

# Chatham News + Record

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## In 3-2 vote, CCS set for optional indoor masking in March

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — In a contentious 3-2 vote Monday night, the Chatham County Schools Board of Education began a gradual transition to optional masking “on or about March 7,” dependent on the community transmission metrics set by the state health department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Board members Del Turner and David Hamm voted against the shift — with Turner saying March 7 was too soon and Hamm saying it wasn’t soon enough. The board also unanimously voted to make masks optional for athletes and spectators, effective the next day. “We believe we came up with



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Parent Jessica Winger spoke against mask mandates on Monday night before announcing an intended run for the Board of Education in 2022.

a balanced approach to move this forward,” CCS Superintendent Anthony Jackson told the board regarding the district’s

proposed roadmap to optional masking. “We believe that with the support of our public health officials, we can manage

this. We believe that given the appropriate structures, we can continue to do what we’re doing.

“The only caveat I will put out there is that if the data begins to go back up,” he said, “We may have to come back to you and ask for a reversal.”

Under the approved roadmap, masks are optional for athletes and spectators beginning Tuesday. On Feb. 21, changes made to the K-12 StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit will go into effect — ending individual contact tracing in schools and not requiring asymptomatic people with COVID exposures to stay home from school. “On or about” March 7, the first Monday of the month, the district will move to a mask-optional policy — encouraging

and providing vaccination opportunities before then — so long as COVID numbers keep trending down following the Omicron surge.

Since September, the board has taken a vote regarding its masking policy each month, in accordance with state law. District administrators and local health officials have long followed public health guidance recommending that mask mandates remain in place until the county’s transmission rates fall below the CDC’s suggested levels, which are also included in the state health toolkit.

Under that guidance, a school district can move to optional masking when community transmission levels decline to moderate or low levels of

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### CHATHAM’S FIRST BLACK CHIEF DEPUTY

## ‘Servant leader’: Gardner broke barriers while making a difference

BY KEITH T. BARBER  
News + Record Correspondent

There are seminal moments in life that propel us forward and place us on a path to our destiny.

Charles Gardner vividly remembers his.

Born in St. Louis in 1958 and raised in nearby Ferguson, Missouri, Gardner — who just retired from his position as Chief Deputy of the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office — bore witness to the vestiges of Jim Crow and simultaneously, the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement.

“I can remember seeing signs that said ‘Whites Only,’ at the water fountains,” Gardner said. “My father was somewhat of a history buff. He used to take us around as a family and he used to talk about certain things. You could see the black and white signs that said, ‘Colored Only,’ for the bathrooms.”

In 2014, Ferguson became the epicenter of civil unrest related to the treatment of Black citizens by the police after the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. Gardner recalled a specific interaction with Ferguson police from his own childhood that ultimately led him to pursue a career in law enforcement.

He and his brothers were playing football with their white neighbors and friends in the cul-de-sac adjacent to his home. Two Ferguson police officers approached the young boys and singled out Gardner and his brothers to be frisked and searched while their white friends looked on in dismay.

The incident is seared into his mind.

“And when neighbors came to



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Charles Gardner’s retirement from the Chatham Sheriff’s Office means he’ll have more time at home with his wife, Sandra, pictured here at their home in Pittsboro.

the house and told my parents what happened, there were phone calls being made and nothing was ever done,” Gardner said. “That’s what catapulted me to want to be in law

enforcement — because people shouldn’t be treated like that.”

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## Cary woman ID’d as victim of shooting in Siler City

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — The Chatham County Sheriff’s Department says Patricia Stanley of Cary has been identified as the victim of an accidental shooting that occurred just after midnight on Sunday off Jessie Bridges Road in Siler City.

Stanley, 38, was found dead in an RV from single gunshot wound.

According to a release from the Sheriff’s Office, a man — whom the department has not yet identified — is cooperating with investigators regarding the incident.

The investigation remains ongoing, the release said, and more information will be shared as additional details become available. *This is a developing story. You can find the latest version of it on our website at chathamnewsrecord.com.*

## J-M senior chosen as scholarship semifinalist

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — When COVID-19 forced schools online in 2020, college-bound Evelin Muñoz Tebalan found herself thrust into a precarious balancing act during the most important year of her high school career.

She had to navigate first zero and then limited internet access, care for her little brother and take responsibility for his education — all while maintaining her own high-achieving academic record, a crucial ingredient in achieving her college dream.

“Personally, I was trying to keep up with all of my work — just doing maybe a couple pages of essays every single day, working for hours just trying to maintain my grades,” said Muñoz Tebalan, 17. “At some point, it didn’t just become about my grades, it became about me just wanting to learn, and that kept me going, but also the feeling that knowing that everything would pay off in the end.”

It did pay off. At the end of her junior year, she served as Jordan-Matthews High School’s chief junior marshal and received the Harvard Prize Book award for “display[ing] excellence in scholarship and high character, combined with achievements in other fields.” Now a second-semester senior, she’s been selected as one of 411 semifinalists nationwide for the prestigious Cooke College Scholarship.

“Being a Jack Kent Cooke semifinalist marks a major stepping stone towards my goal of attending a four-year college,” Muñoz

See SENIOR, page A3

### ‘A LIFE THAT WOULD ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED’

## New mural at Chatham Cider Works tells the story of Roxie Small

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — When guests enter The Plant east of downtown Pittsboro, they’ll now be greeted by a towering new portrait of Chatham County pioneer Roxie Small, located at the front of Chatham Cider Works at 192 Lorax Lane.

Owners Jim Crawford, Maureen Ahmad and their daughter, Elise Crawford, commissioned a

local artist to paint a mural for the business. That turned into a piece dedicated to Roxie Small, the first Black Chatham woman to run for the Chatham County Board of Education and one of the founders of the Chatham Community NAACP branch in Pittsboro.

The mural — titled “What We Have” — was unveiled Sunday afternoon to the community and Small’s family and descendants.

Elise and her mother, Maureen,

said they knew the artist — Claire Alexandre — as a family friend before asking her to commission the mural.

“We grew up together, and especially as we have gotten older, we have kept up with her and watched her work develop as she has come up as an artist,” Elise said. “She’s an incredible artist, and I am really glad we had the opportunity to have

See MURAL, page A14

# 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 Siler City Board of Commissioners** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, at the Wren Memorial Library multipurpose room.

**The Chatham County Board of Commissioners** will have work and regular sessions on Monday, Feb. 21, beginning at 5 p.m. at the historic Chatham County Courthouse in Pittsboro.

## OTHER

**Let's Talk Civics: Get to Know Your Local Government**, a program of the League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and Chatham counties, has launched an educational series for citizens who want to learn more about how local governments work. The series, "Let's Talk Civics," offers an exploration of the workings of government institutions and the roles of elected officials. The program is designed to help citizens understand and become engaged with the government entities that affect their day-to-day lives. The upcoming session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 22, and features a discussion with Mayor Elaine O'Neal of Durham, Mayor Jenn Weaver of Hillsborough, and Mayor Cindy Perry of Pittsboro. The mayors will discuss the structure of their governments, how programs and services are funded, how decisions are made, and ways citizens can become involved. The virtual program is free and open to the public, but registration is required by going here: <https://my.lwv.org/north-carolina/orange-durham-and-chatham-counties-inc/event/lets-talk-civics-get-know-your-local-government>.

