Jenny Lynn Paschal Cranford, 90, of Siler City went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, February 3, 2022, surrounded by her loved ones at her home.

Jenny was born in Chatham County, N.C., to the late Len B. and Eva Gilbert Paschal. After graduating from Bob Jones Academy in Greenville, S.C., she received her RN degree from Rex School of Nursing in Raleigh, N.C., in 1953. She married Jimmy Cranford in 1952 and had

three children; June Peck (Jonathan), Joel Cranford (Sharon), and Janet Neal (Randy). After several years of nursing at Chatham Hospital, she began helping Jimmy at Cranford Studio in Siler City with portraits, weddings and framing. She became an expert at tinting portraits with oil paints.

As a committed Christian, she was a student of the Word and for many years served as a Sunday School teacher. She was also a member of the Gideon Auxiliary and a hospice volunteer. She enjoyed crafting, singing, gardening, raising African violets, cooking and collecting recipes, and supporting overseas missionaries with finances and packages. She will be missed by her surviving family which includes her devoted husband of 69 years; sisters, Dorothy Frazier, Leona Whichard, Vivian Michael, and Irma Simons; brothers, Lewis and Barton Paschal; grandchildren, Janna Peck Lotze, Joy Peck Herrmann, Jamin Peck, Justin Neal, and Kara Neal Lynn; great-grandchildren, Anaya, Emi, and Ilan Lotze, Judah, Joshua, and Joelle Herrmann, Esther, Jaren, Elianna, Jonathan, and Jason Peck, Blake and Joanna Neal, and another on the way; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to Gideon's International Chatham County Camp, P.O. Box 895, Siler City, N.C. 27344.

The family received friends on Monday, February 7, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City, followed by a funeral service in the Smith & Buckner Chapel with Mark Beebe officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Cranford family.

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

## CHARLES JOSEPH MALY



Charles Joseph Maly, age 57, of Pittsboro, died Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at UNC Healthcare in Chapel Hill.

Charles was born in Hackensack, N.J., on May 17, 1964, to the late Charles E. Maly and Constance Poddillo Maly.

He had a love for animals, especially cats and dogs he rescued. He was a homebody who loved being with friends, his animals, and sports, especially the UNC Tar Heels.

Charles was an organ donor and upon his death he was able to donate his corneas.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Sandi Maly, and brother Craig Maly.

Surviving relatives are his sister Donna Maly of Pittsboro, his nephews Elijah-Angelo Maly of Pittsboro and Joseph Vaneken of Florida. Charles will be greatly missed by his family.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, February 5, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

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

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

## BERTA JOHNSON KING



Berta Johnson King, 79, of Gulf, passed away on Saturday, February 5, 2022, at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Mrs. King was born in Chatham County on June 26, 1942, the daughter of Edward Lester and Berta Fox Johnson. Berta was a member of Bethany Baptist Church, where she held several offices and loved her church family. She very proud to have grown up in Silk Hope and the farming community it came with.

She loved spending time outside working on her flowers, and traveling. Berta adored her family and her grandson Colin, who was the love of her life. She and her husband were active in their business, JR Moore & Son. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brothers, Gene, Robert and Palmer Johnson.

She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Rayvon King; daughter, Julie King McDaniel and husband Ken of Siler City; sisters, Judy Johnson of Siler City, and Rachel Cox and husband Clinton of Siler City; brother, Russell Johnson and wife Hannah of Siler City; and grandson, Colin King McDaniel; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Berta laid in repose on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at Sapling Ridge United Methodist Church Cemetery, 5016 Silk Hope-Gum Spring Road, Siler City with Rev. Patrick Daniel officiating. The family will receive friends in the church fellowship hall after the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Crystal Lynne Phillips Scholarship Fund c/o Chatham County Schools, Pittsboro.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the King family.

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

## HELEN FAYE BRADY COUNCILMAN



Helen Faye Brady Councilman, 92, of Bear Creek, passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at Chatham Hospital.

Mrs. Councilman was born in Moore County on July 11, 1929, the daughter of Herbert and Bertha Brady of High Falls, N.C.

Helen was a member of Tyson's Creek Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending time with her husband at their home in Holden Beach, and spending time with her family. Helen

and her husband owned and operated a dairy farm for many years. In addition to her parents, Helen is preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Archie Councilman; sister, Pauline Kowal and brother, Willis Brady.

She is survived by her son, Harold Councilman and wife Judy of Bear Creek; grandchildren, Lee Councilman and wife Jennifer of Creedmoor, and Brian Councilman and wife Katie of Graham; four great-grandchildren, Austin Councilman, Emilie Councilman, Michael Councilman and Ashley Councilman; sister, Esther Garner; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, 10891 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Bear Creek, with Rev. Scott Walker officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Councilman Puckett Scholarship fund at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Councilman family.

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

## RACHEL WALKER BOONE



Rachel Walker Boone, 79, of Siler City, passed away Saturday, February 5, 2022, at Coventry House in Siler City.

Mrs. Boone was born in Caswell County on April 7, 1942, the daughter of George Weldon Walker Jr. and Ruby Somers Walker.

Rachel grew up as a member of Camp Springs United Methodist Church, where she played the piano and organ. After marrying Ronnie in 1964, they moved to Siler City and

became a member of First United Methodist Church, where she helped in the nursery, the Bereavement Team, and Stephens and Tape Minsitry. Rachel was a 1963 graduate of Watts School of Nursing, where she became a Registered Nurse.

She worked at Chatham Hospital as Supervisor for the operating staff, and 1st assistant for Dr. Kothapalli and was an office nurse for several physicians in town. Rachel was a proud 36-year Cancer Survivor and was instrumental in the First Relay for Life and Reach to Recovery. She had many hobbies, including gardening, sewing, refurbishing antique furniture and was an avid collector of dolls. Rachel cherished her family, especially all of her grandchildren. In addition to her parents, Rachel is preceded in death by her husband, Ronald "Ronnie" Elwood Boone.

She is survived by her daughters, Ronda Boone Dunn and husband Glenn of Bonlee, and Dana Boone Smith and husband Phillip of Greensboro; son, Bryan E. Boone and wife Elizabeth of Sanford; grandchildren, Bennett and Lacey Peterson, Sarah and Anna Boone, and Owen and Grant Smith; sisters Lugene Wright and Nell Jones, both of Reidsville; and brother George Weldon "Buddy" Walker III of Kernersville.

The family received friends on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 1101 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. with Rev. William Sabiston officiating. A graveside service will be held at 3 p.m. on February 9, 2022, at Camp Springs United Methodist Church, 9168 Cherry Grove Road, Reidsville, N.C. 27320.

The family would like to give a special thank you to the wonderful staff at Coventry House, and Randolph Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Susan G. Komen for The Cure, Komen N.C. Triad Affiliate, 1106 Burke St., Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101, or to the First United Methodist Church.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Boone family.

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

## MARVIN E BOWDEN



STALEY — Mr. Marvin E. Bowden passed from this earthly life into the arms of Jesus on Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

Mr. Bowden was a United States Army Veteran. He was once employed with Ramtex in Ramseur.

Mr. Marvin is survived by one daughter, The Reverend Judy Bowden of Staley; one great-granddaughter, Destini Marley of Asheboro; one brother, Ronald Bowden of Liberty; three sisters-in-law: Betty Bowden of Siler City, Gracie Garner of Liberty, and Rosa Harris of Asheboro.

The funeral service was held 2 p.m. Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at Olivers Chapel AME Zion Church in Staley.

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

Kimes Funeral Service, Liberty, was in charge of all arrangements.

## BETTY SUE WATSON GUNTER

Betty Sue Watson Gunter, 83, of Sanford, passed away Monday, January 31, 2022, at her home.

A graveside service was held Thursday, February 3, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Shallow Well Cemetery with Rev. Donald Thompson presiding.

Mrs. Gunter was born in Lee County on January 29, 1939, to the late Frank Fuller Watson and Chloie Copeland Watson. She was a homemaker. In addition to her parents, Sue was preceded in death by her husband, Jimmy Gunter; a son, Toby Gunter; brother, Carl Watson; and sisters, Lois Cross and Julia Cain.

She is survived by her sons, Joey Gunter and Terry Gunter, both of Sanford; a brother, Fred Watson of Sanford; a sister, Becky Satterfield of Sanford; three grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and five step-great-grandchildren. Condolences may be made at [www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com](http://www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com).

## JIMMY RAY KENNEDY

Jimmy Ray Kennedy, 65, of Robbins, passed away Friday, February 4, 2022, at his home.

A family memorial graveside service will be held at a later date at the Kennedy Family Cemetery with Rev. Phillip Martin and Rev. Wayne Eudy presiding.

He was born in Moore County on May 7, 1956, to Jimmy and Alene Marie Kennedy. He was a member of Faith Freewill Baptist Church. He drove a truck for Townsend and Wilson Brothers, retiring after 27 years. In addition to his father, Jimmy was preceded in death by his son, Donny and brothers, Roy and Harvey.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Pamela Kennedy of the home; daughter, Jennifer Lynn Kennedy of Robbins; son, Danny Ray Kennedy of Lobelia; mother and step-father, Alene and Roy Freeman of Albemarle; sisters, Susie Kidd, Teresa Calloway, Delores Eudy, Brenda Galloway and Renda Eudy, all of Albemarle; brother, Allen Freeman of Albemarle; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel of Bennett served the Kennedy family.

## HERMAN RAY CHEEK

Herman Ray Cheek, 74, of Bennett, passed away on Friday, February 4, 2022, at his home.

The family received friends at Joyce-Brady Chapel from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. The funeral was held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at Mt. Zion U.M.C. with Chaplin Sam Garris and Youth Pastor Jody Maness presiding. Burial followed in the Cheek Lonesome Pine Cemetery.

He was born in Randolph County on May 22, 1947, to Myrtle Lee Garner and Henry Roe Cheek. Herman was a member of Mt. Zion U.M.C. and was the first employee of Moore's Machine Company, retiring after 39 years.

Herman is survived by his wife of 46 years, Barbara Ann Cheek of the home; children, Julia Cheek Tripp of Pittsboro, Danny Ray Cheek of Bennett and Garrett Roe Cheek of Bear Creek; sisters, Irene Cheek Davis of Seagrove, Clara Mae Cheek Lucas of Asheboro, Ruby Cheek Moore of Sanford; and eight grandchildren.

Flowers are accepted or donations may be made to Liberty HomeCare & Hospice Services, P.O. Box 66, Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel of Bennett served the Cheek family.

## JOSEPHINE (MCAULEY) ALLEN

Josephine McAuley Allen, 71, of Broadway passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A10

## DORIS LORRAINE WEBSTER

Doris Lorraine Webster, 76, passed away on February 2, 2022, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst.

The funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at Knotts Funereal Home in Sanford.

## RAYNE NICOLE BRANNON-WILLIAMS

Rayne Nicole Brannon-Williams passed away on January 16, 2022.

Rayne was born July 31, 2000, to Remika Williams and Kim Brannon.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Thursday, February 3, 2022 at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

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**NICHOLAS PAUL SZYDLEK**



Born in Detroit, Michigan, on September 16, 1944, Nicholas Paul Szydleki lived all of his 77 years with faith, humor, love, and friendship. He enlisted and served in the United States Navy as a radar technician/electrician's mechanic from 1963-1967, stationed in the Mediterranean ("tracking the Russians" he used to say) on the "tin cans" as he put it, The USS Mole and the USS Basilone. He also served as part of the United States Naval Reserve and the United States Coast Guard Reserve. He was decorated with the National Service Defense Medal.

Nick married his wife, Rosemary, in 1969 and their son, Nick Jr. was born in 1970. After the Navy, Nick worked as an electrician's mechanic and engineer, living in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

In the late 1990's Nick and Rosemary moved to his hometown area in Michigan where he continued working as an engineer. He retired in 2012, joining his son and daughter-in-law in Pittsboro, North Carolina, where he began to hone his orneriness. He took fashion cues from no one — his signature every day look was all his own: sensible trousers, comfortable button-up shirt, suspenders, and comfortable shoes.

He established his own small machining/prototyping business, Foxtex Inc., where he was his own boss and worked at his own pace. He hung out in his workshop with his grand-dog, Artie, a large black lab who really loved his grandpa. At night, with grand-dog Ireland at his side, he enjoyed struggling with the TV remote and disagreeing with Rosemary on what to watch. He hated most technology, got frustrated with cell phones, and hated all the noises from his iPad, but was secretly excited every time his son gave him all the new gadgets.

Nick was especially passionate about ham radio with an amateur extra ticket and was a Founding member of Chatham AUXCOMM; a proud member of Orange County Radio Amateurs (OCRA); and Durham FM Association (DFMA). He loved to share his knowledge and get others excited about ham radio.

As a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church he attended mass every Sunday until COVID-19 and his illness made that difficult for him. He volunteered on many occasions and served on committees including the Church Council and was head of the Friends in Faith Senior Group.

Nick is survived by his loving wife of more than 52 years, Rosemary; his son, Nicholas Jr. (Melissa); sisters Carol (Fred) Zirotti and Cheryllyn (Don) Smith; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and peers who love and respect him.

He was preceded in death by his parents Barbara J. Eshelman Szydleki-Lawless; Edwin Joseph Rivers and stepmother Frances Rivers; and brothers Lawrence S. Szydleki and Phillip P. Szydleki.

In lieu of flowers please donate to your favorite cancer organization or St. Jude's in Nick's name.

A funeral mass will be held 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 18, 2022, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 940 Carmichael Street, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514. Rite of Committal will be scheduled at a later date.

To leave a condolence for the family, please visit [www.donaldsonfunerals.com](http://www.donaldsonfunerals.com).

**SHARON ANN SCOTT MILHOLEN**

Sharon Ann Scott Milholen, wife of Barry D. Milholen, passed away peacefully at home on the morning of February 1st, 2022. She was born on March 4th, 1955, the eldest daughter of Russell and Jackie Scott. A beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend, Sharon enjoyed gardening, quilting, crafting, and spending time with family and loved ones.

Sharon is preceded in death by her mother, Jackie Burke Scott; and her brother, John Russell Scott.

She is survived by Barry, her husband of 45 years; her children, Wesley, Layla (Rory Collier), and Josh; her father, James Russell Scott and wife Carlotta; and her sisters, Maria Cutchins (Rick) and Lisa Scott (Geoffrey Smith).

Sharon lit up every room she walked into. She could always be relied upon. She had a warm and caring heart, and would be there for you, no matter what you needed. She knew how to be grateful for what she had. She appreciated life and lived it vibrantly.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Association for Frontotemporal (<https://www.theaftd.org>), an organization that promotes research, awareness, support, education, and advocacy for those suffering from the condition Sharon fought for so many years, or to Community Home Care & Hospice (<https://www.communityhch.com>)

Mrs. Milholen laid in repose on Tuesday, February 8th, 2022, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9th, 2022, at the Scott Family Cemetery, 1218 Effie Welch Road, Bear Creek, with the Rev. Bob Wachs officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Milholen family.

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

**WILLIAM 'BILL' EARNEST PRESLEY**

William "Bill" Earnest Presley, 76, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, February 3, 2022, at his home.

A graveside service will be held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Priest Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery with Reverend Archie Stevens officiating.

He was born in Atlanta, Ga. on July 28, 1945, to the late Carnley Earnest Presley and Margie Louise Cash Presley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by sister, Judy Presley and two brothers, Michael Carnley Presley and Tommy Presley. Bill retired from Employment Security Commission. He served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1971.

He is survived by his wife, Jeannette Presley; son, Michael William Presley of Ohio; brother, Dennis Presley of Carthage; sister, Peggy Caddell of Kernersville; and two granddaughters.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

**ALBERT 'ELVIS' WALTER ROWE**

Albert "Elvis" Walter Rowe, 64, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, February 3, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. with Rev. Scott Yow officiating. Burial followed in May's Chapel Baptist Church Cemetery.

He was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, on April 12, 1957 to the late Luther Evan and Edith Clark Rowe. He worked many years as a taxi driver.

He is survived by his brother, Robert Luther Rowe of Sanford.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

**DONNA MARIE (MCIVER) PEOPLES**

Donna McIver Peoples, 57, of Pittsboro, passed away Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at her residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

**LOUIS ENRIQUE SOLANO JAVIER**

Louis Enrique Solano Javier, 29, of Winston-Salem, passed away on Sunday, January 30, 2022, at his residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

**HELEN MARIE DUFFY GASTER**

Helen Marie Duffy Gaster, age 83, of New Hill, died Friday, February 4, 2022, at home.

The family received friends Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at New Hill Baptist Church. The funeral followed at 2 p.m. with Pastor Jim Holden presiding.

Helen was born in Fairfield County, Connecticut, on February 8, 1938, to the late Thomas Edward Duffy and Violet Ione Ominty. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Hubert Edward Gaster Jr., one son, Thomas Gaster, two brothers, Curtis Overthrow, Al Overthrow, and one sister, Glenna Fox.

Survivors include three daughters, Marsha Pendley of Kittrell, N.C., Sherri Turner of New Hill, Mary Lowe of Moncure; sons, Todd Gaster of Moncure, Terry Gaster of New Hill, Teddy Gaster of Bahama; 18 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations to be made in Helen's memory to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

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

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

**FRANCES IRENE PHILLIPS**

Frances Irene Phillips, 89, of Sanford, passed away on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at her home.

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

She was born in Guilford County on January 29, 1933, to the late Charles Roy and Martha Irene Covington Fuller. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon Lee Phillips and a son, Vernon Michael Phillips. Frances was retired from the South Carolina Port Authority and she was a member of Glenn's Bay Baptist Church in Surfside, S.C.

Frances is survived by sons, Roy Dirkson Phillips of Sanford and Rex Edward Phillips of South Carolina; daughters, Patsy Lee Phillips of Black Mountain and Franda Colette Phillips of Sanford; sisters, Regina Bridges of Georgia and Wanda Westwood of North Carolina; 12 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, Tennessee 38105.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

**HELEN RUTH (PERSON) FOX**

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

The funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, February 7, 2022, at New Zion Missionary Baptist Church/Jonesboro Cemetery with burial following in Jonesboro Cemetery.

**BILLIE JOE ALSTON**

Billie Joe Alston, 79, of Pittsboro, passed away Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at Chatham Ridge Assisted Living in Chapel Hill.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Mitchell Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Chatham Schools seeks participation in focus groups**

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools is planning a series of focus groups throughout February to help lay the foundation for the district's new five-year Strategic Plan, themed One Chatham.

Any member of the community interested in the future of education in Chatham County is invited to attend.

The district will be focusing on the five key areas identified in feedback from the Relationships Matter: Superintendent's Listening and Learning Tour, which was held in fall 2021.

Those areas include Curriculum and Innovation, Faculty/Staff, Facilities and Infrastructure, Student Health and Safety, and Communications and Information Sharing.

There are four opportunities to participate:

- Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (1192 U.S. Highway 64 West Business, Pittsboro, 27312). Topics: Faculty/Staff, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Student Health and Safety.
- Tuesday, Feb. 15, 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m., via Zoom (a link will be posted on the CCS website closer to the date). Topics: Curriculum and Innovation, Faculty/Staff, Facilities and Infrastructure, Student Health and Safety, and Communications and Information Sharing.

• Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6:30 to 8 p.m., St. Julia Catholic Church (210 Harold Hart Road, Siler City, 27344). Topics: Curric-

ulum and Innovation, Faculty/Staff, Facilities and Infrastructure, Student Health and Safety, and Communications and Information Sharing.

• Thursday, Feb. 24, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (1192 U.S. Hwy. 64 West Business, Pittsboro, 27312). Topics: Curriculum and Innovation, and Communications

and Information Sharing.

Community participation is vital in helping CCS identify ways to best serve our students and to create pathways and goals to fulfill those expectations for the district's future.

"Updating our Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to re-engage education in Chatham County and

how we can best meet the needs and desires of our students and their families," said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. "We have a very strong district, and this will provide the building blocks to continuing evolving and providing excellence in education."

The One Chatham Strategic Plan process will take about 12 months to complete.

The district will compile information from the focus groups and meetings with key stakeholders to begin formulating the plan. CCS will update its mission and vision and establish measurable goals to achieve during the next five years.

The current Strategic Plan can be found at <https://bit.ly/3o10LW1>.

—CN+R staff reports



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**Sharon Dickens, AAMS®**  
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919-967-9968



**Pittsboro**  
**Lee Shanklin, AAMS®**  
120 Lowes Dr. Suite 107  
919-545-0125



**Ferrington**  
**Kathy Brommage, CFP®**  
190 Chatham Downs Dr. Suite 103  
919-960-6119



**Siler City**  
**Laura Clapp, AAMS®, CFP®**  
310 East Raleigh St.  
919-663-1051



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



**Chapel Hill**  
**Jessica Villagrana**  
180 Providence Rd. Suite 1C  
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**Kevin Maley**  
984 Thompson St. Suite E2  
919-444-2961

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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

## RENTALS

2 BDRM, 1 BA mobile home in Bonlee area. No smoking, no pets, 919-837-5689. Leave message with name and phone number. F10,17,2tp **POWELL SPRINGS APTS.** Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Mon, Tues & Thurs, 8:30 - 4:30. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD #1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

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

## FOR SALE

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

## WANTED

**WANTED TO BUY** - One good-natured middle-aged female donkey to be a companion to one good-natured male donkey. Please call 919-819-4021. F10,17,2tp

## AUCTIONEERS

**RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTION-**

**EERS** - 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

**TOWN OF SILER CITY, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST-PARKS AND RECREATION** - Performs intermediate administrative support in the area of Parks and Recreation; assists with program registrations and special events; answers general inquiries. Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Associate degree in office management, business management, or related field; moderate experience in administrative support, management support, secretarial, clerical, and office operations; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Extensive customer service experience dealing with both internal and external customers utilizing excellent oral and written communication skills.

Experience with MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. -

Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications, Knowledge or experience in municipal Parks and Recreation. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: All required certifications and licensures must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment.- Annual Hiring Salary \$31,984; Please refer to our website for a full job description. - To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and may be found on our website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org) or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to [dritter@silercity.org](mailto:dritter@silercity.org). Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. -- The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or [nhannah@silercity.org](mailto:nhannah@silercity.org) for accommodations for this request. -- Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al [nhannah@silercity.org](mailto:nhannah@silercity.org) o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. F10,1tc

**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,tc

**FLOORAZZ - RAPIDY 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 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 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 decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 27th day of January, 2022. Lynn S. Craycroft, Executor

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 691** All persons having claims against **STANLEY IVAN CHEREN**, Deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims

against the estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the offices of Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC, 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, on or before the 20th day of April, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment. This 20th day of January, 2022. BARBEL BESSEYRE, EXECUTRIX ESTATE OF STANLEY IVAN CHEREN Tillman, Whichard & Cagle, PLLC 501 Eastowne Drive, Suite 130 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 J20,J27,F3,F10,4tc

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

**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 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 **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

## 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.

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 **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.



**Career Opportunities Available**

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

# Chatham News + Record

**Seeks a Part-Time English-to-Spanish Translator to Join Its La Voz de Chatham Reporting Team.**

- Ideal candidates have:
- native or bilingual Spanish fluency,
  - formally studied Spanish,
  - Spanish-language translation or writing experience
  - and/or lived in a Spanish-speaking country.

To apply, send a letter of interest to La Voz de Chatham reporter Victoria Johnson at [victoria@chathamnr.com](mailto:victoria@chathamnr.com).



## 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**

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

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

**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**  
 All persons having claims against **BETTY DENKINS MOODY** aka **BETTY ELEANOR 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 §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,F24,4tc

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 COUNTY OF CHATHAM  
 IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
 DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
 FILE NO.: 20 JT 28  
 IN RE: "D.T."  
 DOB: 6/3/17  
**NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PRO-CESS OF PUBLICATION**  
 TO: Biological father/Father/unknown father of the above female child, born in Orange County, NC to Marisa Temkey. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been filed to terminate your parental rights to the above-referenced minor child. You have forty days from 2/10/22, the first date of publication of this Notice to respond to said Petition by filing a written answer to the petition with the Chatham Clerk of Court. Your parental rights to the juvenile may/will be terminated upon failure to answer the petition within the time prescribed. Any attorney appointed previously in an abuse, neglect or dependency proceeding and still representing you shall continue to represent**

you. If you are indigent and not already represented by an attorney, you are entitled to a court-appointed attorney by contacting the Chatham County Clerk of Court.  
**STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P.**  
 BY: /s/ANGENETTE STEPHENSON  
 Attorney for Petitioner,  
 CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
 109 Conner Dr. Suite 208  
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514  
 Telephone: (919) 869-7795  
 F10,F17,F24,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY  
 22 E 60**  
 The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **RICKY LEE AUSTIN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at her address, 85B Rocky Knolls, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27516, on or before the 12th 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.  
 This 2nd day of February, 2022.  
 Luana Ludwig Austin, Executrix  
 85B Rocky Knolls  
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27516

**GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC**  
 P.O. Box 880  
 Pittsboro, North Carolina  
 27312-0880  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY  
 22 E 57**  
 All persons having claims against **SARA H. BURGESS** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th 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 10th day of February, 2022.  
 James Clinton Burgess, Executor  
 710 Buttonwood Dr  
 Hillsborough, NC 27298  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY  
 21 E 731**  
 All persons having claims against **ELAINE KNIGHT** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th 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 10th day of February, 2022.  
 Christopher Knight, Administrator  
 220F Windsor Place Circe  
 Randleman, N.C. 27317  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF  
 KARIAMU WELSH, DECEASED  
 22 E 35  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **KARIAMU WELSH**, Deceased, are notified to exhibit them to **MOLEFI K. ASANTI, ADMINISTRATOR** for the decedent's estate on or before the 11th day of May 2022, at the office of **LOCKAMY LAW FIRM, P.A., Attorneys**, 3130 Hope Valley Road, Durham, North Carolina 27707, Attention: **MOLEFI K. ASANTI**, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named estate c/o **MOLEFI K. ASANTI, ADMINISTRATOR**. **MOLEFI K. ASANTI, ADMINISTRATOR** of **KARIAMU WELSH**, Deceased **P. RYAN LOCKAMY, Attorney** **LOCKAMY LAW FIRM, P.A.** 3130 Hope Valley Road Durham, North Carolina 27707  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY  
 21 E 465**

All persons having claims against **PEARL MATTIE CORLEY** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th 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 10th day of February, 2022.  
 Marc Andrew Lockley, Executor  
 624 Tidewater Dr  
 Sanford, NC 27330  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 All persons having claims against **JUDITH GRAYSON LOHMAN** of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 17th day of December, 2021, are notified to present them to John G. Lohman, Executor of the Estate of Judith Grayson Lohman 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 19, 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 Judith Grayson Lohman. Those indebted to Judith Grayson Lohman are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.  
 Dean P. Broz  
 Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.  
 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203  
 Exchange West at Meadowmont  
 Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 North Carolina Environmental Management Commission/ NPDES Unit  
 1617 Mail Service Center  
 Raleigh, NC 27699-1617  
 Notice of Intent to Issue a NPDES Wastewater Permit NC0030384 Moncure Community Health Center WWTP  
 The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission proposes to issue a NPDES wastewater discharge permit to the person(s) listed below. Written comments regarding the proposed permit will be accepted until 30 days after the publish date of this notice. The Director of the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) may hold a public hearing should there be a significant degree of public interest. Please mail comments and/or information requests to DWR at the above address. Interested persons may visit the DWR at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604 to review information on file. Additional information on NPDES permits and this notice may be found on our website: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/public-notices>, or by calling (919) 707-3601. Piedmont Health Services, Inc. [88 Wilcom Center Drive; Chapel Hill, NC 27514] has requested renewal of NPDES permit NC0030384 for Moncure Community Health Center WWTP, located in Chatham County. This permitted facility discharges 100% domestic wastewater to the Deep River, a class WS-IV water in the Cape Fear River Basin. Some of the parameters in the permit are water quality limited. This discharge may affect future allocations in this

segment of the Deep River.  
 F10,1tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 Estate of Maurice Duane Heidel  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of MAURICE DUANE HEIDEL late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 11th day of May 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.  
 This the 10th day of February, 2022.  
 Richard Adamson, Executor of the Estate of Maurice Duane Heidel  
 Dori J. Dixon  
 Schell Bray PLLC  
 Attorney for the Estate  
 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271  
 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517  
 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
 NORTH CAROLINA  
 CHATHAM COUNTY**  
 All persons having claims against **ALAN WAYNE BANDY** aka Alan W. Bandy of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 18th day of November, 2021, are notified to present them to Wanda B. Bandy, Executrix of the Estate of Alan Wayne Bandy aka Alan W. Bandy in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before May 19, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executrix, and the devisees of Alan Wayne Bandy aka Alan W. Bandy. Those indebted to Alan Wayne Bandy aka Alan W. Bandy are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.  
 David R. Frankstone  
 Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.  
 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203

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6208-0721

Exchange West at Meadowmont  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834  
F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Christine Wehner, having qualified as the Administrator of the Estate of **JEFFREY EDMUND WEHNER**, Deceased, in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County on October 6, 2019, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of said decedent to present them

to the undersigned attorney of the Personal Representative on or before June 1, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to said Estate please make immediate payment. This the 7th day of February 2022. Payments and claims should be presented to Austin C. Vandevener, 101 Conner Drive, Suite 402, Chapel Hill, NC, 27514. This Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of N.C.G.S. 28A-14-1. Austin C. Vandevener, Attorney of Record  
101 Conner Drive, Suite 402,

Chapel Hill, NC, 27514  
F10,F17,F24,M3,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY**  
**21 E 654**  
All persons having claims against **GERALDINE WILLIAMS POLLARD** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th 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 10th day of February, 2022.  
Lisa Patrice Pollard, Executrix  
153 Evergreen Drive  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY**  
**22 E 56**  
All persons having claims against **JOHN ANDREW KULASH** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th 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 10th day of February, 2022.  
WALTER MICHAEL KULASH, Administrator  
PO Box 252  
32 Blands Knob Road  
Little Switzerland, NC 28749  
F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
**CHATHAM COUNTY**  
**21 E 735**  
All persons having claims against **JUANITA BOWMAN**

deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th 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 10th day of February, 2022.  
Johnny Bowman, Administrator  
179 Papou Lane  
Siler City, N.C. 27344  
c/o Lewis Fadely, Attorney  
119 N Fir Avenue  
Siler City, NC 27344  
F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

CHATHAM CHAT | TAYLOR HOBBS, HOBBS ARCHITECTS

# For Chamber's 'Business Person of the Year,' bettering the community is what it's all about

When Taylor Hobbs III was awarded the Chatham Chamber of Commerce's "Business Person of the Year" award late last year, it was in recognition not just for his work at Hobbs Architects — where he's the design lead of the firm he co-founded with his father, Grimsley — but also for his civic contributions to the larger Chatham community.

This week, we speak with Hobbs about what community service means to him, his work and his thoughts about how Chatham County is changing.

Throughout his time in Chatham, Hobbs has been a member of the board of directors of a number of organizations, including the Chatham Arts Council, the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation and the Triangle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Hobbs Architects has done work on dozens of major community-based municipal and institutional projects.

Outside of work, Hobbs enjoys swimming, fishing, coaching, working with his family on home improvement projects, and whitewater rafting.

**The term "community service" is used a lot, but seldom practiced on the level at which you practice it. What does the notion of service mean to you, and how do you directly apply that idea of serving your community to your work as an architect?**

Community service is a cornerstone of our office culture. Support from the Chatham County com-

**We believe in the uniqueness of Chatham culture and want to help sustain it over the long haul.**

**TAYLOR HOBBS III**

munity has been foundational to our firm, and community service is our way of giving back in recognition of that support. We are very fortunate to have been able to work on some of the most important public buildings in Chatham County, and this carries a high degree of responsibility that is very important to me as an architect. We believe in the uniqueness of Chatham culture and want to help sustain it over the long haul.

Specifically, the term "community service" means contributing what you can using whatever skills you have to offer. In my case, this has meant working to better Chatham County by supporting nonprofits and serving on various volunteer organizations. I have served as a member the commissioner-appointed Green Building Task Force, the task force of the historic courthouse reconstruction project, the AIA Triangle, the Chatham County Arts Council, Pittsboro Main Street and the Chatham County Economic Development Council. My office partners also serve on the board of the Chatham County Historic Association, the Chatham County Appearance Committee and the Pittsboro Boys & Girls Club Advisory Council. All of these organizations are aimed at different aspects of bet-

tering Chatham County, and we have appreciated being able to contribute to these efforts.

**The offices of Hobbs Architects are located in the Lewis Freeman House, a historically significant property in Pittsboro. What led to the acquisition of this property, and why was it important to preserve it and use it the way you are?**

Our office was located in Chatham Mills for 10 years, and when we needed to expand, there was not much commercial space on the market, so we had to get creative. When the Lewis Freeman House became available, we immediately evaluated it for use as an office since it had the correct zoning designation. Surprisingly, we found it to be larger than initially assumed and with renovations, it could serve as an efficient office. The rich history of the house had to be respected in both its story and construction, and efforts were made to keep its original fabric while making updates that were needed for a modern office. Our firm's motto is "Preserving the Past, Designing the Future," and we think that our office is a great example of this spirit. We are also assisting the Pittsboro Parks Department to help make the Lewis Freeman Park adjacent to our office a reality.

**As an architect, what role do you feel buildings play in society and Chatham County specifically?**

Buildings are fundamental to our sense of place and the values we have as a society. Among other things, buildings are where we send our children to learn, where we work, where we seek spiritual guidance, where we are entertained and where we administer law. As such, they are symbols of where societies place value.

I was never more aware of this than after the tragic historic court-



**Hobbs poses with his recent award from the Chatham Chamber in front of a photo of the county's historic courthouse during its reconstruction.**

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

house fire in 2010. Even though no one was hurt, hundreds of flowers were placed against the construction fencing the day after the fire. What I realized was that the flowers were for the building itself and symbolized the profound grief that people felt. Many people told me how surprised they were that the loss of the courthouse affected them so profoundly on an emotional level. This building is ingrained in the cultural fabric of Pittsboro, Chatham County and the state of North Carolina at large. It represents the key role that buildings play in our everyday lives.

**Development in Chatham County is getting a lot of attention. We have Chatham Park, new housing, plus the promise of what our megasites near Moncure and Siler City will bring — not to mention Carolina Core and everything else. A lot is happening here ...**

As a member of the Chatham County Economic Council, I am aware of the current and future development op-

portunities in Chatham County. We are at an unparalleled time of opportunities and growth, and I think it is important to have a balance between big and small business.

While the larger developments are extremely important and will certainly be the engines, the medium and small businesses will make up a very important core of our economy. One of the smaller developments that will have large economic and cultural impacts is the SoCo project south of the historic courthouse in Pittsboro.

The opportunity to reconceive this much of downtown at one time is very unique and may not happen again. Siler City has similar impactful downtown projects underway as well. The vision these types of projects offer in the midst of the larger developments is important to understand when measuring progress.