**Chatham County precinct meetings:** There has been a 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.

**Chatham Community Library** presents "Patriots of Color in Chatham County: Untold Stories" a virtual session on Saturday, February 19, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Renowned speaker David Morrow will lead the lecture, discussing the many contributions of Chatham County's free people of color during the Revolutionary War. Chatham Community Library and the Community Remembrance Coalition - Chatham (CRC-C) will co-sponsor the event. This virtual event is free and open to the public and will be presented via Zoom. Participants should register online to receive the meeting link. Residents may visit the libraries' website, [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at 919-545-8084 or [rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vanduinen@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

**Chatham Community Library** 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, 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, go to [www.CelebrityDairy.com](http://www.CelebrityDairy.com) or Contact The Inn at Celebrity Dairy at 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).

**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 #JMACoronaConcert program.

**Foster and/or adoptive** information: Give children a safe place to grow. Interested in becoming a Foster and/or Adoptive parent? Call 919-642-6956 to learn more.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meet-

ing schedule for this area.

**Motorcycle Association** — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham, Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit [www.chathamCBA.com](http://www.chathamCBA.com).

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

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

## Scout News

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

**Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 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?



**Eric Andrews**  
Accredited Land Consultant

## 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 Hazlewood (.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 Bonlets 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)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 1 Units**

- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 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 Abyeance 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 Merit 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)

## CLARIFICATION

In a story ("The history needs to be told": Chatham museum showcases local Black history in new exhibit") in the Feb. 10-16 edition of the News + Record, two statements necessitate clarifications.

In the story, it was noted that lynching victim Eugene Daniel was accused of attempted rape in 1921 in the incident which led to his murder. News reports at the time varied in their

language about the events surrounding Daniel's arrest, but it was never definitively proven he committed a crime and it's unlikely rape was attempted.

In addition, the story implied Horton High School had its first Black principal in 1948. Records show Horton had a long history of having Black principals from the school's inception in 1933, according to officials from the Chatham Community NAACP.

# Chatham News + Record

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

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# MEETING

Continued from page A1

community transmission and remain there for seven consecutive days — something Jackson anticipates occurring by the proposed March timeframe. “We’re hopeful that this makes it work,” Jackson said of the plan.

## ‘Keeping kids in the classroom’

A dozen community members passionately advocated for optional masking during the meeting’s public comments portion, which board members voted to extend past the typical 30-minute period due to the number of people signed up to speak.

Board policies allow each speaker three minutes to talk; 16 people signed up to speak Monday. Led primarily by moms of students, those against the mask mandate cited social and emotional harm to children, difficulty breathing — several speakers alluding to the “I Can’t Breathe” refrain used to protest police brutality following George Floyd’s murder — and the “handicapping of our children” due to required mask wearing.

Most speakers on Monday were white — reflecting national trends regarding mostly white anti-mask protests. (A July Rand Corp. survey found that two-thirds or more of Black, Hispanic and Asian parents said they needed school mask mandates to feel safe sending their children to school, compared to a third of white parents.)

“In the past year and a half, I’ve witnessed the disconnect in out-of-touch views of the board members, and I’ve heard parents and students’ voices marginalized,” CCS parent Jessica Winger said before announcing an intended run for the Board of Education

this year. “I will be the family’s voices at these board meetings. I will represent the diverse views. I will listen to you and try to bring those voices to these meetings instead of marginalizing them.”

Of the 16 speakers, just three advocated for keeping the mask mandate — including UNC epidemiology professor and CCS parent Justin Lessler, and Northwood teachers Eliza Brinkley and Rachel Donald. Former Republican county commissioner Walter Petty, who announced a campaign for House District 54, was also present and spoke in favor of a mask-optional policy.

CDC studies included in the state’s toolkit indicate “no clear evidence that masking impairs emotional or language development in children,” or adverse cardiovascular effects or respiratory distress, “except for intense exercise.” Still, even the district’s most ardent masks-in-schools supporters — Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek among them — have long said the negatives of masking need to be weighed with the protection they offer.

“To the point to about Omicron being less severe — that is good news,” Zelek addressed the board Monday. “That doesn’t mean it’s a joke.”

As highly transmissible as Omicron is, Zelek pointed out that even with less severe cases, the numerator of severe cases is still significant with such a large denominator of infected people. Additionally, some people — including children — have experienced long COVID, even after mild initial cases.

“And I think for our decisions, we’re talking about keeping kids in the classroom as safely as possible,” Zelek added. “I think the school folks may acknowledge that Omicron presented some disruptions to in-person learning that

we hadn’t in previous stages of a pandemic, just because of how much illness was out there. That’s what we’re trying to avoid with this.”

Members Turner and Hamm — who have sparred over masking at recent meetings — joined together as the two dissenters to the optional masking plan, though for opposite reasons. Turner said March 7 was too soon; Hamm, who has voted against extending universal masking at the last three board meetings, voted no to the plan due to what he characterized as the district’s inconsistency.

“I would like to point out that from the beginning, this board’s lockstep followed the CDC and North Carolina’s Department of Health and Human Services... and now they say that quarantine would be lifted up on February 21,” Hamm said. “Other school systems followed suit, to say that’s an opportunity to get a mask optional. I really wonder why we’re not going to follow their guidance, when that’s what we’ve been doing for the last two years.”

Under the updated state health department guidance cited by Hamm, schools no longer need to enforce quarantines for students exposed to COVID who are asymptomatic, beginning Feb. 21. While some N.C. school districts have used that update to implement mask optional policies, the state health department still recommends schools require universal masking in counties with higher levels of community transmission.

With 352 cases per 100,000 people and a 13.5% positivity rate, according to CDC county data on Tuesday, Chatham is an area of high transmission — though much lower than last month, when Omicron peaked.

Following the board’s January meeting, there were 1,039.34 cases per 100,000 people and a 21.82% positive rate, with

10 new hospitalizations in that last week.

Here is the breakdown for how county transmission levels are determined:

- Low transmission: 0-9.99 cases per 100K, 0-4.99% tests positive
- Moderate transmission: 10-49.99 cases, 5-7.99% positive
- Substantial transmission: 50-99.99 cases, 8-9.9% positive
- High transmission: more than 100 cases, greater than 10%

Previously, districts could move to optional masking only when a county is an area of low transmission, but that standard was updated to include areas with moderate transmission as well.

At December’s meeting, Chatham was in the moderate category for percentage of positive tests — 6.37% — but with 128 cases per 100,000 people, considered an area of high community transmission.