Hobbs Architects falls into the small business category, and we hope to benefit from the opportunities that the larger

business will foster. The EDC has a Small Business Committee that is working on the needs of small businesses within the context of the larger development opportunities, and I plan on assisting in this effort. If we get this right, it can mean a bright future for the Chatham County community at large.

**You were the most recent recipient of the Chatham Chamber's Business Person of the Year award. What did that mean to you?**

This award is very special to me, and was unexpected. Cindy Poindexter and the Chatham Chamber do a great job and have been important to our firm. I am very moved by this recognition and the qualities that I believe that it represents, which are relationship building, hard work and trust. To have peer recognition of these values represents success to me beyond any bottom line on a spreadsheet. I believe that if you do things the right way, the rest will take care of itself.

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BALANCING ACT

# Nine Bears score in 50-36 win over Jets, marking 11th straight victory in series

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — It's strange to think that a game-defining moment could happen as early as the first quarter, much less within the contest's first four minutes.

But the Chatham Central women's basketball team is proof that it can.

Down by one, 4-3, with 4:38 on the clock in the opening period last Friday night, Bears senior Carleigh Gentry found her fellow senior, Ivey Tillman,

cutting to the basket for an easy bucket — and a foul.

She missed the free throw, but as the ball clanked off the rim, senior Sadie Gaines out-muscled two Jordan-Matthews players for the offensive rebound and found another senior, Lindsey Johnson, wide open for a nothing-but-net 3-pointer.

In just six seconds of game time, the Bears went from a one-point deficit to a four-point lead.

They remained ahead for the rest of the game.

The Bears' upperclassmen — who worked together in perfect harmony on that five-point possession — celebrated senior night with a 50-36 thumping of the Jets, their longtime in-county rivals.

After having not played each other in last year's COVID-shortened season, the Bears' win on Friday acted as their 11th-straight victory over their rivals from Siler City, a streak that dates back to 2015.

Even with the Bears' recent dominance over the Jets — with eight of

those 11 wins, including Friday's, coming by double digits — the air when these two teams get together is always electric.

"I like the atmosphere, I like the rivalry and tension between both teams," said Lamont Piggie, the Jets' first-year head coach, who's experiencing the rivalry for the first time. "It's great basketball, like a Duke-Carolina game. I love it. I love the intensity."

That intensity stemmed from plenty

See **BEARS**, page B3

A SENIOR NIGHT MAULING

# Lagenor, Jourdan combine for 31 in Bears' 2nd-half rout of rival Jets

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — When you're playing your storied rival in front of a packed gym, there's bound to be some noise.

Add in senior night festivities — equipped with flowers, amateur iPhone photography and tissue-rich grandparents — and the lights, sounds and emotions grow even larger.

In a room full of distractions, it's easy to be thrown off your game.

That is, unless you're the Chatham Central Bears, who shrugged off all of the pre-game hubbub to rout the Jordan-Matthews Jets last Friday night, 69-41, in the teams' first meeting of the season.

"I told them before the game that even though it was senior night, we weren't going to do what we call the 'lights-out blackout' and all of this stuff," Robert Burke, the Bears' seventh-year head coach, said after the win. "We weren't going to hype it up. We'll do the senior thing and then we're going to play ball."

And that's exactly what they did.

The Bears were fittingly led by a trio of seniors in Colin Lagenor (16 points), Nick Jourdan (15 points) and Colby Williamson (12 points), all of whom made the most of what will likely be one of the final home games of their basketball careers.

"Colin's 5-foot-11 playing against everybody he plays against on the inside because he's our center, if you want to call him that," Burke said. "So he gets beat up every ball



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Chatham Central senior Colin Lagenor (12) weaves through the air to put up a floater in the Bears' 69-41 win over the Jordan-Matthews Jets last Friday. Lagenor (16 points) is one of the team's veteran leaders, according to Head Coach Robert Burke, who praised Lagenor's ability to fight in the paint against bigger competition.**

game with Cummings and Seaforth and J-M ... but he just had an outstanding game."

And while the Bears technically have seven seniors on their roster, Burke claims that the trio of Lagenor, Jourdan and Williamson make up the

only real veteran presence on the roster, given that some of the other seniors hadn't played competitive basketball in years prior this season.

At the end of the first half, that veteran presence was crucial on a broken play that,

had it gone wrong, might've completely shifted momentum before the intermission.

With 53 seconds to play in the second quarter and the Bears clutching onto a 27-21 lead, the Jets decided to pass the ball around in an effort to hold for the half's final shot.

But with seven seconds left, Jets senior Rayshaun Alston drove into the lane, laid the ball up and it kissed the backboard and fell into the net, all while initiating contact from Williamson, inciting a whistle. Alston then hit the free throw to complete the 3-point play and cut J-M's deficit to just 3 points.

But those seven seconds left on the clock were plenty for the Bears.

They called a timeout, giving Burke a chance to draw up a play for the last shot.

Williamson then inbounded the ball to freshman Reid Albright, who immediately bounced the ball back, allowing him to take it up the court with pressure from Jets sophomore Kelton Fuquay.

But even through the pressure, Williamson managed to find Lagenor a little past midcourt, who darted to his right and pulled up with a defender in his face, splashing a 3-pointer at the buzzer and taking a 6-point lead into the locker room.

On the surface, it looked like a perfectly drawn, well-executed play that led to a massive shot just before the break.

Not quite.

"Our play actually flopped," Burke said with a laugh. "We were going to sneak (Lagenor) down the sideline, but the defenders came out in a different

place and it didn't work out. But a busted play is sometimes the best play you can have. ... That shot was huge. It was a good boost to their confidence."

"It was a good catch and a good shot and it just gave them momentum going into the half," said Jets Head Coach Rodney Wiley following the loss. "I thought we had it when Ray went to the line."

The momentum from Lagenor's shot seemed to carry its way into the second half, where the Bears simply ran away with it.

It was a back-and-forth battle to start the third quarter, but a little over halfway through the period, Jourdan drained a 3-pointer to give the Bears their first double-digit lead of the night, 41-31.

From there, it was a mauling.

Chatham Central's defense locked in while its offense got hot, holding the Jets to just 10 points in the last 13 minutes of game time.

After Jourdan's 3-pointer and subsequent driving layup on the next possession, Williamson took the game in his own hands with three straight buckets for the Bears, a clear sign of improvement for a player who's working to get back into form following a preseason foot injury that's kept him sidelined for most of the year.

"He's been back for about a week and a half and he's just now finally getting back into shape and has really found his shot from where he left off last year," Burke said. "He's just

See **RIVAL**, page B4

## Why the Rams will win Super Bowl LVI

Sean McVay has the Rams back in the Super Bowl for the second time in four seasons. Maybe this year they will score a touchdown.

In 2018, the Rams lost the lowest scoring Super Bowl in history, 13-3, to the New England Patriots. All jokes aside, the Rams are in prime position to win their first title since moving from St. Louis to Los Angeles.

Both teams entered the playoffs as the No. 4 seed, but the Rams are less of a surprise story. While the Bengals hadn't won a playoff game in more than 30 years, the Rams have been regulars in the postseason since moving to California in 2016.

The two teams are both led by young coaches. Bengals coach Zac Taylor is 38 years old and Sean McVay could become

just the second coach to win the Super Bowl at age 36.

The Rams will not technically have home-field advantage, but the game will be played at SoFi Stadium, the location of the team's home games. This is the second straight year that a team will play on their home turf. The Buccaneers won last year's game against the Chiefs in Tampa Bay.

The Rams dominated their opening round matchup against the Arizona Cardinals and stormed out to a 27-3 lead against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but needed a last-second Matt Gay field goal to secure the win. Against the 49ers, the Rams trailed early, but a 13-point fourth quarter sealed a 20-17 conference championship.

After spending 12 seasons with the Detroit Lions, Matthew Stafford has thrived in his first season with the Rams. Only Tom Brady threw more passing touch-

See **RAMS**, page B4

## Why the Bengals will win Super Bowl LVI

Nobody thought they'd be here. And, really, that's not an exaggeration — there wasn't a soul who thought the Bengals would be playing for the most iconic trophy in American pro sports (aside from the handful of irrationally confident fans in Cincinnati) this season.



VICTOR HENSLEY  
Sports Editor

Before the season began, oddsmakers gave the Bengals the third-worst odds to win Super Bowl LVI (+15000, tied with the New York Jets) and set their win total over/under at just 6½ games.

In early September, Vegas also had them at the worst odds to win their division, the AFC North (+2500), but the team accomplished that with a 10-7 record, securing the No. 4 seed in the playoffs.

All year, they've been doubted. Time and time again.

It's safe to say that they shattered expectations.

Yet, despite knocking off the Tennessee Titans and the Kansas City Chiefs, the AFC's Nos. 1 and 2 seeds, respectively, over the past two games, the Bengals are still being touted as a massive underdog against the Los Angeles Rams in SoFi Stadium in L.A. this weekend.

At this point, it's straight-up disrespectful.

That's why I'm here to tell you why the Bengals can — and will — upset the Rams, who are 4½-point favorites, in Super Bowl LVI.

**Weapons, weapons everywhere**

You could rag on the Bengals for a lot of things — namely their offensive line — but you simply can't ignore

See **BENGALS**, page B4



MAX BAKER  
CN+R Intern

Last week, a pair of Northwood athletes — seniors Jack Spotz and Julia Earnshaw — committed to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Here, Earnshaw (bottom center) signs her letter of intent to attend Florida Atlantic University, where she'll swim for the Owls.



Submitted photo



# Continuing their careers

Northwood senior Jack Spotz (center, in gray) signs his letter of intent to attend Brevard College to play football for the Tornados.

Submitted photo

## CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

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

**BY VICTOR HENSLEY**  
News + Record Staff

### LAST WEEK

#### Monday, January 31

**Basketball:** The Seaforth women earned a dominant win over the North Moore Mustangs, 63-20, at home. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Gabby White (22 points, 11 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal), sophomore Hannah Ajayi (21 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block) and freshman Peyton Collins (11 points, 4 assists, 6 steals, 2 blocks).

**Basketball:** The Seaforth men won a strong game over the North Moore Mustangs, 48-35, at home. Leading the Hawks on the night were sophomore Jarin Stevenson (21 points, 12 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals, 3 blocks) and sophomore Chris Walker (8 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal).

**Wrestling:** The No. 14 Chatham Central Bears fell to the No. 3 Thomsville Bulldogs, 72-12, in the first round of the NCHSAA 1A Dual-Team Wrestling State Championships.

**Wrestling:** The No. 15 Northwood Chargers were knocked out of the first round of the NCHSAA 3A Dual-Team Wrestling State Championships by the No. 2 Orange Panthers, 51-24.

**Wrestling:** The No. 6 Seaforth Hawks were upset by the No. 11 Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 43-33, in the first round of the NCHSAA 2A Dual-Team Wrestling State Championships.

#### Tuesday, February 1

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central women narrowly beat the Cummings Cavaliers, 31-29, at home.

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central men lost handily to the unbeaten Cummings Cavaliers, 80-46, at home.

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter women destroyed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 83-9, on the road, allowing just one point in the entire second half.

Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (34 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals), sophomore Delana Loflin (14 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 6 steals), senior Alexis Baldwin (11 points, 12 rebounds, 3 assists, 7 steals, 1 block) and sophomore Meah Brooks (10 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter men dominated the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 83-17, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Aamir Mapp (12 points, 5 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals) and freshman Brennen Oldham (11 points, 3 rebounds).

**Basketball:** The Seaforth women crushed the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 65-17. Leading the Hawks on the night were sophomore Hannah Ajayi (16 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal), freshman Peyton Collins (13 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, 6 steals), freshman Gabby White (11 points, 11 rebounds, 7 assists, 3 steals) and freshman Bailen Fauth (11 points, 1 steal). Leading the Jets

was senior Eillia Wright (8 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 6 steals).

**Basketball:** The Seaforth men earned a close win over the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 51-45, on the road. Leading the Hawks on the evening were sophomore Jarin Stevenson (25 points, 15 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 4 blocks) and sophomore Chris Walker (10 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal).

**Basketball:** The Woods Charter women eked out a win against the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 35-30, at home. Leading the Wolves on the night was sophomore Lexi Smollen (22 points).

**Basketball:** The Woods Charter men fell to the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 68-35, at home.

#### Wednesday, February 2

**Track:** Northwood and Seaforth both participated in the third Eastern Alamance Polar Bear of the season, where the Chargers placed 4th (47 points) in the men's rankings and 8th (17 points) in the women's rankings, while the Hawks finished 5th (25 points) in the men's rankings and 10th (10 points) in the women's rankings. Placing in the top 3 of their respective events in the men's events were: Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom (1st, boys 1600-meter run, 4:39.37), Northwood senior Marco Sanchez (3rd, boys 55-meter dash, 6.84; 3rd, boys 500-meter run, 1:09.33), Northwood junior Christian Glick (2nd, boys 1000-meter run, 2:44.68), Northwood junior Matthew Sullivan (2nd, boys 3200-meter run, 10:51.79), Northwood senior Jacob Acker (1st, boys high jump, 5-04.00), Northwood junior Zachary Peterson (2nd, boys high jump, 5-02.00) and Seaforth freshman Will Cuicchi (3rd, boys 3200-meter run, 11:09.77). Placing in the top 3 of their respective events in the women's events were: Seaforth freshman Lily McFall (3rd, girls shot put, 22-05.50) and Northwood senior Emma Serrano (2nd, girls 3200-meter run, 12:16.25).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central women defeated the Graham Red Devils, 41-27, at home to remain in second place in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference.

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central men fell by double digits, 62-48, to the Graham Red Devils.

**Basketball:** The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 47-26, on the road.

**Basketball:** The Jordan-Matthews men lost a close game to the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 54-48, on the road.

**Basketball:** The Northwood women downed the Williams Bulldogs, 55-38, at home.

**Basketball:** The Northwood men defeated the Williams Bulldogs, 56-39, at home. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Fred Whitaker Jr. (14 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals), junior Kenan Parrish (12 points, 5 rebounds, 2 blocks) and sophomore Drake Powell

(12 points, 3 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals, 1 block).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter women thrashed the Woods Charter Wolves, 63-30, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (24 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal) and senior Alexis Baldwin (14 points, 13 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter men overpowered the Woods Charter Wolves, 87-17, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Aamir Mapp (16 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 steal), freshman Beau Harvey (14 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 5 steals), junior Adam Harvey (12 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 7 steals) and freshman Brennen Oldham (12 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block).

**Thursday, February 3**  
**Swimming:** The Seaforth Hawks and Jordan-Matthews Jets both had participants at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Central Regionals, where the Hawks had eight state qualifying entries: Charley Howard (girls 200-yard IM, girls 100-yard backstroke), Evan Hepburn (boys 200-yard IM, boys 100-yard breaststroke), Ben Lajoie (boys 100-yard butterfly, boys 500-yard freestyle), along with two relay teams in the boys 200-yard medley relay and the boys 200-yard freestyle relay. The Jets' lone relay team at the regional meet, the girls 200-yard freestyle relay, didn't qualify for states.

**Friday, February 4**  
**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter women earned a solid win over the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 63-41, on the road. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (25 points, 8 rebounds, 7 assists, 5 steals), senior Alexis Baldwin (14 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals, 2 blocks) and sophomore Delana Loflin (14 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter men defeated the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 67-24, on the road to extend their winning streak to 15 games. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Brennen Oldham (16 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal), freshman Beau Harvey (13 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals), sophomore Aidan Allred (13 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals) and junior Adam Harvey (12 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals, 1 block).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter women downed the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 50-36, at home. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Karaleigh Dodson (10 points), senior Ivey Tillman (9 points) and senior Lindsey Johnson (9 points), while senior Eillia Wright (21 points) was the Jets' leading scorer. See game report in this week's edition.

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central men defeated the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 69-41, at home in the season's first installment

of the historic rivalry. Leading the Bears on the night were seniors Colin Lagenor (16 points), Nick Jourdan (15 points) and Colby Williamson (12 points), while Rayshaun Alston (18 points) acted as the leading scorer for the Jets. See game report in this week's edition.

**Basketball:** The Northwood women crushed the Orange Panthers, 64-30, to extend their winning streak to 11 games and improve to 20-1 on the season.

**Basketball:** The Northwood men defeated the Orange Panthers, 78-62, to remain unbeaten in the conference at 10-0. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Fred Whitaker Jr. (24 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals), junior Kenan Parrish (15 points, 6 rebounds), sophomore Drake Powell (14 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 block), sophomore Griffin Hobbs (11 points, 9 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals) and junior Max Frazier (10 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 1 block).

**Basketball:** The Seaforth women clobbered the North Moore Mustangs, 53-20, to extend their winning streak to 5 games as they move to 12-7 on the season and remain unbeaten in the conference at 9-0.

**Basketball:** The Seaforth men defeated the North Moore Mustangs, 48-36, to improve to 10-6 on the season (7-2 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference). Hawks sophomore Jarin Stevenson (16 points, 10 rebounds, 9 assists, 5 steals, 9 blocks), was just a single assist and block away from posting a quadruple-double, while sophomore Tyshawn Davenport added 12 points on the night.

**Basketball:** The Woods Charter women lost handily to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 62-25, on the road to fall to 10-3 on the season.

**Basketball:** The Woods Charter men earned a win over the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 49-39, to improve to 2-12 on the season.

**Saturday, February 5**  
**Track:** Northwood and Seaforth participated in the fifth East Chapel Hill Polar Bear meet of the season, where the Chargers finished in 10th place in the men's events (21 points), while the Hawks placed 11th in both the women's events (9 points) and men's events (18 points). Placing in the top 3 of their

respective men's events were: Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom (1st, boys 3200-meter run, 10:01.78), Northwood senior Marco Sanchez (2nd, boys 500-meter dash, 1:10.46) and Northwood junior Christian Glick (2nd, boys 1000-meter run, 2:42.46).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central women earned a close win over the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 34-32, at home.