CCS administration has long cited masking as the most important tool for keeping students in the classroom by mitigating case transmission within school buildings. There have been 1,182 cases among students and staff since the first day of school, and just three clusters, according to the district’s COVID dashboard on Tuesday.

“Numbers have been trending in the right direction,” said Board Chairperson Gary Leonard. “We believe as more people have gotten vaccinated and their boosters, as well as nearing the end of winter, we can provide our staff and students with the choice of whether they want to wear a mask or not.”

The board meets next March 14, at which time the roadmap plan says members can “make adjustments as necessary” regarding COVID data. A specially called meeting will take place before then to look at the county’s data in relation to the intended mask-optional move.

## Other meeting business

• Board members approved a Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant application with the county’s government for the \$12.9 million replacement of three gymnasiums at Bennett, Bonlee and Silk Hope schools — a project the board voted to pursue at its January meeting.

If approved, the needs-based grant will provide 85% of the funds needed to replace the three gymnasiums, with the remaining 15% to be funded through the Chatham County Capital Improvements Program.

• Students approved to stay at Northwood High School instead of attending Seaforth High School can stay at Northwood through the end of the grade span if they choose, the BOE voted, extending its December 2020 enrollment continuation decision.

The board also approved modifications to the Seaforth attendance zone, following the August purchase by Briar Chapel developers of additional land to create an entrance/exit from the neighborhood to Andrews Store Road.

That area, on the northern side of Andrews Store, and the adjoining area located to the east of the new parcel, was re-districted from the Northwood attendance zone to Seaforth’s.

• The purchase of a six-classroom pod to replace the destroyed three individual modular classroom units at North Chatham Elementary School in November was approved by the board, with an anticipated \$231,060 funds needed after insurance. Those funds would use existing district fund balance dollars.

• The board voted to accept a \$12,386 bid for a one-acre parcel of land in southern Chatham off of 15-501 that was gifted to the district many years ago to construct a one-room school house. The district learned of the property last year, but said its too small to be of any use at this point. A neighboring landowner presented the bid.

# SENIOR

Continued from page A1

Tebalan told the News + Record. “... I’m honored to be closer in having the opportunity to form

a part of the wonderful, supportive Jack Kent Cook community, which I know can provide an

invaluable enrichment experience in my undergraduate years if I were to become a finalist.”

The scholarship program received more than 5,300 applications from high school students across all 50 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa and Guam. Among the 22 North Carolina semifinalists, Muñoz Tebalan is the only student from Chatham County.

Awarded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the Cooke College Scholarship seeks to enable high-achieving high school seniors from low-income backgrounds to attend the nation’s top colleges and universities. In April, the foundation will announce about 60 finalists, who will receive up to \$55,000 annually for four years of college, along with guidance about selecting a college, navigating financial aid and maximizing the college student experience.

“This year’s semifinalists should be particularly proud of their success in the face of a challenging year,” said the foundation’s executive director, Seppy Basili, in a Feb. 3 release. “We are so happy to help more students achieve their long-term academic goals. All of the applicants will be an asset to the colleges and universities they attend in the fall.”

## ‘She’s gonna soar’

Muñoz Tebalan has dreamt of graduating from college from a young age.

It’s a goal her parents — immigrants from Mexico and Guatemala — instilled into her as a child and for which she’s worked toward for years by excelling academically, participating in college readiness programs like AVID, and cultivating her voice in youth leadership programs like Orgullo Latinx Pride (OLP), the Hispanic Liaison’s youth group.

In fact, she originally

heard about the Cooke College Scholarship through OLP, and applied for the scholarship — and to more than 10 universities — with support and encouragement from the group, of which she’s been a member since the summer after her first year of high school.

“I couldn’t have done it without them!” Muñoz Tebalan said.

Of the universities she’s applied to, she’s so far been accepted into nine, including UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State. Now, she’s waiting to hear back from Wake Forest University, Davidson College and her dream college, Columbia University in New York — decisions which Muñoz Tebalan’s mentor and OLP program director, Selina Lopez, said she’s “almost pretty certain” will come back as three acceptance letters.

“She’s definitely put in a lot of work, and she has so much resilience and so much grit,” Lopez said. “There’s just other parts of her story, too, that I’m just like, ‘Wow, you know, this young woman is so amazing.’ She very much deserves this scholarship, and we’re just crossing our fingers.”

So, the only remaining challenge? Finding the means to finance it all. That’s why being named as a Cooke College Scholarship finalist would mean the world to her.

“The funds itself mean that I’ll be set in paying for college, something that has been a prime concern of mine for years,” Muñoz Tebalan said. “It’s one of the reasons I’ve worked hard in each school assignment and activity. ... However, I’ve had this conviction knowing that my family cannot financially afford to send me to college. Getting accepted to colleges is just the first step, but ultimately it won’t amount to anything if I’m not able to pay for it.”

Right now, she’s leaning toward studying

journalism and marketing — fields in which she feels she can share her voice and be a social advocate.

“Journalism, I feel like I’d be able to do that pretty well,” she said, “and then with marketing, I feel like it’d be nice to be able to reach out to people with social media, or helping out with marketing and campaigns or anything.”

Muñoz Tebalan particularly wants to educate others about issues she herself became more aware of during high school and through OLP.

“So first of all, as the daughter of immigrants, I want to be able to share my voice about what indocumentación is like from, like, our side, our perspective,” she said. “It’s not just about politics; it’s about, you know family lives.”

She also wants to be an advocate for mental health.

“As a high schooler, and as a friend to many people who have mental health illnesses and suffer from mental health, I’ve been on the receiving end of phone calls in the middle of the night telling me that a lot of them are just having a tough time,” she said, “and I want to make sure that they’re getting the resources that they need.”

For her part, Lopez has no doubt Muñoz Tebalan will succeed in whichever career and college she chooses.

“I feel like she knows what she wants, and she’s putting in the effort and it’s paying off, and she’s not only making me proud, but she’s making her whole community super proud,” Lopez told the News + Record. “I’m also really excited to see where she goes, ‘cause she’s just gonna be soaring, you know, just like, she’s gonna soar. I can see it. She’s gonna thrive at whatever college she chooses.”

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

# How Can Gig Workers Fill the Benefits Gap?

Are you a “gig” worker? If so, you’ve got a lot of company — by some estimates, more than a third of U.S. workers participate in the gig economy as freelancers, independent contractors or moonlighters. And while gig work offers some attractive features, such as flexibility in setting your hours and no real limits on your income potential, it also comes with challenges. Specifically, you may miss out on the array of benefits available to full-time employees of many organizations. How can you fill this benefits gap?

Let’s look at some of the standard employer-offered benefits and ways you can acquire them on your own:

• **Retirement plan** — When you work as an employee, you may have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. These types of plans allow you to save for retirement in a tax-advantaged way. As a gig worker, you may be able to get these same benefits through your own retirement plan. You can always contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA, but you can invest much more in other types of plans, such as a SEP IRA, a SIMPLE IRA and possibly even a “solo” 401(k). A financial professional can recommend the plan that’s suitable for your situation.

• **Life and disability insurance** — Many employees offer life insurance as an employee benefit, and while this coverage may not be sufficient, depending on one’s family situation, it’s at least something. But as a gig worker, you’ll need to get your own life insurance, which is essential if you have anyone depending on you for financial support. You may also want to look for disability insurance to replace part of your income should you ever become temporarily unable to work due to illness or injury. It’s worth noting that some organizations for freelancers and self-employed individuals offer access to life and disability insurance, so you might want to do some research online to check out these groups.

• **Health insurance** — As you know, health insurance is always a pretty big issue for just about everyone, regardless of their work status. Of course, many mid- to large-size employers offer health insurance to their employees, but as a gig worker, you’ll need to find your own, unless you’re covered by your spouse’s plan. In looking for health insurance, you may want to contact a “navigator,” — the position created by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to help individuals find coverage. You can find someone in your area by going to healthcare.gov and following the prompts. Depending on your income, you may be able to receive subsidies through the ACA.

• **Unemployment insurance** — Many full-time employees are given paid time off for sick leave and vacation. They may also receive unemployment insurance if they lose their job. Since most gig workers won’t have access to these benefits, it’s important to have an emergency fund available for unexpected (or even expected) income dips. Ideally, you’d want three to six months’ worth of living expenses in your emergency fund, but even a few hundred dollars can help create a lot more security to cover life’s unexpected events.

Full-time employees receive something of great value in their benefits packages. As a gig worker, you’ll have to take the initiative to close this benefits gap — but the opportunities are there, so do what you can to find them. It will be worth the effort.

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

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# VIEWPOINTS

## A wish for wonder

I serve as pastor of Chapel in the Pines, a church in Chatham County. But I don't want to preach in this column. I would like to offer readers less of a charge and more of a hope — not marching orders, but a wish for the future.



**ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN**  
Hope Matters

Rachel Carson is best known for her book, "Silent Spring," which sparked a ban of certain pesticides. She also began a manuscript titled "The Sense of Wonder." Carson died before she finished this book, but not before penning these words: "If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to

preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life."

This is a newspaper column, not a christening or religious ceremony, yet I would appeal to all good fairies, angels and spirits to give this indestructible sense of wonder. To wonder is to feel awe and reverence. To "live the questions," as poet Rainer Rilke put it, "like locked rooms and books written in a foreign language." To wonder is to be in awe without answers.

**To wonder is to feel awe and reverence. To 'live the questions,' as poet Rainer Rilke put it, 'like locked rooms and books written in a foreign language.' To wonder is to be in awe without answers.**

There is a time for certitude. But wonder is more feeling than fact. Carson likened the feeling of wonder to "a sense of the beautiful, the excitement of the new and unknown." I understand that the last few years have produced anxiety about the unknown ...

But what makes you wonder? In living into this question, we would do well to look not only for good fairies but at the example of the ones they bless — the same little ones that a certain wandering rabbi of long ago welcomed into his arms.

Carson welcomed her nephew, Roger, to her home along the rocky shoreline of Maine, and she let the young boy join the adults to watch the full moon over the bay, which "set the water ablaze with silver flames." Carson believed that memory would mean more to Roger than the sleep he was losing!

We might also consider what experiences we prioritize for children, for those experiences teach our values, and our values will leave the most lasting impression on the next generation.

But now I'm getting preachy! Let me tell a story instead.

Last summer, my family vacationed at a cabin on a remote mountain lake. The days were filled with swimming, kayaking and splashing — the kids were worn out in the best way

by the end of the day. But there was a meteor shower on the last night.

Down by the lakeshore, it was chilly enough to need sweatshirts and the little ones snuggled into the laps of their parents. Just as they were starting to drift into sleep, the youngest saw the first meteor, a bright line across the inky black sky. I told my kids that you can make a wish on a shooting star.

But as I watched for the next meteor to pierce the dark, I knew that my wish had already come true. It was wonderful.

*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."*

## Did Alexander Graham Bell really have this in mind?

Every time AT&T or Verizon or another techno outfit introduces the latest "Must Have" communications gadget, I'm amazed that 8,000 or so folks sleep out for a week or at least overnight in 15-degree weather so they can be first in line to get one of the toys.

I'm also amazed at how much they're willing to pay for it, especially since some other techno-gadget will be introduced within the next 15 minutes, rendering their new toy obsolete.

That fascination with technology is overwhelming to me. I do have a cell phone, and it does do some things other than make and receive calls, which is all I really want. That way I won't miss hearing from one of the two now 40-somethings who used to be teenagers who lived at my house calling to say how much they appreciate all the wisdom I have shared with them. Or I won't miss hearing Shirley tell me she's cut, split and stacked that tractor-trailer load of firewood we need for the rest of the winter.

The phone/gizmo I have does take pictures, but I don't use it much for that. I learned it had a camera when I pulled it out of my shirt pocket, flipped the top to make a call and saw my feet on the screen moving around as I waved the phone in a mad rush to make it stop.

It also has a calendar so I don't forget the date, which used to be only on my wristwatch and before that on the calendar. And it has an alarm clock. That way I can sleep through not only the one at my bedside but the one on the phone, as well, if I could figure out how to set it and hadn't lost the directions that came with it.

There's also a world time clock. That's very helpful. For instance, did you know that at this very moment it is 9:05 in Caracas and 5:06 in Baku — wherever that is. There's also a calculator, a stop watch to see how long the chocolate cake stays on the table, a converter in case I want to see what U.S. dollars are worth in Baku and a tip calculator if I want to leave more than a dime.

The reality here, at least for me, is that all I want is some way to be like ET and phone home.

By this time, no doubt, you might be thinking I am a grumpy old man, which I hope is far from the truth. Lest you think differently, I do understand we're not all alike and that what I may adore could be disgusting to someone else. I'm OK with that. It's just that, to me, all this dependency and love affair with technology and more and instant information has a downside.

One of them is what the bloggers call "TMI" — too much information. What, for instance, do I need to know about and do with what time it is in Baku? TMI leads to overload, which soon can lead to blowout, as in our heads blow up with too much information in them.

Some have touted technology as a time-saving device. At this tender age in life, I've come to know you can't really "save" time. You can only spend it. The electric can opener that used to sit on our kitchen counter was going to save time. It finally became apparent it took longer to get the can to stay up there and then wipe off the gadget when the string bean juice spilled than it did to use the old hand crank model.

I think the can opener is now resting comfortably at the bottom of a landfill.