**Basketball:** The Chatham Central men routed the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 58-36, to improve to 5-9 on the season (4-4 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

**Basketball:** The Chatham Charter women thrashed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 64-14, to improve to 14-7 on the season (5-1 in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference). Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Tamaya Walden (23 points, 1 rebound, 4 assists, 5 steals) and senior Alexis Baldwin (15 points, 12 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals).

**Basketball:** The Northwood men defeated the NC GBB Academy Eagles, 50-36, to extend their winning streak to 7 games.

**Swimming:** The Northwood Chargers competed in the NCHSAA 3A Central Swimming Regionals, where the women's team finished as the regional runner-up (337 points) and the men's team placed 14th (32 points). In all, the Chargers had 18 state qualifying entries from freshman Holly Thesing (girls 200-yard freestyle, girls 500-yard freestyle), junior Bianca Perez (girls 200-yard freestyle, girls 100-yard butterfly), freshman Abigail Emrich (girls 200-yard IM, girls 100-yard butterfly), junior Lauren Emrich (girls 200-yard IM, girls 100-yard breaststroke), senior Julia Earnshaw (girls 50-yard freestyle, girls 100-yard freestyle), senior Gwen Hoeg (girls 50-yard freestyle, girls 100-yard freestyle), senior Mia Corrado (girls 500-yard freestyle, girls 100-yard backstroke), sophomore Maya Sipper (girls 500-yard freestyle, girls 100-yard backstroke), along with two relay teams — girls 200-yard medley relay and girls 200-yard freestyle relay.

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THE CLIPBOARD | ANTOINETTE PUJOL, SEAFORTH SWIMMING

# Hawks send 5 swimmers to state meet in inaugural swimming season

The Seaforth Hawks' swimming program hasn't been around for long — less than a full season, actually. Yet its men's and women's teams have already made plenty of noise with a Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference championship under their belts, more than 20 regional qualifying events and five swimmers (Evan Hepburn, Charley Howard, Broden Jones, Ben Lajoie and Jackson Vaughn) who are set to take the stage at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Swimming State Championships this weekend.

This week, the News + Record spoke with Antoinette Pujol, the Hawks' head swimming coach, to discuss the team's inaugural season in the pool, what we should watch for in this weekend's state meet and how she's been able to find success with a group of swimmers of various experience levels. This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.



Pujol

but I do think that they've all performed with such passion this past season — we even had one of our boys come in first for his 500 swim at regionals. We're definitely very proud of everything we've accomplished. I think just because it's a brand new experience, they'll be walking into States learning how things go. And then from there, hopefully next year, we get more people in, more relays in, and we can just have a bigger team with us.

**With Seaforth being a team of just underclassmen, did you have some swimmers who were more inexperienced than others?**

We've got about three club swimmers on our team, but most of the kids who made events weren't even club swimmers — they came in with just summer swim leagues or just swimming our season and made it on their own, so I'm definitely super proud of them.

One of the boys on the relay, Broden Jones, actually, has only done summer swim league for three summers and hasn't been in the water in three years; he virtually has no swimming experience at all.

**How are you able to take those athletes who have so little swimming experience and get the most out of them, even getting them to a point where they're qualifying for States?**

I've been coaching everywhere from novice to advanced swimming, getting them ready for age group swimming, which can be anywhere from learning to swim to making true professional cuts, championship cuts. I think just having had experience coaching nov-

ice swimmers makes it easier to design a workout for — let's say specifically we're talking about Broden, who's athletic to begin with; he's a football player, so I need to take what I know he can do and guide him, with the endurance he's already built, into swimming.

**With your team consisting of almost 50% male athletes — and making up nearly all of your state qualifiers — how were you able to drum up interest among the guys, which can sometimes be difficult for some swim programs?**

It just so happened that I think all of our guys are a big friend group, so we've got two club swimmers on our team and it kind of sounds like they convinced their friends to also do swimming. We've got one very novice swimmer, but he's a fantastic cheerleader and is great friends with everybody else on the team, as well.

Since we're such a small school and a small team, everyone is friends with everyone. And I think that really helps with team rapport, with the learn-to-swim portion. It's never a negative environment if someone can't do something. It's always encouraging and positive. I think that really helps when someone doesn't feel embarrassed with the learning process. It makes it easier for them to grasp those concepts, so I think having started off as such a small team and hopefully building for years to come, I think that that's really going to bolster the competition.

**Since your team is so young, how much hope does that give you for the future of the program? And who might you be able to single**

**Antoinette Pujol**

**Role:** Head Coach, Swimming

**Experience at Seaforth:** First season

**Notes:**

- She's been a swim coach since she was 16 years old, when her USA Swimming career ended due to an injury
- She spent much of her career — both as a swimmer and a coach — in Miami, Florida
- She ended up taking the Seaforth head coaching job thanks to recommendations from parents of some of the swimmers she coached in a Briar Chapel summer league
- From the coach: "It's (all about) the kids. It's the relationships you build and the excitement when they do make those cuts for conference and for regionals,

anything that's working with them is fantastic."

**Seaforth Hawks**

**Conference:** Mid-Carolina 1A/2A, men's and women's conference champions

**State qualifiers:**

- Evan Hepburn — boys 100-yard breaststroke, boys 200-yard IM
- Ben Lajoie — boys 100-yard butterfly, boys 500-yard freestyle
- Charley Howard — girls 200-yard IM, girls 100-yard backstroke
- Boys 200-Yard Medley Relay Team (Hepburn, Lajoie, Jackson Vaughn, Broden Jones)
- Boys 200-Yard Freestyle Relay (Hepburn, Lajoie, Vaughn, Jones)

**out this season who made massive strides from beginning to end?**

It excites me, absolutely. Benjamin (Lajoie) and Evan (Hepburn) are going to shine the next couple of years, for sure. I feel very lucky to have been able to coach some of them in the past, as well, for their club team, so I have previous experience with most of the swimmers on our team. I think that also helps since we already have a coaching relationship. For these kids, this was their first time, for a lot of them, their passion for swimming came back and they showed some great stuff in Greensboro for regionals, so we're really excited.

I also want to call out Jackson Vaughn; I think he did fantastic. He came in, I think, a little hesitant with swimming. It was something that he had

put on the back burner. He used to be a club swimmer, but then started with band, I think, a little bit more prominently. He came back for swimming and made it to regionals, dropped four seconds in his 50 freestyle, which is a significant drop for that swim.

**Besides the upcoming state meet, what's been your favorite moment of the season so far?**

I would definitely say the bus drive coming back from the conference meet in Ashboro. I think everyone realized they swam really great the whole season, but they swam great as a team that night. Everyone realized that they were also making regional cuts, so that was just a really exciting bus ride back home for everyone.

## BEARS

Continued from page B1

of the players on the court, but none more than the game's seniors — who amassed 59 of the game's 86 points (69% of all scoring), including all but five points for the Jets.

J-M senior Eillia Wright (21 points, the game's leading scorer) went on a tear in the first half, scoring 17 of the Jets' 24 points before the break, including a stretch at the end of the second quarter where she scored her team's final 10 points, including two 3-pointers that helped keep the Jets afloat, 30-24, at halftime.

Wright was the focal point of the Bears' half-time adjustments, however, leading to a second half in which she scored just 4 points on four free throws as they strove to eliminate her ability to score from the field.

"No. 10 (Wright) was their offense in the first

half, but Jaylee (Williams) and Carleigh (Gentry) shut her down in the second half," said Chatham Central Head Coach Lynda Burke after the win. "So to hold her to 4 points in the second half, they really stepped up."

And once Wright stopped scoring, so did the Jets.

In the second half, J-M scored just 12 total points as the Bears' suffocating defense got tighter and the rim seemed to get smaller.

"When she gets taken out of the game, it forces the other girls to have to step up, so they have to realize that everything can't go through Eillia, we have to step up and keep running our offense," Piggie said. "If we run our offense, she'll get opened back up, but we can't get discouraged or shaken because they're taking her out of the game."

It took the Jets until the 34-second mark to hit

their first field goal of the third quarter, which came on a transition layup from senior Tatyn Siler to make it a 41-30 game with the Bears on top.

On the other end, Chatham Central's third quarter consisted of a handful of sloppy turnovers saved by a pair of crushing 3-pointers from Johnson, which aided the Bears in pulling away toward the end of the period.

While the Jets played well defensively, according to Piggie, racking up 25 forced turnovers in the process, the bulk of them led to empty possessions, which mainly came in the form of missed transition layups in the second half — a killer when you're trying to build momentum for a late double-dig-it comeback.

"At the end of the day, we hustled on defense and we boxed out, we just couldn't get the shots to fall," Piggie said. "We went 9-for-41 from the

field. It's hard to win games that way. It's hard to win a game when you can't make baskets. ... To me, if we scored those easy baskets, that's the difference in the game."

It was much of the same in the fourth quarter, with the Bears outscoring their rivals, 10-6, as J-M failed to put the ball in the basket, making just two field goals in the eight-minute period en route to the 14-point loss.

As important as the seniors were for the Bears on their special night, one of Chatham Central's key contributors was freshman Karaleigh Dodson, who not only led the team with 10 points as the only Bear in double figures, but also stuck to the ball like glue on defense.

Throughout the night, she created a nightmare situation for the Jets as she excelled in blocking shots and getting her hands on the ball whenever she could.

"She's just an amazing athlete," Burke said of her team's lone freshman. "I noticed that this summer, when I thought she could play at the varsity level, and she's now coming into that. She gets a lot of rebounds. ... And tonight was just big, she finally put it all together tonight because she was making it on the offensive end, rebounding and doing it defensively. I'm really excited about her future, she's pretty awesome."

If you ask Burke, she has a reason to gush over most of the players on her team — and that's because so many of them are integral to its success.

In Bear Creek, there isn't just one player that runs the show.

"Just any night, you don't know who's going to be hot or who's going to lead us," Burke said. "I think every night we have a different leading scorer and nobody scores 20 or 30, we score about 10. ... It's just balanced scoring. It doesn't matter



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Chatham Central junior Jaylee Williams extends for a layup in the Bears' 50-36 victory over the Jordan-Matthews Jets last Friday. Williams (6 points) was a major defensive help in shutting down Jets senior guard Eillia Wright in the second half, leading to the rivalry win.**

where I go on the bench, they seem to be able to step up and fill the role."

With the win over the Jets (5-13, 3-5 conference) — and the 34-32 victory over the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers the following night — the Bears are sitting at 8-10 overall with a 7-1 record in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference, good for second place behind the Seaforth Hawks (9-0).

Chatham Central being one of just two 1A schools in their conference means they're only competing with North Moore (0-8) for the Mid-Carolina's playoff berth.

The Bears basically have it locked up.

"(I'm feeling) really good, we should be the 1A champion," Burke said. "Hopefully we still have a lot of playing left to do."

Reporter Victor Hensley



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Jordan-Matthews senior Tatyn Siler (12) attempts a transition layup in the Jets' 50-36 loss to the Chatham Central Bears last Friday. Siler was one of just two Jets in double figures, scoring 10 points.**

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

## Why Join Rotary?

Here's what our newest members have to say...

**William VanHook:** I joined Rotary to help make a positive contribution to the Pittsboro area. I want to use my time and talents to help make a difference.



Join us at Postal Fish (noon on Wednesdays) to discover your WHY

**Karen Barbee:** I joined the Pittsboro Rotary because I want to give back to my community in a larger capacity alongside other like-minded small business owners who believe in the mission of service and goodwill to others.

**Tammy Ertl:** I was a Rotary Club High School Scholarship recipient in Ohio and I remember feeling I someday I wanted to be part of a group that gives back to the community like they did for me that day!

Sponsored by





Staff photo by Simon Barbre

## Honoring a legacy

At halftime of the men's basketball game between the Seaforth Hawks and Jordan-Matthews Jets on Feb. 1, the 2011-12 J-M women's basketball team took midcourt for a small ceremony celebrating the 10-year anniversary of their undefeated state title-winning season. That year, the Jets posted a 31-0 record en route to the program's first and only state championship, defeating Wilkes Central, 56-39, in the title bout. Here, members of the championship team (from left to right: assistant coach Melody Dark, Brandi Alston, Taylor Paige, Allison Dones and manager Traci Newby) pose for a photo during the ceremony at halftime.

**Jordan-Matthews senior Eillia Wright (10) attempts to dribble around a defender in the Jets' lopsided loss, 65-17, to the Seaforth Hawks on Feb. 1.**



Staff photo by Simon Barbre



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Seaforth sophomore Jarin Stevenson (15) rises toward the rim for a shot in the paint around a pair of Jordan-Matthews defenders in the Hawks' close 51-45 win over the Jets on Feb. 1. Stevenson put up 25 points and 15 rebounds in the winning effort.**



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Seaforth freshman Bailen Fauth (2) scores a fastbreak layup in the Hawks' 65-17 rout of the Jets on Feb. 1. Fauth (11 points) was one of 4 Hawks players in double figures on the night.**

## RIVAL

Continued from page B1

getting better and better. ... His knowledge of the game is the biggest thing. He's very smart with the ball and he's a daggone good passer."

By the end of the third quarter, the 6-point halftime difference seemed like ancient history, with the Bears leading 51-34 entering the final period.

For the Jets, the reasoning was simple: missed opportunities and rebounding struggles.

"Our inability to knock down shots, we had some good looks there, I thought, we just couldn't hit them," Wiley said. "Then they'd get the rebound and they'd limit us to one shot. In the first half, we had offensive rebounds and putbacks, but in the second half, they did a better job of boxing us out."

An 8-0 Chatham Central run to start the fourth quarter — packed with a 3-pointer from sophomore Jacob Gilliland and two made free throws from Jourdan after Wiley was called for a technical foul from the sideline — essentially put the game on ice.

The Jets were unable to hang with their cross-county rivals without one of their senior leaders, guard Colby Daniel, who "is our heart-

beat," said Wiley. He was in Florida for a DECA conference and couldn't make it to the game.

"It impacted our rotation and that's another guy that's kind of like Ray (Alston) and kind of like Dallas (Richardson)'s becoming, like our heart and soul," Wiley added. "He just gives you everything he has and it kind of rubs off on everyone else, so it just hurt us."

The loss pushes the Jets to 2-15 on the season (2-6 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

The Bears, on the other hand, have won two games in a row after downing Bartlett Yancey on Saturday, 58-36, improving their overall record to 5-9 (4-4 conference).

There's a good shot they'll make it to the postseason as long as they outlast the North Moore Mustangs (5-10, 2-7 conference), the only other 1A opponent in the Mid-Carolina.

"If we battle and do what we're supposed to do and win some games at the tail end, we can finish the conference in third and with Cummings and Seaforth, that's not a bad place to be," Burke said. "We just need to go in there and keep building what we're doing to stay where we're at."

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



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Jordan-Matthews junior Dallas Richardson (11) blocks a shot from Chatham Central freshman Reid Albright (34) in the Jets' 69-41 loss to the Bears last Friday. Richardson is becoming one of the 'heart and soul(s)' of this J-M squad, said Head Coach Rodney Wiley.**

## RAMS

Continued from page 1B

downs than Stafford's 41 this season. He's gone 3-0 in the postseason after going 0-3 in his Lions postseason career.

The main threat for the Rams is wide receiver Cooper Kupp. By all measures, Kupp is having one of the greatest seasons by a wide-out in NFL history. After having just one career 1,000 yard season, Kupp caught 16 touchdowns and a league-high 1,947 receiving yards. That was 17 yards shy of Calvin Johnson's all-time record, albeit Kupp played in one more game. However, he did set the record for most scrimmage yards by a receiver. Kupp is not the only threat that quarterback Matthew Stafford has outside. The Rams acquired Odell Beckham Jr. in November and he has filled in nicely in the absence of Robert Woods. He recorded his first 100-yard game against the 49ers, but has been a solid weapon since he was released by the Cleveland Browns.

The Rams enter the matchup as favorites for the second straight week, but that's not an unusual feeling for the Bengals. This is the third straight week they are underdogs in the playoffs.

For the Rams, a Super Bowl win would anger St. Louisans, but would also energize a fanbase in California that seems to be slowly growing after years away from Los Angeles.

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## BENGALS

Continued from page B1

the abundance of riches that quarterback Joe Burrow has at his disposal.

Cincinnati picked LSU wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase with the No. 6 overall pick in last year's NFL Draft — a selection met with plenty of criticism after they bypassed Oregon offensive tackle Penei Sewell when the Bengals' offensive line was among the worst in the NFL in 2020.

But Chase silenced the doubters in his rookie season, racking up 81 catches for 1,455 yards and 13 TDs, along with an additional 279 yards in the postseason so far, while being selected to the Pro Bowl and being named a 2nd-team All-Pro selection.

He's already broken the rookie record for receiving yards in a season (regular season and postseason) with 1,734 and, in a Week 17 game against the Chiefs, broke the rookie record for receiving yards in a single game with a 266-yard, three-TD performance in the win.

This Saturday, he's also bound to win the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year award at the NFL Honors.

Joining Chase in the Bengals' dynamic receiving corps is Tee Higgins, the second-year receiver out of Clemson who also passed

the 1,000-yard receiving mark this season with 1,091 yards. He acts as one of Burrow's favorite targets and plays like a smaller version of a versatile tight end.

Rounding out his top three receivers is Tyler Boyd — an often-forgotten piece to this stacked offense — who had 67 catches alone this year.

Then, they've got Joe Mixon, who's sneakily become one of the league's top running backs over the last couple of seasons, including a third-place finish in total rushing yards this season (1,811).

The point is, Burrow's supporting cast, when put all together, is top-tier and easily one of the best in the NFL.

His offensive line may be shaky and the Rams' defense may be at the top of their game this postseason, but with as many options as Burrow has, it's nearly impossible to shut them all down.

Add kicker Evan "Shooter" McPherson in there, who's aiming to break the NFL rookie record for field goals made in an NFL postseason (14), and you have a group of underdogs bound to cause some headaches in Hollywood.

**It's not about how you start...**

Burrow and the offense have gotten almost all of the attention this postseason.

And for good reason.

But as crazy as it sounds, the Bengals' defense deserves a ton of credit for getting them to this point. And if they want to win the whole thing, they'll have to put on one more stellar performance.

Cincy's defense often has some hiccups in the game's opening half, but once intermission comes around and defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo makes some adjustments, they're lights out.

In the three first halves this postseason — against the Las Vegas Raiders, Titans and Chiefs — that Bengal defense has allowed 40 combined points.

In the second halves of those same games (including overtime against the Chiefs), the Bengals have allowed just 19 points, which accounts for Cincinnati's masterful second half in the AFC title game, where it shut down Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs' offense, allowing just 3 points and picking off Mahomes twice.

That defense is made up of a group of unlikely heroes, including Germaine Pratt, Mike Hilton, Jessie Bates, Logan Wilson, Vonn Bell and B.J. Hill, all of whom have recorded interceptions this postseason, with none of them being household names, unlike the Rams' star-studded D.

Perhaps the biggest plays of the Super Bowl run, however,

came at the hands of linebacker Sam Hubbard, who sacked Mahomes on back-to-back goal-to-go plays at the end of regulation in the AFC title game, forcing the Chiefs to kick a field goal to send it into overtime instead of scoring a go-ahead — and likely game-winning — touchdown.

So, whether you know their names or not, the Bengals' defense is riddled with playmakers.

And while Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford has also been exceptional in fourth quarters this postseason, we need to be reminded of one of football's classic sayings: defense wins championships.

**An ice-cold competitor**

As I've alluded to multiple times, the Bengals' biggest barrier to winning a Super Bowl comes at the hands of its offensive line holding its own against the ferocious Rams' pass rush — namely the duo of Von Miller and Aaron Donald, one of the scariest D-line combos we've ever seen.

But when Burrow has the ball, it's as if offensive line struggles simply don't matter.

Against the Titans in the Divisional Round, Burrow was sacked an NFL-record nine times. And won.

In the regular season, he was sacked a whopping 51 times, most in the NFL and most since Houston Texans quarterback

Deshaun Watson (62) in 2018.

Yet, the Bengals still collected 10 wins, won the AFC North and proceeded to win their first playoff game in three decades, all while Burrow ranked sixth in passing yards (4,611), eighth in passing TDs (34), first in completion percentage (70.4%) and second in yards-per-completion (12.6).

As cool and confident as Burrow's been off the field — most notably in his post-game press conferences — he may be even more so on the field.

He's as composed as it gets, rarely gets rattled and can maneuver the pocket better than most of 'em.

And as phenomenal as his weapons are and his defense has been over the last few weeks, the Bengals' path to the Lombardi Trophy lies in the hands of Burrow, who's trying to become the first NFL player to win a Heisman Trophy, national title and Super Bowl — and he may just do it in a three-year span, all while bringing the first Lombardi home to Cincinnati.

Scratch that. Burrow will become the first NFL player to do so.

With a swagger like his, how couldn't he?

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

# Bennett, Bonlee and Silk Hope will get new gyms, but project is not yet scheduled

**BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Schools Board of Education voted last month to pursue the \$12.9 million replacement of three gymnasiums at Bennett, Bonlee and Silk Hope schools — three smaller K-8 schools in rural areas of the district.

The board reviewed four options from a district feasibility study presented by Chief Operations Officer Chris Blice, ultimately selecting the fourth option,

which entails the construction of a new 10,000 square foot gym in a different location on each campus with a Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB). Each gym will include a middle-school-sized basketball court, locker and team facilities for boys and girls, public facilities and associated storage/mechanical spaces.

“I’d be remiss not to say this, but the existing gyms — to have been built in 1951 — are in great shape and they’ve been very well maintained. They’re beautiful,” Blice told the

News + Record. “They’re just undersized, and they don’t really meet what we need for a middle school PE and athletic program. And they’re not going to, because the only way for them to do that would be basically to pick the roof up and blow the walls out away, and then I guess expand the roof and put it back. Good heavens, if you’re going to do that, why don’t you just build a new one?”

Blice presented the feasibility study as part of an update on the Chatham County Capital Improvements Program,

where Chatham County Government allots funding to the school district for certain construction or infrastructure projects. An example of such a project is the New Central Services Building Project, which Blice said is proceeding on time and has an expected December 2022 move-in date.

If started in 2022, the gym project is expected to cost about \$12.9 million among the three schools, according to district estimates. (If started in 2023 the district anticipates a \$13.9 million price tag, reflecting an estimated 8% increase per year.)

Though the board voted to proceed with construction, the new gyms are currently an unfunded and unscheduled future project, the district said. The necessary funding will be requested through the CIP process with the county; the CIP application is due in March.

“All those things are driven by funding

and when the money’s available,” Blice said. “Those kinds of things we are working through and we’re going to be sharing it with the board on the 14th — we are working through a grant process that the county had access to for capital projects.”

Of the other options, one more included replacement of the gyms — a more expensive traditional brick and mortar replacement estimated to cost \$17.5 million. The other two renovation options, while significantly cheaper, did not meet all the expansion needs.

The first renovation option cost about \$5 million, but would not have expanded the locker rooms, playing area or spectator seating area. The second option cost about \$8.4 million, but would have only expanded the locker rooms.

In response to a Facebook post sharing the news, multiple people supported the move.

“This is great news. It’s definitely long overdue,” one commenter, Wanda Wardlaw, said. “I’m sure the kids will be happy.”

Blice said the district has done “many, many renovations” at all its schools.

At the middle and high school gyms, for example, the district recently replaced all its bleachers — now electric, with each school’s name painted on them. They’ve also worked on changing gym lighting to LED lights, renovating floors and updating locker rooms.

“And that’s just the gym,” Blice said. “I mean, we’re not talking about the rest of the building — but, you know, those are the kind of renovations that we do in all of our schools, and specifically the gym. We do that kind of stuff everywhere.”

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



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

February 10th through February 16th

### Thursday, February 10th

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

### Friday, February 11th

- [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 14th

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

### Tuesday, February 15th

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

### Wednesday, February 16th

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

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

<b>Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC)</b> 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512	<b>Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC)</b> 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975
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## SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

# Board unanimously passes COVID vaccine incentive pay

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The town’s board of commissioners unanimously passed a motion Monday evening to create a COVID-19 vaccine incentive program as part of an effort to prevent excessive coronavirus-related absences.

Town staff — including Town Manager Roy Lynch and Human Resources Director Nancy Darden — brought the proposal to the board of commissioners on Monday. According to Darden, just over 40% of Siler City’s employees are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The town plans to use almost \$88,000 worth of funds from the American Rescue Plan to pay fully vaccinated employees a one-time bonus.

Darden said the incentive idea came from other municipalities implementing similar pro-

grams and them seeing a jump in staff vaccination rates. Some with vaccination rates of between 35% and 40% implemented bonus plans and saw rates quickly jump to 80%.

“Throughout this pandemic, different municipalities have come up with varied plans in order to get their staff vaccinated so they don’t see the cases of people being sent home on a regular basis,” she said.

Employees would have until April 1 to receive either one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. All full-time and part-time employees would be eligible for the incentive program; full-time employees would receive \$1,000 for being fully vaccinated, and part-time employees would receive \$250.

“The way that it works is they present their vaccination card to HR and then they are paid the

determined amount on the following paycheck,” Darden said.

One of the main motivations for having a vaccine incentive program is to help prevent unnecessary COVID-19 related absences. According to Darden, there have been 37 COVID-related absences among both the 79 full-time employees and the 13 part-time staff. Some departments have had to shut down operations temporarily to contain outbreaks.

“The sole purpose of this is to get our staff vaccinated so we are not dealing with these absences on a day-to-day basis,” Darden said. “This is intended to be a one-time incentive. This is not meant to be a repeated thing.”

Commissioner Lewis Fadely said he supported incentivizing the COVID vaccine, especially since it would prevent numerous absences from town departments. He also said he would also like to see a way to incentivize employees to receive their booster shots once they qualify.

“I don’t want people getting sick, I don’t want people dying and I don’t want people missing work if they do not have to,” Fadely said. “We don’t want to be in this situation next year. I think that not only do we need to incentivize new employees to get vaccinated if they had not done it, we also need to incentivize employees to stay up to speed on their boosters.”

The town also passed a policy extending both Federal and Town Emergency Paid Sick Leave to employees who did not use all 160 hours given to them before June 30, 2021.

If COVID absences continue to be an issue, Darden said the town may need to consider a harsher COVID-19 policy.

“If we have to do something outside of this one-time incentive, we would have to do a policy, I would think,” Darden said. “Hopefully, it does not get to that point.”

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

# CHATHAM IS BOLD!



# Chatham SPARK program receives ‘a lot’ of interest, diverse business proposals

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

Following a seven-week application period, Central Carolina Community College’s 12-spot entrepreneurial development program, Chatham SPARK, has received 44 applicants, according to CCCC-Chatham’s Small Business Center coordinator Phillip Pappas.

Though “not quite to the point of overwhelming,” Pappas said it’s on par with the level of interest that the Real Investment in Sanford Entrepreneurs (RISE) program first received after its launch in 2020. Designed to help Lee County entrepreneurs launch local businesses, the RISE program provided the model for Chatham SPARK.

“I believe in their first year, they had around 50,” Pappas told the News + Record. “So we’re trending I think just about right, and I suspect that will grow. Unfortunately, there are only 12 positions for the class, so I’m hoping the next iteration will get even more (applicants), and it will snowball.”

A free eight-week program, Chatham SPARK seeks to empower budding and beginning entrepreneurs to create successful local businesses through weekly classes offering insight into financing, legal considerations, taxes, marketing, bookkeeping and most importantly, business plans. The Chatham SBC, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce and Mountaire Farms came together late last year to develop and launch the program.

Classes start on Tuesday, March 1, and will be held each Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Central Carolina Community College’s Siler City Center through May 3. Only aspiring entrepreneurs or those who have been in business for less than two years are eligible for one of the program’s 12 spots.

According to Pappas, the plan is to eventually offer



Courtesy of CCCC

Launched by the Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center, Chatham Chamber of Commerce and Mountaire Farms, the new Chatham SPARK program received 44 applications by Jan. 31, its application deadline. Pictured are, from left, CCCC Small Business Center Chatham Coordinator Phillip Pappas, CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman, CCCC Vice President for Workforce Development Margaret Robertson, Chatham Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Cindy Poindexter, and Mountaire Farms Community Relations Manager Sasha Duncan.

the SPARK program to local entrepreneurs multiple times a year, much like Sanford RISE, though he doubts the 12-student limit will change.

“The issue that we have, why we decided on 12, we’re trying to keep the ratio from speaker to students low,” he said. “Part of the program is getting that one-on-one interaction with the subject matter experts that we have coming in, so the fear is, if we open it up too much, you kind of lose that. That’s one of the core benefits of this program.”

Participants will also compete against each other to receive a \$5,000 reimbursable grant from Mountaire Farms for rent, utilities and/or renovations. Participants may present their business plans on the last day of classes to a panel of business professionals, who will choose the grant awardee. The reimbursable grant is only available to entrepreneurs

who have yet to open a brick-and-mortar location and who launch their businesses in Siler City within a year of completing the SPARK program.

“My guess would be just based on historical evidence that not everyone in the class is going to be ready to move ahead in 12 months,” Pappas said. “You know, they’re kind of in the exploratory phase of starting the business and you know, they’ve got a hobby or skill they’re trying to turn into a business. They need more of the technical assistance, so they might not be ready to open up in 12 months.”

While Chatham SPARK’s inaugural session won’t offer classes in Spanish for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurs, the program’s backers plan to offer the class bilingually in its next iteration, according to Cindy Poindexter, president of the Chatham Chamber.

The application deadline for the program’s inaugural class closed on Jan. 31 — and since then, Poindexter and others have been working to assemble a diverse review committee to evaluate applications based on several key criteria. First and foremost among them? How well a business proposal addresses Chatham’s local needs.

“Which ones fill a specific need that the county needs more than others? That’s going to be a big one,” Pappas said.

“[There’s also] potential employment numbers. Most small businesses in this country have one individual or no employees, but for Chatham County, you know, the idea is more employment. So, will somebody’s proposal employ multiple people versus somebody that’s kind of trying to get their hobby off the ground?”

Opening or operating in business in Siler City isn’t a

Part of the program is getting that one-on-one interaction with the subject matter experts that we have coming in, so the fear is, if we open it up too much, you kind of lose that. That’s one of the core benefits of this program.

PHILLIP PAPPAS, CCCC-Chatham Small Business Coordinator

program requirement. Pappas hopes to send out acceptance letters to chosen applicants within the next two weeks.

Most applications they’ve received, he said, come predominantly from Siler City- and Pittsboro-based entrepreneurs — and the concepts they present are a lot more diverse than he’d been expecting.

“I was expecting, you know, 20 applications to be restaurants and food trucks, you know, that kind of thing,” he said, “but some are apparel goods, you know, handmade clothing, handmade accessories. Some are retail, you know, restaurant, food truck-based. Some are wellness-based. Some are counseling-based. [It’s] a pretty good representation, I think, of the county in general, so that’s been exciting.”

For his part, Pappas hopes to see a mix of people in the class — from those who are just starting out to those who want to grow a one-year-old business.

“We’re getting close,” he said. “I’m very excited to actually see this happen. I know Sanford RISE has just gained in popularity in the few years that it’s been going, so I’m hoping that we [will] have the same level of interest.”

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

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# Robert Logan appointed to fill Dist. 4 commissioner vacancy left by Jim Crawford

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Former CCS Superintendent Robert Logan was appointed as the Dist. 4 Commissioner on Monday night, to fill the vacancy left by Jim Crawford following his Dec. 31 resignation.**

Chatham commissioners unanimously appointed former Chatham County Schools Superintendent Robert Logan in a 3-0 vote on Monday night to fill the Dist. 4 vacancy left by Jim Crawford following his Dec. 31 resignation.

Logan will be sworn in as commissioner at the board's Feb. 21 meeting.

"I would like to welcome the new commissioner," Vice Chairperson Franklin Gomez Flores said during his commissioner report. Gomez Flores, the first Latino Chatham commissioner, graduated from Jordan-Matthews High School in 2012.

"He was actually a former superintendent of mine, which is pretty interesting," Gomez Flores said with a laugh.

The Chatham County Democratic Party's executive committee "overwhelmingly selected" Logan, CCS Superintendent from 2008-2013, as the party's recommended replacement at a Jan. 27 meeting out of three candidates, according to executive committee member Randy Voller.

Chatham County Democratic Party Chair Liz Guinan presented Logan as the party's choice at Monday's meeting; Chairperson Karen Howard was not present.

Logan serves as senior director for the nonprofit Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Center's Eastern Region. In addition to his tenure at CCS, he also formerly served as superintendent at Lee and Asheville City Schools, and as an associate superintendent for N.C. State University's School of Innovation and Transforma-

tion and a trustee for Central Carolina Community College. Logan has served on the board of directors for the Chatham County United Way and the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation.

and must reside in Dist. 4. Logan meets both requirements; following his swearing in on Feb. 21, he will fill the role until the winning candidate from the 2022 election takes office.

Crawford recommended Logan at his last board meeting on Dec. 20, and according to Voller, was supported by Chairperson Karen Howard, Pittsboro Mayor-Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin, Pittsboro Commissioner John Bonitz and CCS board member Del Turner by the time of the Jan. 27 party meeting.

Crawford, who confirmed his intended resignation to the News + Record on Dec. 3, stepped away from the Dist. 4 seat he had held since 2014 due to health reasons.

"I felt one of my responsibilities was to find someone to fill the gap that'd I'd be leaving," Crawford said at the Dec. 20 meeting.

"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."

Under state law, the board must appoint a new commissioner to fill out the remaining term, and can take or reject the recommendation of the Chatham County Democratic Party. The person must be a registered voter in the same party as the resigning commissioner,

"My fellow commissioners and I are thrilled to welcome Robert to the Board, and we are grateful that he stepped forward to serve in this important role as Chatham County continues to grow and evolve," Howard said in

and must reside in Dist. 4. Logan meets both requirements; following his swearing in on Feb. 21, he will fill the role until the winning candidate from the 2022 election takes office.

Commissioners previously expressed the desire to appoint a replacement without plans to run for the 2022 seat. Three new Democratic candidates filed for the Dist. 4 before a court order halted the filing period and delayed the primary until May 17.

The board couldn't fill the vacancy until it actually occurred — so after Dec. 31 — and had 60 days to do so after that point, which was March 2. If the board had not appointed someone in that time period, state law moves appointment authority to the clerk of court, who would have 10 days to fill the vacancy.

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

"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."

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### NAACP to host 'Brighter Futures' session Feb. 23

Want to help make Chatham County the statewide leader in keeping children in school and out of the criminal justice system in 2022?