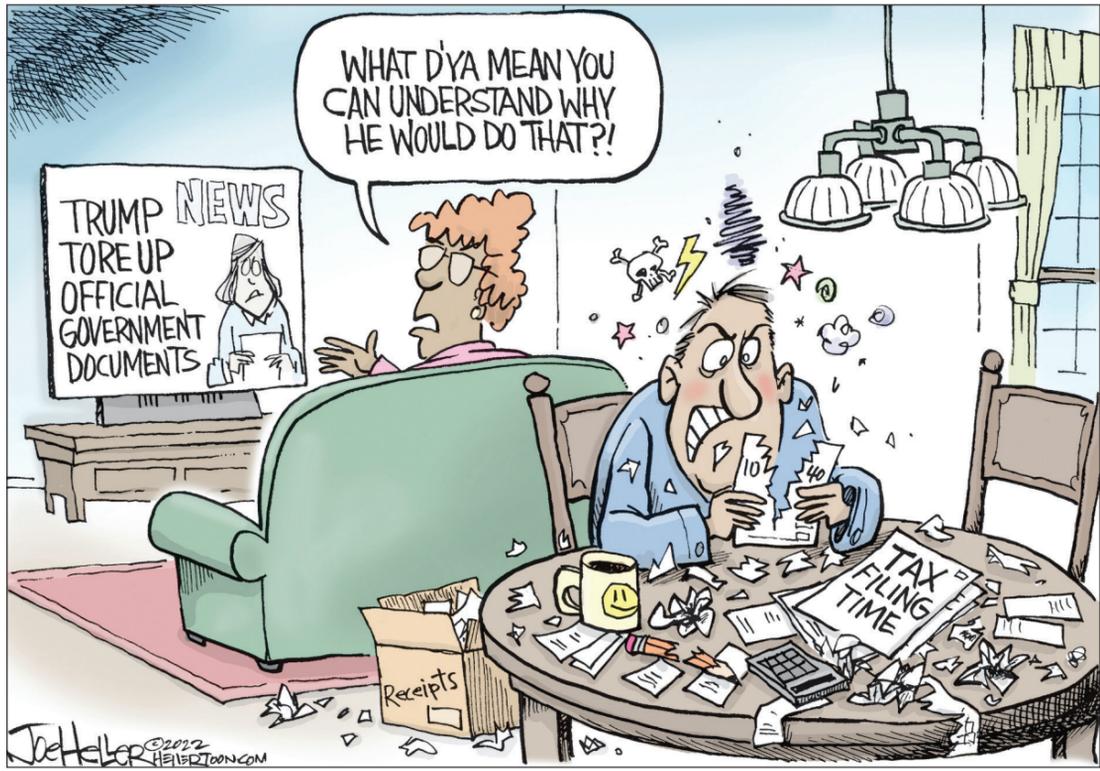
What I'm really whining about here, of course, is the fast pace of today's society where the demand for something in China has made our currency worth less, making it necessary for me to do more to scrape up enough dollars to pay for a gallon of diesel so I can put out hay to the cows to make enough money to pay Uncle Sam at the end of the year so he can waste more of my money — and yours.

I can see why some folks simply throw up their hands and say, "What the heck?"

As soon as I get time, I'm going to make a note — with paper and pen — to look into that. I make lots of notes but usually lose them. Maybe a good thing would be to use the memo pad part of my cell phone to list where the notes are.

Wait. Has anyone seen my cell phone?

*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.*



## Did our chances for a 2022 recession just go up?

Recessions are part of the economic cycle. Each economic cycle contains a period of growth — called an expansion — and a period of decline, which is labeled a recession. Since World War II, there have been a dozen recessions. The last recession occurred in 2020. It lasted only two months, but was very deep.

Bad things happen during recessions. Businesses go bankrupt, workers lose their jobs, the stock market declines and the federal government goes deeper in debt trying to help the country survive.

One of the long-studied issues about recessions is what causes them. The consensus answer is that recessions result from some excess that had developed in the economy. Indeed, recessions are the way those excesses are eliminated.

Consider the recession of 2007-2009, the so-called "subprime recession." Affordable interest rates and lenient lending standards motivated a boom in home construction and buying. Home prices surged, and investors became convinced investing in homes was a "sure thing." Unfortunately for buyers, home prices eventually peaked, sparking a big sell-off as investors took profits. Those who bought at the peak in prices lost large amounts of money, as did the financial institutions that backed them. The country came close to having a financial meltdown similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The last recession in 2020, dubbed the "COVID-19 recession," had an unusual origin. It

occurred as a result of government mandates for some businesses to close and individuals to stay home to curtail the spread of the virus. Policymakers knew the economy would decline as a result, but the costs were deemed necessary to lower cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

If there is a recession in 2022, there will also be a COVID link. Here's why. With the economy partially shut down in early 2020, and with public institutions such as hospitals facing rising numbers of patients, the federal government began providing an unprecedented amount of financial aid. Stimulus checks to households, enlarged unemployment compensation checks to laid-off workers, special payments to households with children, expanded Food Stamps, broader health care support and special loans to businesses were provided in several aid packages over 2020 and 2021. These allocations totaled \$5.5 trillion.

The financial assistance was so broad and generous that median household income rose and the poverty rate fell. Many households actually emerged from the worst of the virus in 2021 in better financial shape than prior to the virus. They were flush with cash and the desire to spend.

But a problem arose because the virus also curtailed the ability of producers to make products and deliver them to consumers. With robust spending but limited supply, the national inflation rate — which had been running between 1% and 2% annually in the 21st century — began rising, and ended 2021 at 7%, three times higher than the level it had been for most of the 21st century.

Hence, 2022 began with in-

flation a top economic problem for the first time in 40 years. Although improvements in the supply chain will ease inflation, most experts estimate it will be months before supply problems are completely fixed.

Therefore, the work of reducing the inflation rate will fall to the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve (the "Fed"). The Fed will have to unwind its "cheap money" policy followed during the pandemic, when it pushed interest rates to near zero and expanded the money supply by 85%. Interest rates will have to be raised and the money supply curtailed.

Forty years ago, the Fed faced a similar situation. As a result of stimulus provided by the Fed to deal with two recessions in the 1970s, the economy was running hot and the annual inflation rate reached double-digit levels for several years. After the Fed raised interest rates and curtailed money growth, the inflation rate plunged. But so did the economy as a recession set in.

In the best case, today's Fed will be able to slow the economy enough to reduce the inflation rate, but not too much that the economy contracts, unemployment rises and a new recession occurs. Unfortunately, the "gas pedal" the Fed controls is not precise. The Fed never knows exactly how the economy will respond when it pushes down or lets up on the pedal.

The Fed has strongly hinted it will raise interest rates in 2022. Watch what they do, because everyone's economy will be impacted. Will a recession be in our future? You decide.

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

### Chatham News + Record

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# VIEWPOINTS

## Our state remains a battleground

North Carolina has been politically competitive for a long time. It will remain so for the foreseeable future, although the structure and focal points of that political competition have always been subject to change.

For example, from 1980 to 2008, Republicans could properly count on North Carolina being a likely “get” for president even as Democrats usually dominated state and local offices. The 1992 cycle was a bit of an outlier, because of Ross Perot’s presence in a three-man field, but generally Republican presidential campaigns weren’t very worried about the state and Democratic campaigns weren’t very hopeful about it. Barack Obama changed the equation. While he lost the state again in 2012, and Trump won our electoral votes in 2016

and 2020, all these contests were competitive and the margins modest.