The Chatham Community NAACP Branch #5377 invites you to join its Criminal Justice Committee Wednesday, Feb. 23, to discuss its "Brighter Futures" report that charts a path to that achievement. We will answer your questions and help you and

your organization map specific ways to help reach these goals:

- 90% reduction in school suspensions
- 90% reduction in school-related juvenile delinquency
- eliminate racial, disability, and economic

disparities in suspension and delinquency rates

- limit school/student resource officer (SRO) roles to state law requirements

The session will be held from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84107155714?pwd=Y0tLQmNTM-FQ4TWIwTHNvNXpHd-m10UT09>

### Chatham Charter 7th Grader in 2022 All District Band

Madilyn Bozzo, a 7th grader at Chatham Charter School, earned second chair tenor sax in the Symphonic Band for the Central District Middle School All District Band. She participated in the clinic on Feb. 4 and 5, culminating in a concert presentation at the Durham School of the Arts.

"Madilyn is an outstanding student who has worked very hard to audition and earn this spot in the Central District All-District Band," said



Courtesy of Chatham Charter

### Madilyn Bozzo

band director Elizabeth Taylor. "She auditioned with 7th and 8th grade musicians from several counties in the central part of North Carolina, including Guilford and

Randolph." Bozzo's audition scores also qualify her to audition in March for the All-State Band that will be held in April.

—CN+R staff reports

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## Chatham County Request for Bids - CORA Project - Building Upfit

Chatham County is seeking bids from qualified, licensed contractors to perform the upfit of a pre-engineered warehouse storage addition. The drawings and documents call for P, M and E work along with minimal framing and drywall and some demolition of current asphalt in identified parking areas and other associated tasks. The project is located at the CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance) Food Pantry at 40 Camp Drive, Pittsboro, NC, 27312.

**A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at the project site; 40 Camp Drive, Pittsboro, NC, 27312; on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM. Sealed bids will be accepted by mail or delivery until 2:00 PM, on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Vendors must submit one hard copy with all attachments, including signatory pages.**

A public bid opening will take place sharply at 2:00 in the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 US Hwy 64 West Business, Pittsboro, NC 27312. If not delivering to the bid open location, the hard copies must be sent to one of the following delivery addresses:

- Postal Address: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Finance Office P. O. Box 608, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (all postal delivery)

- Street Address: Michele Peluso, County Finance Office, Courthouse Annex 12 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 (land delivery only) Bid bonds are not required for this project.

**All inquiries relating to this request must be received by Thursday, March 3rd, 12:00 NOON. Requests must be in writing and addressed to: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Finance Office, P.O. Box 608; Pittsboro, NC 27312; or by fax to 919-545-2417; or emailed to: [purchasing@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:purchasing@chathamcountync.gov).**

This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/finance/bid-proposal-opportunities>

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# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Feb. 1, Kali Victoria Wyatt, 22, of 2256 Bynum Bridge Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Rischetta White for communicating threats. She was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 8.

On Feb. 1st, Brian Mark Phillips, 47, of 1163 Panhandle Road, Gold Hill, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for assault on a law enforcement officer inflicting serious injury, resisting public officer, driving while license revoked - impaired revocation and failure to comply with license restrictions. He was issued a \$20,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Feb. 1, Brian Mark Phillips, was arrested by Cpl. Michael Cox for four charges of failure to appear. He was issued a \$50,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Rowan County District Court in Salisbury on Mar. 7.

On Feb. 2, Vernon Dale Watson, 60, of 309 Masonic St. Apt. A, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Ashley Ellington for failure to appear for child support. He paid a purge fee of \$565.26 and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 11.

On Feb. 2, Richard Ralph Holder, 51, of 2579 NC Hwy 42, Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for assault on a female, communicating threats and misdemeanor probation violation. He was issued a \$2,500 se-

cured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Feb. 2, Royce Morgan Jr., 42, of 8108 Siler City Glendon Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$100 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 15.

Morgan was also arrested by Deputy Harrington for failure to appear on probation violations. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 15.

Morgan was also arrested by Deputy Harrington for three counts of failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 7.

On Feb. 2, Yush Kahmyu Smith, 24, of 260 Laura Johnson Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Rischetta White for violation of a court order. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Feb. 3, Chelsea Renee Holland, 28, of 5260 Goldston Glendon Rd., Goldston, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for simple assault and interfering with emergency communications. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 2. Holland was also arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to appear. She was issued a \$15,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County Superior Court in

Graham on Feb. 27.

On Feb. 3, Michael Preston Ray, 34, of 68 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for failure to pay fines. He was issued a \$385 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in New Hanover County District Court in Wilmington on Mar. 1.

On Feb. 4, Tammy Renee Alexander, 51, of 2915 Staley Snow Camp Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Yuridia Bahena-Robles for resisting a public officer. She was issued a \$500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 2.

On Feb. 4, Brandon Lindley Andrew, 36, of 292 George Hudson Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Cody DeViney for fleeing to elude arrest with a motor vehicle, larceny, possession of stolen goods, injuring utility wires or fixtures and driving while license revoked. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

Andrew was also arrested by Deputy Cody DeViney for probation violation. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 10.

On Feb. 4, Alicia Brooklyn Jones, 37, of 327 E. Davis St., Apt. 13B, Burlington, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for probation violation out of county and failure to appear. She was issued a \$16,500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County Superior Court in Graham on Feb. 8.

On Feb. 5, Danielle Jacklyn Kriegh, 30, of 905 Pea Ridge Rd., New Hill, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for possession of heroin, simple possession of a Schedule III controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Feb. 5, John Walker Grace, 27, of 1280 Lydia Perry Rd., Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for simple assault. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 22.

On Feb. 6, Karma Rei Maliar, 29, of 1021 Jack Bennett Rd., Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for obtaining property under false pretense and accessing computers. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Feb. 6, Nacole Renae Simmons, 42, of 87602 Aycock, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for simple assault and possession of marijuana up to 1/2 ounce. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 15.

On Feb. 6, Morris Eugene Glover, 53, of 1322 Newland St., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for assault by strangulation and assault on a female. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

## Combating Chatham's hunger keeps Smith on the job

BY JIMMY LEWIS  
Chatham County Council on Aging

*Editors Note: This is part three 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.*

SILER CITY — Diane Smith wheels around in her office chair at the West Chatham Food Pantry and summons a detailed Excel spreadsheet.

In 2021 alone, the 69-year-old Smith oversaw an organization that distributed anywhere from 4.5 to 8.5 tons of food per month to Chatham County residents in need.

That's tons. With a "T." "It's pretty impressive how much food we give out," Smith said.

A carefree retirement was never a consideration for Smith, who combined the waning years of her career as a medical transcriptionist with serving as one of the first volunteers when the pantry first opened its doors in 2007.

"I just knew friends that were trying to put this together, trying to get this started," she said. "I just felt the need to be able to hopefully give back to the community and help clients who were so food insufficient. It's such a huge, huge problem."

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the need for the pantry. Last year, a total of 1,945 families were served, including 6,302 individuals.

Clients, should they qualify and reside in Cha-



Courtesy of Chatham Council on Aging

### Diane Smith

tham County, can come once every two weeks. Many take full advantage of the window, and non-Chatham residents are often assisted on an emergency basis before being advised of resources closer to their respective areas.

"I've had a lot tell me, 'I'm so sorry I had to come,'" Smith said. "I haven't been coming because there are other people who need it more than I do.' Well, you need to come. Because that's what we're here for. Never would I have ever thought that this country would be in this type of situation with prices the way they are, and difficulty getting food to eat. You think of that happening in third-world countries."

Having gained firsthand knowledge of the pantry's operations from the ground floor for the

better part of a decade, Smith was approached "five or six years ago" about taking the reins as executive director. After a bit of conversation, she accepted and stepped into the demanding role of guiding a nonprofit.

"I was willing to give it a try," she said. "It's a lot, and it's easier now because I have more knowledge of what the internal processes are like, and the grant process."

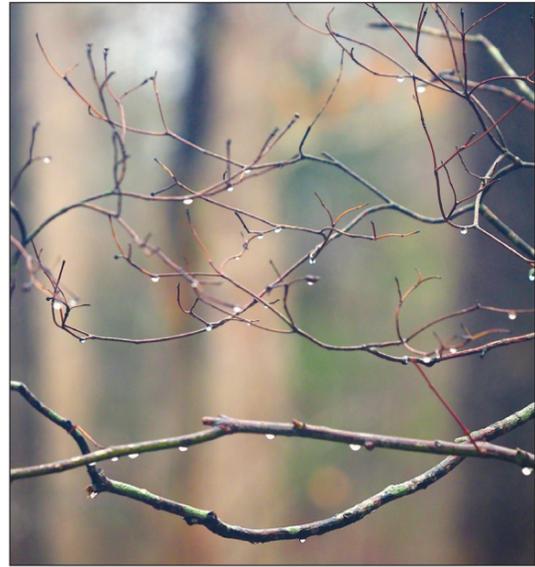
Like the 23 volunteers that come help staff the center three days a week — all have varying schedules — Smith doesn't accept a salary for her efforts as executive director. It's a diverse range of volunteers, from truck drivers to teachers, stay-at-home moms and retired lab technicians.

"I don't want to get paid," Smith assured. "I really don't. It doesn't

matter. I'm fine where I'm at financially, and I don't need that extra income. We'd rather just give our time."

Smith said that she plans on contributing to the pantry as long as she's able — whether in her leadership role or as a volunteer.

"It's just gratifying to know that you're helping these people who are so restricted in their finances to be able to purchase food," Smith said. "With the price of food going up like it is, they can't afford it. We're seeing that it's trickling down to us. We're having problems ordering food, getting food that we want to be able to give to our clients. Then in addition, trying to provide healthy food. We don't actually provide meals; we try to supplement what clients already have at home."



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## Sunny days ahead?

Cold, rainy days have been common lately, but the forecast for this coming few days promises a hint of spring.



Courtesy of Pittsboro Christian Village

## Employee of the year

Janet Stafford was recently recognized as Pittsboro Christian Village's 2021 Employee of the year. Stafford is a supervisor in the Care Home of Pittsboro Christian Village and has worked there since 2006. She was presented the award by Gerald Baker, PCV's executive director.

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## HONORS

### ANDERSON UNIVERSITY

Alyssa Gaines of Siler City has been named to the Dean's List for the 2021 fall semester at Anderson University in Anderson, S.C.

### SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

Sarah Pilecki of Moncure has been named to the Dean's List for the 2021 fall semester at Seton Hall

University in South Orange, N.J.

### MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Mya Clark-Beadle of Pittsboro has been named to the Dean's List for the 2021 fall semester at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

### ITHACA COLLEGE

Winter Faulkner of Pittsboro

has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y.

### UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Patrick Rubinas of Pittsboro has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester at the University of New Hampshire of Durham, N.H.

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE OF JOURNALISM

# Going to Russia for ideas on how to cover Ukraine — when the first casualty of war is truth

*A Moscow newspaper, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, and advice on dealing with stress and trauma*

**BY BUCK RYAN**  
Special to the News + Record

The hallways of the Moscow headquarters for the Russian Union of Journalists snake along with framed portraits of Russian journalists on the walls — corridor after corridor after corridor. The union is a successor to the organization whose 1918 conference was co-chaired by Lenin and Trotsky. (1)

“Are those members of your hall of fame?” I ask my tour guide for what is now the largest media workers’ organization in Russia. A Russian journalist herself, she covered the barbaric war in Chechnya.

“No, they are dead,” she replied. “Sometimes I have a nightmare that I am walking down this hallway and I look up and see my own picture on the wall.”

As the people of the Ukraine brace at the brink of war with Russia — or not — journalists around the globe are confronted with the question: What is the most responsible and ethical way to cover the prospect of war

when the first casualty is always truth?

Any such coverage takes a human toll on journalists and citizens.

“Like most Ukrainians, I am preparing emergency backpacks and marking on our Google maps the bomb shelters closest to my home and office,” said Maia Mikhaluk, who with her husband, Nic, direct the work of a Christian ministry, International Partnerships-Ukraine, and its team of full-time faith leaders from their home in Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv.

She told her story in an exclusive to the Chatham News + Record, a weekly community newspaper in Chatham County, North Carolina, with a global outlook. (2)

More than 5,000 miles away, more coverage of the Ukrainian conflict can be found in the Moscow newspaper Novaya Gazeta (New Gazette), whose editor-in-chief, Dmitry Muratov, shared in the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

The circumstances under which Muratov is conducting coverage are exceptionally harsh, as is the squeeze the Putin ad-

ministration has applied to investigative journalists around the country.

The prize put Muratov under surveillance for any hint of violating a “foreign agents” law, he must navigate legalities and government censors, and his staff must continue to deal with trauma in their coverage of the Ukrainian conflict, now going into its eighth year.

Since April 2014, more than 10,300 people have been killed, nearly 24,000 injured and 1.5 million people have been displaced because of violence in eastern Ukraine between the Ukrainian military and Russian-backed separatist forces, according to the Global Conflict Tracker of the Council on Foreign Relations. (3)

Through the words of the Nobel winner himself, including his views on Ukraine; a retrospective from personal experiences; comments from interviews with Russian journalists, and the views of a psychologist helping their colleagues deal with trauma, you can catch a glimpse of Russian history in a hurry.

Muratov took the stage



Photo by Oksi Lantt

**Buck Ryan receives an ‘honorary doctorate in Russian media studies’ from Victor Yukechev, director of the Press Development Institute-Siberia, in 2010 upon concluding a two-day workshop in Barnaul, Russia, on Ryan’s Maestro Concept story planning method.**

at Oslo City Hall in Norway on Friday, Dec. 10, to accept his share of the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize. At age 60, he breathe new life into a brand of journalism in Russia that speaks truth to power, then ducks.

His speech, entitled “Antidote against tyranny,” (4) carried this last line in a postscript: “I want journalists to die old.”

Muratov mentioned Ukraine more than once in his speech, harkening back to the 2014 deaths of 298 people on a Malaysia Airlines flight shot down over eastern Ukraine after Russian-backed rebels seized the area. (5)

“Hybrid warfare and the tragic, ugly and criminal story of the Boeing MH17 have ruined relations between Russia and Ukraine,” Muratov said, “and I do not know if the next generations will be able to restore them.”

Then he delivered this line: “Moreover, in the heads of some crazy geopoliticians, a war between Russia and Ukraine is not something impossible any longer.”

History surrounds Muratov, who was born in October 1961, a year before the Cuban Missile Crisis, in the city of Kuybyshev with its Volga River port found on 14th century maps in Italy.

In his own search for meaning about the importance of his Nobel moment, Muratov observed:

*The world has fallen out of love for democracy anymore.*

*The world has become disappointed with the power elite.*

*The world has begun to turn to dictatorship.*

*We’ve got an illusion that progress can be achieved through technology and violence, not through human rights and freedoms.*

*This is progress without freedom?*

*It is as impossible as getting milk without having a cow.*

In a Novaya Gazeta article published Jan. 21, reporter Valery Shiryayev cautions the world about how to view what is really going on in the Ukraine and challenges Western journalists to see through the fog.

The article carries the headline: “PLOTS POLITICS, Unmanned technologies: Behind the backs of diplomats, echelons of Russian military equipment without personnel are moving to the West.” (6) Here’s the lede:

*“A ghost wanders into Europe. The ghost of militarism. From the Far East, from Buryatia and Eastern Siberia, trains*

*with military equipment go to the West. But the crews do not accompany artillery and anti-aircraft systems. There is no one in the echelons, except for ferry teams. This is not an invasion force in the Donbass. This is how our military supports the efforts of diplomats preparing to continue negotiations with the US and NATO on a security system in Europe.”*

Shiryayev points to “the epic propaganda battle that began in November, designed to ensure a profitable outcome of the negotiations, not only the diplomatic corps and journalists, but also the military are participating on both sides.”

Too bad Yessen Zassoursky, dean of Lomonosov Moscow State University’s journalism school from 1965 to 2007 (7), isn’t here to translate the propaganda. He missed Muratov’s big moment, but only by a few months as he died in August at the age of 91.

In my role as a visiting professor to Moscow State’s journalism school in 2013, my host asked me if I would like to speak with Professor Zassoursky, president of the journalism faculty at the time. “He is old,” she said, “but he has all his marbles.”

When I entered his office, the size of a small concert hall with packed bookcases lining the walls and soaring toward sky-high ceilings, I noticed that the professor had prepared tea for me with Soviet-era candies on the side.

When in the presence of a legend who started teaching journalism at Moscow State in 1953 when Nikita Khrushchev became the Soviet Union’s leader, you are wise not to speak but listen.

What I heard from Zassoursky was how bias in journalism had changed in Russia over a half century.

“We have gone from a journalism of government propaganda to a journalism of commercial propaganda,” Yassursky told me, lamenting how financial interests had skewed truth-telling in the news media.

As the old Soviet expression goes, Zassursky taught journalism at a time when there was no pravda (truth) in Izvestia (The News), the Soviet Union’s newspaper of record, and there was no izvestia in Pravda, the Communist Party’s official newspaper.

Today, as Shiryayev writes, the table has tilted from propaganda to a sophisticated disinformation campaign that has produced “alarming forecasts in Western media and maps describing the imminent takeover of Kiev in January.”

“Interestingly, nationalist websites and bloggers in Russia are unanimously publishing videos from social networks, where military equipment from Siberia and the Far East is sent in trains to the west,” Shiryayev writes.

“Their delight can be expressed as follows: ‘They are coming! Wait! Be afraid!’ There are many opinions that soon the grouping on the borders of Russia, Ukraine and NATO will increase to 500 thousand people. ... The Ministry of Defense does not protest or deny. The more videos the better. This is also part of the negotiation process.”

Leave it now to Novaya

Gazeta to discern what to report as truth: “Russian diplomacy stage by stage is conducting a special operation to ensure the negotiation process with the United States and NATO.”

Yes, there are “threats and elements of disinformation,” but “the most active part in this operation is also taken by the entire state (in the broadest sense) Russian press.

How did Muratov prepare for such a challenge? He studied philology and graduated in 1983 from his hometown college, Samara (formerly Kuibyshev) State University, which claims him as a famous alum but which is not known for journalism like Moscow State. (8)

For Muratov, who co-founded Novaya Gazeta in 1993 with funding from former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev’s Nobel Peace Prize, the struggle to create “an honest, independent and rich” source of news for Russian citizens has come with a heavy price and moments of recognition.

In 2007 when Muratov was honored with an International Press Freedom Award, the Committee to Protect Journalists called his newspaper “the only truly critical newspaper with national influence in Russia today.” (9)

Nonetheless, a Nobel Peace Prize was hard to believe.

“To be candid, I was shocked about the news,” said Eradzh Nidoev, an independent film and video director and a former journalist who graduated in 2012 with a master’s degree from Lomonosov Moscow State University’s journalism school. “In Russia journalism is almost dead.”

Nidoev, a 2013 Transatlantic Media Fellow, was then a producer for the first fully independent, liberal Russian TV channel, Dozhd (TVRain).

Nidoev referred to a 2019 law signed by Putin that meant a journalist who published online and received payments from foreign sources faced having to register as a “foreign agent.” (10)

“According to the new law,” Nidoev said, “several media are named ‘foreign agents,’ which makes them unpleasant for advertisers.”

In his Nobel Prize speech, Muratov called attention to this new reality, saying “journalism in Russia is going through a dark valley,” translating “foreign agents” as meaning “enemies of the people” (Stalin’s ghostly words), and noting, “Many of our colleagues have lost their jobs. Some have to leave the country.”

Now you can understand why Muratov was quick to state publicly in October that he was donating his share of the Nobel Peace Prize to charity, as the 10 million kronor, or \$1.1 million (U.S.), comes from a foreign foundation in Sweden.

Putin put Muratov on notice in news media interviews, from CNBC to Tass, (11) that he cannot hide behind his Nobel Prize to avert being labeled a “foreign agent,” saying people must abide by Russian law “regardless of any accomplishment.” (12)

Oksi Lantt, a multimedia producer and innovative educator based in St. Petersburg, Russia,

See **UKRAINE**, page B10

## Town of Siler City to Perform Annual Temporary Switch to Chlorine Disinfection January 20, 2020

Beginning March 1, 2022, the Town of Siler City Water Plant will temporarily suspend the addition of ammonia to its water treatment disinfection process, as required by North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Siler City will resume the addition of ammonia to the water treatment disinfection process on April 5, 2022.

Siler City uses both ammonia and chlorine to form chloramines for its disinfection process. Ammonia is added to the water in a carefully regulated dose and reacts chemically with the chlorine to produce chloramines. Chloraminated drinking water is safe for drinking, bathing, cooking and many other daily uses. NCDENR requires all systems using chloramination to suspend the addition of ammonia for a one-month period annually.

During the changes in our disinfection process, three groups of people need to take special precautions for higher concentrations of chlorine – kidney dialysis patients, pretreatment owners and aquatic pet owners using City water. Dialysis patients and aquatic pet owners already treat the water they use for chlorine removal. Any customer who pre-treats City water for any process should be aware of their change and consult the manufacturer of any pretreatment equipment for recommendations.

There may also be flushing of water mains throughout the system during this time, causing some discoloration and/or chlorine odor to the drinking water. The city water, however, will still be safe for drinking, bathing and other daily uses. While there are no associated health risks with the discoloration and/or odor, you may want to be sure the water is clear of discoloration prior to laundering light-colored clothing during this time period. If you notice discoloration at the tap, allowing the water to run 5 to 10 minutes should clear up the problem.

Customers with concerns may contact the Town of Siler City at 919-742-4731 or cmccorquodale@silercity.org.

## Ciudad de Siler Realizará el Cambio Temporal Anual a la Desinfección del Cloro Enero 20, 2020

A partir del 1 de Marzo de 2022, la Planta de Agua de la Ciudad de Siler City suspenderá temporalmente la adición de amoníaco a su proceso de desinfección del tratamiento de agua, como lo requiere el Departamento de North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). Siler City reanudará la adición de amoníaco al proceso de desinfección del tratamiento del agua el 5 de Abril de 2022.

Siler City utiliza amoníaco y cloro para formar cloraminas para su proceso de desinfección. El amoníaco se añade al agua en una dosis cuidadosamente regulada y reacciona químicamente con el cloro para producir cloraminas. El agua potable cloramiada es segura para beber, bañarse, cocinar y muchos otros usos diarios. NCDENR requiere que todos los sistemas que utilizan cloraminación suspendan la adición de amoníaco durante un período de un mes al año.

Durante los cambios en nuestro proceso de desinfección, tres grupos de personas necesitan tomar precauciones especiales para mayores concentraciones de cloro – pacientes de diálisis renal, propietarios de pretratamiento y propietarios de mascotas acuáticas que utilizan agua de la ciudad. Los pacientes de diálisis y los dueños de mascotas acuáticas ya tratan el agua que utilizan para la eliminación de cloro. Cualquier cliente que pre-trata el agua de la ciudad para cualquier proceso debe ser consciente de su cambio y consultar al fabricante de cualquier equipo de pretratamiento para recomendaciones.

También puede haber enjuague de agua por todo el Sistema durante este tiempo, causando algo de decoloración y/o olor a cloro en el agua potable. Sin embargo el agua de la ciudad seguirá siendo segura para beber, bañarse y otros usos diarios. Si bien no existen riesgos para la salud asociados con la decoloración y/o el olor, es posible asegurarse de que el agua no tenga decoloración antes de lavar ropa de colores claros durante este periodo de tiempo. Si nota decoloración en el grifo, deje correr el agua de 5 a 10 minutos esto debería solucionar el problema

Los clientes con inquietudes pueden comunicarse con la ciudad de Siler City al 919-742-4731, o cmccorquodale@silercity.org



Courtesy of Novaya Gazeta

**Dmitry Muratov, editor-in-chief of the Moscow newspaper Novaya Gazeta who shared in the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize, has seen more than his share of human rights violations and trauma. Six of his staff members have been murdered, and his newspaper offices have been sprayed with chemicals.**

## UKRAINE

Continued from page B9

co-authored a Poynter article with me (13), conducting an exclusive interview in Russian with Muratov on Oct. 8, the day he received word of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Lantt provided her own take on what Muratov is up against:

“The law says: — if you sometime (even in the past) received any amount of money from any source from abroad

— plus you publish anything (literary) you MAY be announced ‘foreign agent’. Without a trial.”

Lantt founded Sila-media in 2013 to provide training for Russian journalists. (14) She put the Nobel Prize’s meaning for Russian journalists this way:

“I think they can feel that Russia is not fully controlled by Putin. There are people who are trying to turn Russia into a democratic way. They can feel that Russia is not Iran yet and can feel empathy for people who follow their principles.”

In his Nobel speech, Muratov called on investigative reporters around the world to help him create “an international tribunal against torture” and spoke of the power of the printed press: “By the way, Novaya Gazeta is still published on paper. So that people in prison can also read it since there is no internet in prisons.”

Most recently Lantt assisted with an investigative journalism seminar in St. Petersburg organized by Victor Yukechev, director of the Tak-tak-tak Foundation for Promotion of Mass Communication and Education in the Sphere of Law in Russia (15), based in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

“Tak-tak-tak” is Russian for what you say (something like “Well, well, well” or “hmm”) to buy time to think deeply before you respond. “The Peace Prize was awarded to the editor-in-chief of a newspaper whose mission is Truth, however bitter and unpleasant it may be for society at times,” Yukechev said.

“As a result, I derived a simple formula: Truth is a movement toward Peace. And the understanding of this formula by journalists from different countries is the real guarantee of Peace, based on Truth,” said Yukechev, who for the past two years has been conducting a joint project on data journalism with German and Ukrainian journalists.

“I must admit that not

all my colleagues today are ready to accept this formula,” he added.

Yukechev is not easily deterred in his efforts to develop new methods of public investigative journalism, bringing journalists together with citizens and human rights defenders on social issues.

He began his foundation in 2013 to continue his work as director of the Press Development Institute-Siberia to conduct seminars and workshops for journalists and journalism professors on investigative journalism techniques and legal consultations.

The Nobel Prize news came on the same day that Yukechev opened another training session of his project “Right to the City: From Public Inquiry to Public Participation in Decision-Making.” Leonid Nikitinsky, a columnist for Novaya Gazeta, is one of the trainers.

Since the mid-1980s, Nikitinsky, a lawyer, has been a go-to source on Russian legal developments for journalists. (16)

As a goal, Yukechev said, his project allows citizens to suggest to the authorities “methods and ways to eliminate the causes of human rights violations identified in the course of investigations.”

Muratov has seen more than his share of human rights violations and trauma. Six of his staff members have been murdered, and his newspaper offices have been sprayed with chemicals.

In his Nobel speech, Muratov named his Novaya Gazeta colleagues who have lost their lives: Igor Domnikov, Yuri Shchekotschikhin, Anna Politkovskaya, Anastasiya Baburova, Stas Markelov and Natasha Estemirova.

The toll taken on journalists covering war zones like the conflict in the Ukraine is not only physical but also emotional and psychological. They need a special tool kit, like the one designed by Olga Kravtsova, a Russian psychologist who studied human rights, trauma and related issues.

Kravtsova has done training programs and sessions for journalists in different Russian regions and other countries, including post-Soviet neighbors, Sweden and the U.S.

Last year she wrapped up a class, entitled “Psychology of Stress for Journalists,” in the media department at the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. She taught about journalism and trauma at Moscow State University’s journalism school from 2008 to 2012.

She recalled that in 2011 one of Novaya Gaze-

ta’s leading reporters participated in a two-day roundtable discussion, titled “Journalism and Psychological Traumas,” conducted when she was director of the Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations in a collaboration with the Dart Centre Europe (17) for journalism and trauma, supported by the Rory Peck Trust.

Kravtsova, like Yukechev, serves as a member of the Press Council of Russia, whose name in Russian translates as the Public Press Complaints Collegium, which consists of the Chamber of Media Community and the Chamber of Media Audience. (18)

In the U.S. news media organizations have had an on-and-off relationship with ombudsmen to deal with complaints and questions of competence and confidence. To say there is no U.S. equivalent to the Press Council would be an understatement:

“The Public Press Complaints Collegium is an independent Russian civil society structure for media self-regulation and co-regulation. The board was created in 2005 on the basis of an informal agreement between more than 80 media outlets and non-media non-governmental organizations to serve as an arbitration court. The competence of the board is to consider information disputes related to violations of the principles and norms of journalistic ethics as well as those affecting human rights in the sphere of mass media.”

Four years ago, Kravtsova recalled, Novaya Gazeta’s top editor, Sergey Kozheurov, filed a complaint with the Press Council that the reputation of one of his reporters, Pavel Kanygin, was the target of a smear campaign on a Russian TV program. She also recalled three complaints filed against Novaya Gazeta over the years.

Before Kravtsova offers any tips on stress management to journalists, she emphasizes that physical safety comes first, especially if reporters are in a war zone.

“In a situation like murders and losses,” she said, “it’s hard to find the right words on ‘how to take care of yourself.’ But still we need to recharge resources somehow.”

She offered what she called “some very basic and short tips”:

1. Being stressed in a stressful situation is OK. Don’t play Superman (and we know he was a reporter!), acknowledge what you’ve been through, your feelings, limitations and the need

# A journalist’s tool kit for emotional and psychological stress relief

**BY BUCK RYAN**  
Special to the News + Record

The toll taken on journalists covering war zones like the conflict in the Ukraine is not only physical but also emotional and psychological. They need a special tool kit, like the one designed by Olga Kravtsova, a Russian psychologist who has studied human rights, trauma and related issues.

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“In a situation like murders and losses,” she said, “it’s hard to find the right words on ‘how to take care of

to regain strength. Talk to a person you trust, or write down your feelings in a diary. Use stress-management techniques that work for you. Ask for professional help if needed.

2. Try to keep to a healthy routine as much as possible. Don’t rely on alcohol, drugs and other destructive methods. Do some exercise or choose other physical activity that makes you feel better (take a walk alone or together with a friend, dance with the music you like, etc). Sleep and eat well – stress is very draining on a physical level as well.

3. If the stressful situation is not just one-off but continuous, allocate some time to “switch off.” Create a “stress-free” zone and take time to spend with people you love, and to do things you like, other than work.

4. Make realistic plans. Know the difference between things you can and cannot change. Focus on the ones you can, even if those are small, simple steps.

5. Take care of yourself and your colleagues. If you need help and support, it’s OK to ask for it. Offer your help to others. Develop and be a part of a support circle among your peers and colleagues.

Doing responsible journalism in a war zone is costly, personally and financially.

As you visit the Novaya Gazeta website, a pop-up invites you to “become an accomplice.”

“You can simply close this window and return to reading the article,” the message says. “Or you can support the newspaper with a small donation so we can continue to write about what others are afraid of and think about. Thanks!”

*About the author: Buck Ryan, a journalism professor and director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center at the University of Kentucky, has followed journalism trends in Russia over the last decade. (19) He has conducted Maestro Concept storytelling seminars for Russian journalists, including in-*

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*investigative reporters, and journalism school students and faculty across multiple time zones. In 2014 Ryan co-authored an article, “Civic arms race: To Russia, with love for young voters,” (link 20) with a senior lecturer at Lomonosov Moscow State University’s journalism school on the rise in popularity of Moscow mayoral candidate Alexei Navalny, now in prison and recognized by Amnesty International as “a prisoner of conscience.”*

(1) <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/could-trade-union-do-anything-to-protect-russian-journalists/>

(2) <https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/for-we-ukrainians-its-hard-to-ignore-the-looming-danger-from-russia,12156?cb=1643395821>

(3) <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

(4) <https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/peace/2021/muratov/lecture/>

(5) <https://www.court-housenews.com/prosecution-begins-closing-statements-in-mh17-trial/>

(6) <https://translate.google.com/web-site?sl=ru&client=webapp&u=https://novayagazeta.ru/articles/2022/01/20/bezliudnye-tekhnologii&tl=en>

(7) <https://vestnik.journ.msu.ru/eng/editorial/1046/>

(8) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/10/08/dmitry-muratov-nobel-peace-prize/>

(9) <https://cpj.org/awards/muratov-2/>

(10) <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/2019/12/02/world/europe/russia-for-eign-agents-law.amp.html>

(11) <https://tass.com/society/1349265>

(12) <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-10-13/putin-says-nobel-prize-isn-t-legal-shield-for-russian-editor>

(13) <https://www.poynter.org/business-work/2021/nobel-peace-prize-winner-dmitry-muratov-has-taken-casualties-in-russias-war-on-the-free-press/>

(14) <https://ru.linke-din.com/in/oksilant>

(15) <https://gijn.org/member/tak-tak-tak-foundation-promotion-mass-communications-education-sphere-law-russia/>

(16) [https://www.law.nyu.edu/news/RUSSIAN\\_JUSTICE\\_NIKITINSKY](https://www.law.nyu.edu/news/RUSSIAN_JUSTICE_NIKITINSKY)

(17) <https://dartcenter.org/europe>

(18) <https://www.presscouncils.eu/members-russia>

(19) <https://uknow.uky.edu/campus-news/journalism-professor-travels-russia>

(20) <https://archives.rgnn.org/2014/01/10/civic-arms-race-to-russia-with-love-for-young-voters/>

## FUNDRAISER

**There will be a drive through Fund Raiser for Greg & Sandy Lineberry, who lost their home and belongings due to a fire.**

**This event will take place Sunday, February 13, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at Gees Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, 245 Gees Grove Church Rd, Siler City, NC 27344.**

If you are unable to make the event on the 13th, donations can also be dropped off any time during the hours of operation at the State Employees Credit Union located at 1131 N. Glenn Avenue, Siler City, NC 27344 c/o Gregg & Sandy Lineberry.

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THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

## 'Moonfall' a perfect storm of orbital awfulness

When I reviewed the Roland Emmerich disaster flick "2012" 13 years ago, I recited the already well-worn Emmerich character archetypes. There is the intrepid scientist who warns everyone about impending doom and a third-party hero who just wants to save his family and the world, in that order, including his estranged

(former) wife and her new beau. There is a nutjob conspiracy theorist, and a bevy of barely realized secondary players who supply risible comic relief and/or cannon fodder for all the CGI cataclysms.

"Moonfall," Emmerich's latest sci-fi disaster (in more ways than one), follows that template. This time, global annihilation comes from the moon, well, falling out of orbit and into Earth's atmosphere, triggering an array of loosely scientific-based calamities, such as major tidal shifts, gravitational fluctuations, and atmospheric loss. Turns out the moon is a hollowed-out megastructure, constructed by an ancient civilization and now under attack by a mysterious alien entity aiming to ... you know, never mind.

Saving the world falls to Brian (Patrick Wilson), a disgraced ex-astronaut and the aforementioned hero who wants to save his family, including his delinquent son, his ex-wife (Carolina Bartczak), and her new husband, Tom (Michael Peña, here for the check), who is a wealthy Lexus dealer because ... product placement! Brian reteams with his former NASA mate Jocinda (Halle Berry), along with K.C. (John Bradley, a poor man's Josh Gad who actually replaced Gad in the cast during

**MOONFALL**  
**GRADE:** D-  
**DIRECTOR:** Roland Emmerich  
**STARRING:** Halle Berry, Patrick Wilson and John Bradley  
**MPAA RATING:** PG-13  
**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hr.

pre-production), the conspiracy theorist/intrepid scientist who warned everyone for years about impending lunar doom that he had no rational reason to actually know.