Speaking of state and local offices, the widespread assumption when I first started covering North Carolina politics in the 1980s was that the legislature would be Democratic but Republicans could reasonably hope to win gubernatorial and, by the end of the decade, judicial races.

Then came 1994. While Republicans only held the North Carolina House for four years, and still hadn’t yet won the North Carolina Senate, both parties adjusted to the new reality of a General Assembly truly in play for the first time. Democratic leaders “adjusted” to it in 2001 by enacting the most-egregious gerrymander of legislative districts in modern history, failing to convince a GOP-dominated Supreme Court to let them get away with it, and then using various unsavory and illegal means, including out-and-out bribery, to retain control for the rest of the decade.

Their luck ran out in 2010 when the Republicans — vastly outspent and forced to run in Democratic-drawn districts — won majorities in both chambers. They proceeded to draw districts highly favorable to the GOP, losing a string of court cases but continuing to reelect legislative majorities, anyway, in part because of ongoing shifts in the partisan preferences of rural and suburban voters.

While all this was going on, however, Republicans struggled to convert their gains at the legislative and local levels into success in key statewide offices. Since 1992, only one Republican has been elected governor, Pat McCrory, and he served a single term.

Individual candidates and matchups matter. So does the behavior of split-ticket voters, who may be fewer in number than a generation or two ago but remain decisive in a closely divided state. In the past, quite a few North Carolinians voted reliably Republican for president, Congress, and U.S. Senate

but preferred Democrats for state and local office. Now we see something like the reverse — a small but critical bloc of voters who pick Republicans for state legislature or county commission but are willing to pick Democrats for governor or president if they don’t sound too extreme.

As a true partisan battleground, North Carolina and a small number of similarly situated states enjoy disproportionate attention from national media and disproportionate influence over national affairs. There are many different ways to measure this, but I find the Cook Political Report’s Partisan Voting Index (PVI) to be especially handy.

It doesn’t rely on party registration, a lagging and often misleading statistic, or even on self-identification by voters. Instead, it aggregates election results from several recent cycles. For North Carolina as a whole, Cook’s PVI is +3 Republican. Florida, Georgia and Arizona all have that same PVI rating. Seems

about right.

Only 14 states have PVI values within a range of +3 Democratic to +3 Republican. In addition to the ones mentioned above, they are blue-tilting Colorado, New Mexico, Virginia, Minnesota and Maine; red-tilting Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin; and dead-even Nevada and New Hampshire.

These 14 battleground states aren’t the only places where split-ticket voting can produce striking outcomes. Massachusetts, Maryland and Vermont have popular Republican governors. Kansas, Kentucky and Louisiana have Democratic ones. In presidential and senatorial contests, however, the list of consistently competitive places remains short — and contains North Carolina.

*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).*

## Play the lottery or buy bitcoin?

How are the state lottery and bitcoins alike?



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

Or a better question: is a bitcoin purchase better than a lottery ticket? The answer

is yes. Yes, not because a bitcoin is such a good investment, but because a lottery ticket is such a bad deal for the purchaser. The odds of winning a big lottery payout are just above zero.

Back in 2005 when the legislature was considering a proposal to establish the North Carolina Lottery, I railed against it.

Nevertheless, the legislature, then controlled by Democrats, established a lottery at the urging of Democratic Governor Mike Easley, whose pro-lottery positions were his major campaign planks. Schools needed the money, he said. People wanted to play the games and were going across state lines to buy lottery tickets. A lottery would be a voluntary tax. Free money.

Most Republicans opposed the lottery. So did lots of liberal Democrats who agreed with libertarian Republicans that running a gambling business is not a proper function of government.

Government, those of us in opposition said, should encourage its citizens to work and save for their future, not on fostering dreams of getting rich by winning the lottery, not stooping to the low level of a carnival barker selling chances on games in which the odds of winning are stacked against the player.

Today the lottery is an established part of state government, like it or not.

The lottery takes in billions of dollars each year. About 65% of the total goes to pay for prizes. About 7% goes to the 7,000 retailers who sell the lottery tickets to individuals. About 4% covers administrative costs and the expenses for an increasingly vigorous and compelling advertising program that encourages more people to gamble.

The remaining approximately 25% is available to help fund public schools.

So what is the problem? In fact, there are two big

problems. As opponents pointed out in 2005, government should not be in a business that private enterprise can manage. Instead, it should encourage its citizens, especially those with limited funds, to save or spend funds for food, rent, clothes, education and other important expenses rather than throwing money after a dream that almost never comes true.

So, the purchase of a lottery ticket is almost never a good investment for an individual.

What about bitcoin as an investment? Not good, but maybe better than a lottery ticket. The value of a bitcoin will either go up or down, making a 50% chance of winning or losing.

Still, even if bitcoin is perhaps a good speculation, it is not necessarily a good long-term investment. As Kevin Roose, writing in the Feb. 6 edition of *The New York Times*, put it, “One of the most frequent questions asked by crypto skeptics is: What can you actually do with crypto, besides financial speculation and crimes?”

His cautionary response: “It’s a tough question to answer, in part because most of the successful (and legal) uses of cryptocurrency so far have been in finance or finance-adjacent fields. There are plenty of crypto exchanges, NFT [non-fungible token] trading platforms and video games that involve buying and selling crypto tokens.”

Roose, however, argues that few if any of such crypto activities have a use in “solving problems that exist for people outside the crypto world, that aren’t primarily about buying or selling digital assets and that would be impossible to solve with normal, non-crypto technology.”

Perhaps someday, when bitcoin’s value has stabilized, it will have a use as an efficient way to pay bills and hold money safely.

But if and when the value is stabilized, it will not be an attractive speculative play as it is for some today.

Bitcoin or lottery? For me, neither one.

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

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

## Large CCCC gift was ironic, ‘nauseating’ for her tastes

TO THE EDITOR:

What do you call it when we are removing names of American Founding Fathers from public school buildings because they were men of their time — yes, slaveholders — while we name a local public school building for a man who got wealthy pushing guns? (“CCCC salutes alumnus E.

Eugene Moore,” Feb. 3-9).

Guns — the kind we’ve seen used in school shootings. School shootings on campuses not unlike Central Carolina Community College’s.

Do you call it irony? Hypocrisy? Nauseating? A shameful sell-out? (Mr. Moore gave \$2 million to CCCC.)

Surely this could cause trauma for some CCCC students and staff who are mindful of the frequency and tragedy of school shootings. Yet trauma, I believe, is a stated reason

when schools named for historic Americans get renamed. Huh.

I urge all readers who are tired of the sickness of never-ending guns in America to write the head of N.C.’s Community College System and voice your displeasure. Better yet, work up a short petition — nothing fancy — collect signatures, and send to: President Thomas Stith III, N.C. Community College System, 5001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-5001.

**Marie Felix**  
Siler City

## Five takeaways from the Supreme Court redistricting decision

The Supreme Court decision that redistricting maps be redrawn to more accurately reflect the makeup of our state has five takeaways.

**1. The increasing importance of the judicial system:** North Carolina is the poster child of a divided state.

We have an almost equal number of registered Democrats, Republicans and Independent voters. We have a legislative branch dominated by one political party and an executive branch by another. Even when both branches are controlled by the same party, they are sometimes at loggerheads. In this sue-happy environment an arbiter is frequently needed, forcing the courts into becoming de-facto legislators or executives.

**2. Justice is partisan:** The evidence indicates that the judicial branch has also become partisan. Too frequently the political affiliation of a jurist foretells the verdict. In the recent redistricting case, all four Democratic justices voted one way and the three Republicans voted in lockstep the other. Until recently this wasn’t so common, but its frequency is increasing, especially on the appellate level.

During oral arguments Chief Justice Paul Newby stated there’s nothing in our Constitution saying that elections should be fair. In fact, the Constitution has precious little to say about redistricting except that districts shall consist of contiguous territories of approximately the same number of people, that counties shall not be divided into separate districts and that districts are to be redrawn at the first regular

legislative session following a decennial census and shall not be altered until another census is taken.

Carl Sandburg famously said, “If the facts are against you, argue the law. If the law is against you, argue the facts. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table and yell like hell.”

Justice Newby seems to have chosen the latter course, demonstrating just how partisan our courts have become. In criticizing the verdict Newby said, “A majority of this Court, however, tosses judicial restraint aside, seizing the opportunity to advance its agenda.” He continued, accusing Democratic justices of “seeking to hide its partisan bias,” and further questioned the merits of his colleagues and the court itself. His rhetoric warrants censure.

**3. We must insist on the continued listing of political affiliations in judicial elections:** I now understand just how essential it is to know to which party a candidate belongs in making my decision on whom to vote. It increasingly appears that party affiliation is more important than credentials or experience. That may not be right, but it is correct.

**4. The most important elections in 2022 will be judicial elections:** This year’s elections have two Supreme Court contests. Sam Ervin IV and Robin Hudson, both Democrats have terms expiring this year. Ervin is running for re-election, but Hudson says she won’t seek another term, since she will reach the mandatory retirement age shortly after the election. Court of Appeals judges Lucy Inman, a Democrat, and Richard Dietz, a Republican, have announced they will run to fill her seat. Republican Court of Appeals Judge April Wood has signaled she will challenge Ervin’s seat.

The current 4-3 balance of Democrats to Republicans could evolve to 5-2 or even 6-1 in favor of the GOP if that party wins seats. Democrats could maintain the 4-3 plurality only if they hold both.

Our Court of Appeals, currently with 10 Republicans and 5 Democrats, will see big change. Seats currently held by Dietz and Inman will be open. Chief Judge Donna Stroud and John Tyson, both Republicans, along with Democrat Darren Jackson have terms expiring the end of December. Three of the 15 seats will be open and three more contested, meaning the margin of Republicans to Democrats could change significantly.

**5. We need better redistricting criteria:** Even though our Constitution does not dictate fair elections, fairness and equality are core values of this nation. The increased instances of partisan gerrymandering are a wakeup call that we need better defined criteria. Fairness and equality are values imbued in our genetics, even if we haven’t done so good a job of living into them. No matter who draws the maps we must insist that every voter has an equal voice and every candidate has a fair opportunity to win election.

Our founders designed checks and balances into our government structure to make sure one branch did not violate those values, but a hyper partisan court can’t be effective in their role.

We need to act now to preserve our values. Our future depends on it.

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

## 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 [bhorne3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorne3@chathamnr.com); or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

## PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Board sets parameters for new Downtown Advisory Board

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The board of commissioners unanimously passed rules regarding its newest town-affiliated body during its Monday meeting this week.

Commissioners voted to establish a Downtown Advisory Board during a regular session meeting on Oct. 11 after voting not to renew its memorandum of understanding with the nonprofit Main Street Pittsboro organization for the next fiscal year.

In a memo to commissioners, Town Manager Chris Kennedy and his staff established new rules regarding term limits and member requirements to join the Downtown Advisory Board.

The official town staff liaison to the board would be Planning Director Theresa Thompson, or someone she appoints.

Eighteen people would make up the advisory group, including 11 voting members and seven non-voting ex-officio members. Voting board appointees would serve staggered three-year terms; the non-vot-

## The 11 voting members of the Downtown Advisory Board would come from one of the following categories:

### SEVEN MAIN STREET DISTRICT STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS (THE COMPOSITION MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING):

- Main Street District Located Restaurant or Bar Owner / Manager
- Main Street District Located Retail Business Owner / Manager
- Main Street District Located Business Owner / Manager & Main Street District Located Resident (Residential Landowner)
- Main Street District

Located Property Owner (Non-Residential Landowner)

### FOUR BUSINESS OR DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS (THE COMPOSITION MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING):

- Representative from Pittsboro Business Association
- Representative from Circle City Merchants
- Pittsboro Located Restaurant or Bar Owner / Manager 2

• Pittsboro Located Retail Business Owner / Manager

• Pittsboro Located Business Owner / Manager & Pittsboro Located Resident (Residential Landowner)

• Pittsboro Located Property Owner (Non-Residential Landowner)

• Land Developer & Building Contractor

• Architect

• Contract, Real Estate or Land Use Attorney

• Landscape Professional

ing members would not have term limits.

Commissioner Kyle Shipp said commissioners should look at the existing board of the Main Street organization as potential appointees to the new Downtown Advisory Board.

“The current Main Street Pittsboro board is a great source of people willing to serve, but we need to look at who is willing to fill those positions,” he said.

The commissioners also discussed the possibility of still

awarding facade grants to the nonprofit organization Main Street group beyond this fiscal year to complete the mural in Page Vernon Park without a property owner cost-share.

This allows the nonprofit to continue the work on the mu-

ral beyond the end of the fiscal year, which is when the town will stop directly funding Main Street Pittsboro.

“The Main Street Pittsboro board would like some head nods at least from this board that we want to continue programs such as facade grants that will cross over the fiscal year,” Shipp said. “There’s some legal details that we need to figure out about that, but overall, we’re interested in doing that, which Chris (Kennedy) said we had done in the past.”

Shipp said he believes it is important to make sure business owners in the Main Street area are assured the town will support projects throughout the business district.

“Some of the business owners are providing half of the facade grants, or providing their building for the murals,” Shipp said. “It is important they have assurance from us that we will continue that (supporting them) after June.”

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

## DEPUTY

Continued from page A1

### A sense of fairness

Gardner, who became the first African American Chief Deputy in the 250-year history of the Chatham County Sheriff’s Office in July 2018, credits his parents with giving him the strength to transform the pain inflicted by racism and bigotry into positive action.