If "Moonfall" were only the same melange of bad scriptwriting, bad acting and bad character development as Emmerich's previous films not named "Independence Day" (the first one) and "The Patriot," it would simply be another movie not worth watching.

But even Emmerich's many misfires manage more than a few eye-popping moments, whether it's blowing up the White House (in at least three films), the frozen NYC skyline in "The Day After Tomorrow," or the WWII dogfights in "Midway." For "Moonfall," the visual effects look like they were created on a Commodore 64, even down to the basic green-screening. During one horribly contrived

digital car chase, a Lexus SUV goes all Dukes of Hazzard, skipping across a collapsing Colorado chasm during an avalanche.

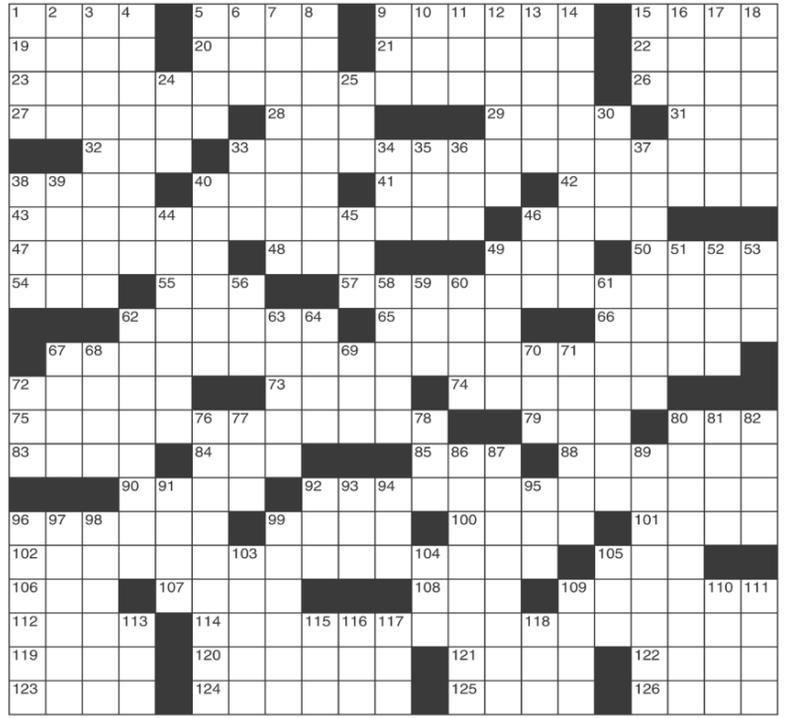
It is as if Emmerich binge-watched "2001: A Space Odyssey," "Gravity," and "Interstellar," then set out to make the dopest distillation possible and pigeonhole it into his usual tiresome template. It is a perfect storm of orbital awfulness, a film that is indescribably dopey before it becomes excruciatingly idiotic.

**It is a perfect storm of orbital awfulness, a film that is indescribably dopey before it becomes excruciatingly idiotic.**

### PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

### FORGET THE WHOLE THING

- |                                |  |                                    |   |                                 |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                  | 49 —wester (certain storm)               | 100 Chimney grime                  | 8 Wine merchants                          | 49 Brother of Moe and Curly     | 78 "— Tok" (#1 hit for Keshia)       |
| 1 Warning about a racy web pic | 50 "Oh, God!" actress Garr               | 101 Great serves                   | 9 Unlock, in poems                        | 51 Deep black, in poems         | 80 On the nose                       |
| 5 "West Side Story" knife      | 54 Cousins of aves.                      | 105 2000-15 CBS series             | 10 Resting place for a napkin             | 52 Break in friendship          | 81 Viking letter                     |
| 9 Seasoned vet                 | 55 Name of some newspapers               | 106 Writer Rand                    | 11 Drinker's hwy. offense                 | 53 Hairy TV cousin              | 82 Rescue crew VIPs                  |
| 15 Bro                         | 57 GHTE                                  | 107 Blood type, in brief           | 12 Implores                               | 56 "Science Friday" aier        | 86 Occupant                          |
| 19 French for "yours"          | 62 Actors                                | 109 Wakes up                       | 13 Christina of "Bel Ami"                 | 58 Person tying shoes           | 87 Represented                       |
| 20 Treat for feet, for short   | 65 Very top                              | 112 Writer Uris                    | 14 Put too high a price on                | 59 Onetime transportation agcy. | 89 Peruvian singer with a wide range |
| 21 Pope after Marcellus II     | 66 Flying                                | 114 NTEEN                          | 15 Papa                                   | 60 Foods created by biotech     | 91 Notorious emperor                 |
| 22 Scads                       | 67 TRONI                                 | 119 Peel, as fruit                 | 16 Perfect world                          | 61 Flood-prevention sack        | 92 OR workers                        |
| 23 RFORM                       | 72 Cast out of the country               | 120 Excited                        | 17 Be charitable                          | 62 One sharing your blood       | 93 Rust may be a sign of it          |
| 26 Rapper                      | 73 Official helper                       | response to "Who wants ice cream?" | 18 Gas guzzler                            | 63 Songwriter Carmichael        | 94 DVR remote abbr.                  |
| 27 Variety show hosts, e.g.    | 74 Pays out                              | 121 Cozy corner                    | 24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon               | 64 Salon noise                  | 95 Cain, to Eve                      |
| 28 ACLU interests: Abbr.       | 75 EAKI                                  | 122 Pierce player Alan             | 25 Chicago winter hrs.                    | 67 Large-scale public show      | 96 Hair-raising sites?               |
| 29 Farming unit                | 79 Diner check                           | 123 Cast off hair                  | 30 Blarney                                | 68 Untrue tales                 | 97 "Is that so?"                     |
| 31 Pasty luau food             | 80 Start for existing                    | 124 Swan constellation             | 33 Mushroom feature                       | 69 Neighbor of Mont.            | 98 Poe's "radiant maiden"            |
| 32 Flight takeoff abbr.        | 83 Name of some newspapers               | 125 Forest sight                   | 34 King, in Lyon                          | 70 Caress                       | 99 Yuletide quaff                    |
| 33 NTR                         | 84 Vetoer's vote                         | 126 Sackie growth                  | 35 Hubbub                                 | 71 How money may be lost        | 103 Destitute                        |
| 38 "Peek- —!"                  | 85 U.S. tax org.                         | <b>DOWN</b>                        | 36 Novelist Deighton                      | 72 Sci-fi gift                  | 104 Tic- —toe                        |
| 40 Classic comic Martha        | 88 Aromatic aftershave liquid            | 1 Neck back                        | 37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps | 73 Belonging naturally          | 105 Gear tooth                       |
| 41 Uplifting poems             | 90 QB's blunders: Abbr.                  | 2 Mushroom feature                 | 38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.                 | 74 Sci-fi gift                  | 109 Yard tool                        |
| 42 Place full of video games   | 92 RKE                                   | 3 Some plays on ground balls       | 39 Regatta entry                          | 75 Univ. website suffix         | 110 Sports datum                     |
| 43 UBL                         | 96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g. | 4 Fiancee                          | 40 Upshot                                 | 76 Belonging naturally          | 111 Sports datum                     |
| 46 Chicken cordon —            | 99 Outer limit                           | 5 Colo. — (city S. of Denver)      | 44 Evan of figure skating                 | 77 "One Mic" rapper             | 112 Sports datum                     |
| 47 British chums               |  | 6 Skirt line                       | 45 Univ. helpers                          |                                 | 113 TV neighbor of Homer             |
| 48 Stars and Stripes' nation   |  | 7 "Just go ahead and try!"         | 46 Web automaton                          |                                 | 115 Pewter, mostly                   |
|                                |  |                                    |   |                                 | 116 Univ. website suffix             |
|                                |  |                                    |   |                                 | 117 Vetoers' votes                   |
|                                |  |                                    |   |                                 | 118 Rival of Wade                    |



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

H O P I M W A H F B I L A B A M P S  
 O R E S R O S A R U D E L Y T O R O  
 F R A C T I O N S E M I N O R T R E X  
 S H O L E F T S T O O T E R S  
 S A I N T F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I  
 B E L A I R I T A L L D A T S U N  
 R E A G I A N T I A M B T O R N  
 A N D T H E N T H E R E W E R E N O N E  
 O T R A S Z E D S I N E  
 O M A N B E R G H A N D W R O T E  
 R E T I N A L M A I Z E E S T O N I A  
 B A L C O N I E S M I M E U S E R  
 E T A T G E T L E A V E  
 A B E L I N C O L N I N I L L I N O I S  
 E L A N A H M E O A S I S U V A  
 S A N T A S E A T E R G I F T E D  
 E N T E R T A I N M E N T C E N T E R S  
 L E N T I L S L O H A N O W E  
 B A R T T O N S I L M I S C R E A N T  
 I D E E C H O I C E A R U T S C A R  
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I F L D B H O A Z X W S U N G  
S L W A R D C Y Q O O N L A N  
J H A E E E F D T N C A Y T I  
W V T R L D G O I N G B U S T  
S Q P O U B N S L L E K I H T  
F E H C B T A Z P Y W W V U E  
S R Q P N C A T S M H I T L B  
J I H G N I T N U O C D R A C

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: **Player Takes no more Cards**

- |               |            |           |            |
|---------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Betting box   | Draw       | Insurance | Surrender  |
| Card counting | Going bust | Natural   | Table      |
| Casinos       | Hit        | Push      | Twenty-one |
| Dealer        | Hole card  | Split     |            |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆**

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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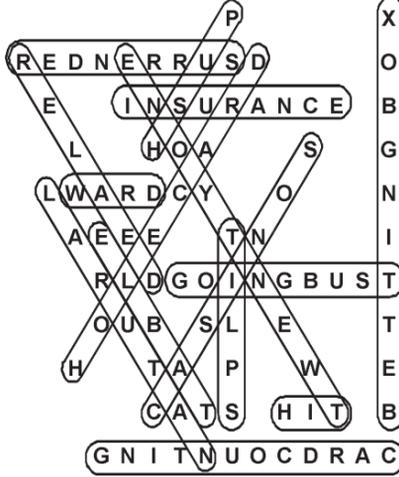
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**THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS**

## ‘Death on the Nile’ is a whodunit pleasure cruise with panache

After a coronavirus-imposed lull, it appears the renaissance of the murder mystery movie is back with its two principal contributors. There is Rian Johnson’s “Knives Out” series, with Daniel Craig as Detective Benoit Blanc, which will see its second entry later this year. Then there is Kenneth Branagh’s Hercule Poirot revival, beginning with 2017’s readaptation of Agatha Christie’s “Murder on the Orient Express” and now the release of “Death on the Nile,” based on Christie’s 1937 novel of the same name.

Delayed for over a year because of COVID-19 concerns and abuse allegations against co-star Armie Hammer, the film lands in the traditionally deadly February release win-

**DEATH ON THE NILE**

**GRADE:** B+  
**DIRECTOR:** Kenneth Branagh  
**STARRING:** Kenneth Branagh, Gal Gadot, Tom Bateman, Armie Hammer, Emma Mackey, Annette Benning, Russell Brand, Letitia Wright and Sophie Okonedo  
**MPAA RATING:** PG-13  
**RUNNING TIME:** 2 hr. 7 min.

dow, yet against the backdrop of a still-starving theater scene. The result is a crack-erjack whodunit laced with Branagh’s directorial panache and a sizable cast that ranges from adequate to astounding. Branagh again pulls dou-

ble-duty, also portraying the renowned Poirot. A cold open flashes back to the 1914 Belgium front, with young Poirot as an World War I infantryman. The black-and-white segment serves two functions: it shows how and why Poirot later adopted his prominent handlebar mustache, and it establishes that Branagh is well-suited to make a feature war film. Fast-forward to 1937, three years after the setting of “Orient Express,” and Poirot finds himself in Egypt seemingly on holiday. He runs into Bouc (Tom Bateman, reprising his role from “Orient Express”) and his mother Euphemia (Annette Benning), who invite Poirot to join a celebration of the nuptials between socialite Linnet Ridgeway (Gal Gadot) and Simon Doyle (Hammer).

The two met six months earlier in a steamy London jazz club — where Poirot also happened to be present — after being introduced by Simon’s then-girlfriend Jacqueline

(Emma Mackey, terrific). Over a half-dozen other guests arrive, all with some latent axe to grind against Linnet, including her greedy cousin Andrew (Ali Fazal), her former beau Linus (Russell Brand), her socialist godmother Marie (Jennifer Saunders), and ex-classmate Rosalie (Letitia Wright), who is secretly dating Bouc and whose aunt, Salome (Sophie Okonedo, outstanding), is a jazz singer hired to be the event’s entertainment.

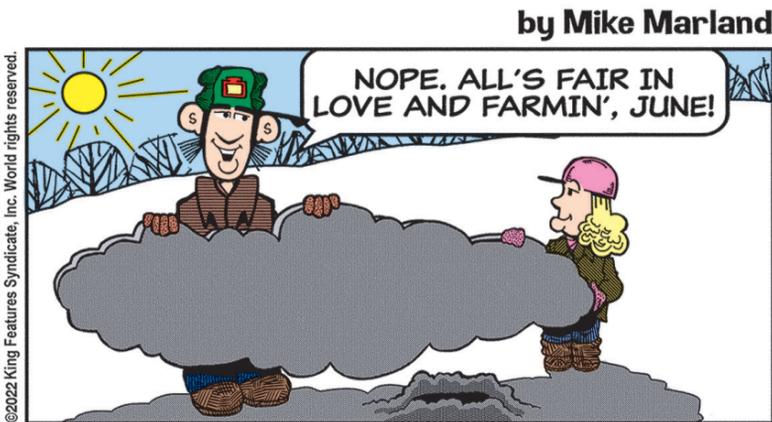
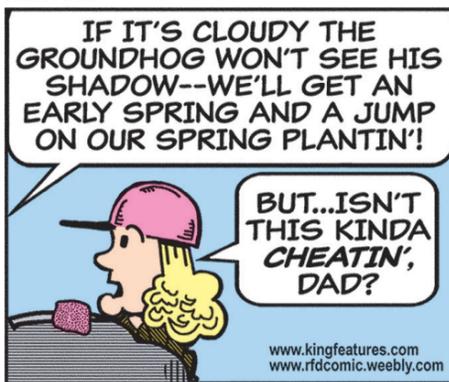
When the still-steamed Jacqueline crashes the party, the group charts a luxury steamer to cruise the Nile. After Jacqueline finds her way aboard the boat, too, an argument between her and Simon ends with Simon shot in the leg and, the next morning, Linnet shot in the head while lying in her bed. Poirot leaps into action to crack the case, interviewing passengers and uncovering their respective motives. Two other murders occur as Poirot tries to ascertain the truth and

unveil the killer, while Poirot also reveals the real reason for his initial presence in Egypt.

The decision to not reshoot Hammer’s scenes following sex abuse charges lodged against him in March 2021 seem understandable after seeing his ubiquitous presence in the movie. The taut triangular chemistry between he, Gadot, and Mackey is one of the film’s fulcrums. Okonedo’s role grows as the story goes along, in proper proportion to her acting ability and meaty dialogue. And Branagh’s Poirot carries the right blend of craftiness, wit, arrogance, mischievousness and even melancholy. He is a keen observer but not infallible, prone to missteps but still the smartest person in the room.

“Death on the Nile” is cinematic comfort food, an engrossing but breezy chamber piece with sufficient depth of setting and character. It’s a world that is fun to visit, and one I hope Branagh returns to in future sequels.

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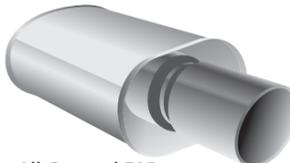
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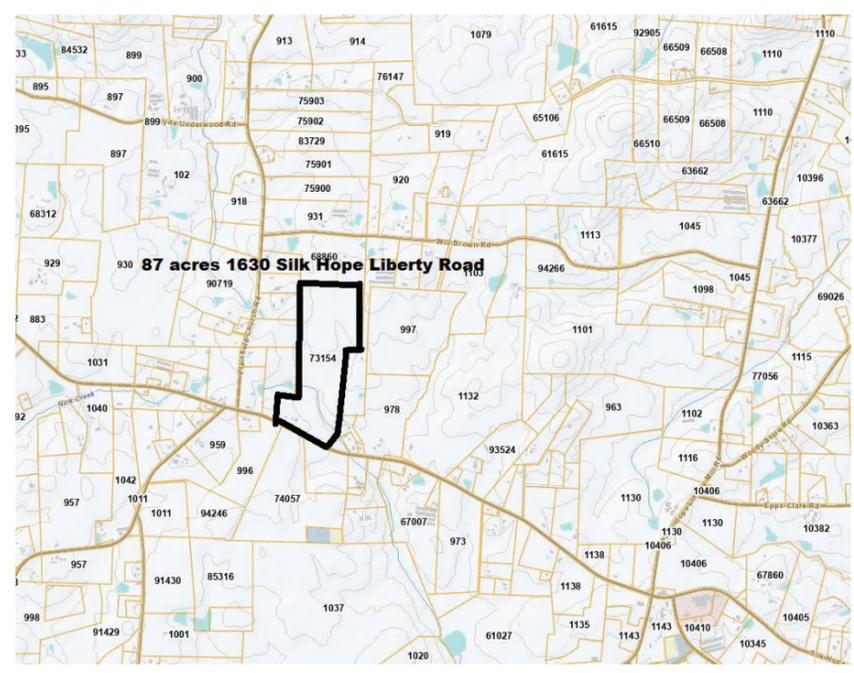
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