“I was always raised to make sure whatever you do you work hard at it, but you make sure you have a seat at the table, to ensure that not only are you being treated fairly but others are being treated fairly,” Gardner said.

After a stellar 20-year military career in the U.S. Marine Corps, Gardner graduated from Ashworth College with a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and an associate’s degree in criminal justice administration. Gardner also graduated from the FBI Leadership Command College, and in 1997, joined the Chatham Sheriff’s Office as a deputy sheriff.

Twenty-five years ago, Richard Webster was serving in the same capacity as Gardner, but in 2002, Webster was elected sheriff and Gardner quickly became an integral part of his team.

“Charles did a lot,” Webster said. “He was a working lieutenant, he was a working captain, and obviously he was a working Chief Deputy. My staff is what made the sheriff’s office and from where I was standing, Charles was one of my heroes.”

Webster lauded Gardner for his dedication to community service and educating young people on how to safely interact with law enforcement. Webster says Gardner’s passion for community outreach permeated the entire department.

“It was just doing the right thing for the people and doing it the right way, and also at the same time, having people of the caliber that you wanted in your office,” Webster says. “We raised the bar, and Charles, among other people, was part of that bar.”

### Breaking barriers

Judge Carl Fox understands what it means to break barriers as a Black man in North Carolina. Fox holds the distinction of being the first



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

### One of the many forms of recognition Gardner has received during his career — this from Gardner’s fellow soldiers in the U.S. Marine Corp.

Black district attorney in state history, when he ascended to that position in the Orange-Chatham judicial district in 1984. In 2006, Fox became the first Black judge to serve in the Orange-Chatham district.

Fox, who retired from the bench in 2020, said he was always so impressed with Gardner’s law enforcement acumen, professionalism and calm, military demeanor.

“Charles is one of those people who has the right stuff,” Fox said. “I think he has the kind of personality and skillset and experience that makes it easy for him to go from one community to the next, talk to anyone and make them feel good about what it is he’s telling them.”

The Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Davis, former pastor at Mitchell Chapel AME Zion Church, counted Gardner among his parishioners. He described Gardner as a servant leader, who “gave his highest and best not only to the church but to law enforcement.”

“Every day of the week, Charles was committed to making sure there was a connection between law enforcement and the community,” Davis said. “He served two sheriffs and both sheriffs wanted Charles Gardner to be in leadership roles relative to that community. Why? Because he was not only visible — he was also valuable — valuable in the sense that there was so much suspicion of law enforcement.”

Rev. Davis characterized Gardner’s promotion to Chief Deputy in 2018 as a timely appointment by

Sheriff Mike Roberson.

In the wake of the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020, tension between law enforcement and communities of color reached its zenith — both locally and across the U.S.

In a show of solidarity, Gardner participated in a ceremony at the Chatham County Courthouse in which protesters laid on the ground for 9 minutes and 29 seconds to reflect the amount of time Derek Chauvin’s knee was on George Floyd’s neck.

“That was an extremely long time,” Gardner said. “It made the point, because when you tell somebody just 9 minutes that’s what they look at, just 9 minutes. But if you tell somebody to hold a weight in their hand and they got to hold it level and keep their arm parallel for 9 minutes, it’s a struggle — it’s painful.”

In the summer of 2020, Gardner recalls often being approached by members of the Black community in Chatham who would openly question how he, in good conscience, could remain in law enforcement after the murder of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor at the hands of police.

“It makes it difficult when people come up to you and they ask you how can you represent an organization that do folks like that,” Gardner said. “Bad things happen and whether you do it or not, being associated with law enforcement, you’re going to feel the brunt of all of that.”

“The biggest thing we have is how we communicate with the community

and I think that’s one of my strong suits,” he added.

Gardner never wavered in his rock-solid belief he could make the biggest impact by working within the system to make the world a more fair and just place, despite encountering prejudice and bigotry on a daily basis.

“Early in my career, when I was a sergeant, and we would be serving a warrant and it was me and probably a couple of officers — the individual wouldn’t even talk to me,” Gardner recalled. “They would talk to some of the officers that were under my leadership and I would have to confront them and say, ‘Hey, when it’s all said and done, I’m making the decision of what’s going to happen here, so you need to talk to me.’ And it was pure racism.”

Gardner said he clearly remembers reporting to the scene of a homicide in the Fearington Village area and having a witness identify him as the killer.

“I was walking down the hall, and one of the [witnesses] pointed me out and said, ‘That’s him!’” Gardner recalled. “Investigators told the woman, ‘No, that’s not him. He’s one of the investigators.’ I was just a tall black guy, but in her mind, I was that guy.”

In addition to speaking with church congregations and high school students on a regular basis, Gardner focused his education efforts within the sheriff’s office by encouraging deputies under his command to use discretion in the discharge of their duties by always

erring on the side of kindness and compassion.

“I can go into a community that is suffering economically and doing whatever they can to survive and a driver may not have their car inspected at that time,” Gardner stated. “But if I write him a ticket and send him to court, I just took more money off his table and made the problem a lot worse — this is what you communicate to young officers.”

Gardner said he was always cognizant of his status as a role model to other officers of color and felt an obligation to impart his philosophy of law enforcement to deputies under his supervision to help weed out individuals who are simply not cut out to be police officers. He made it clear to new deputies the badge they wear on their uniform does not imbue them with any special powers — it is merely a symbol.

“It’s the respect of the badge that you stand behind,” Gardner said. “That badge means dignity, that badge means respect and that badge means doing things the right way.”

### Stepping up, stepping away

Quite often, heavy is the heart that wears the badge.

Webster recalled a time when Charles Gardner had to deliver tragic news to him and his family.

“We do a lot of tough things in our career and he came to my house in July of 2018, which was a very tough drive out, and he gave me the news that one of my children had been killed in an automobile accident,” Webster recalled. “I appreciate Charles stepping up to the plate and doing that. That was a tough one, but he did it.”

When Fox received the news of Gardner’s retirement, he admitted he was shocked and somewhat disappointed. Fox said he had high hopes Gardner would one day run for sheriff, and break yet another color barrier in Chatham County.

“If [Gardner] were to become sheriff at some later point down the road, I think it would be a very positive thing,” Fox said. “It would be one of those things that says it’s not just a situation where the sheriff is always going to be a white male.”

Roberson, Chatham’s sheriff, described Gardner as “an amazing em-

ployee, friend, and role model for many, many years.”

“He has earned our gratitude twice over, serving both at home and abroad with honor, distinction, and a true compassion for others,” Roberson said. “We love him dearly and will miss his humor and insights at the office. We are grateful to his family for loaning him to us these last 26 years. Charles has missed birthdays, holidays, and many special events to answer the call to serve the people of Chatham. Now is his time to enjoy the fruits of his labor and spend precious time with his beautiful family.”

Fellow co-worker Lt. Sara Pack said Gardner was a legend within the department.

“Charles is a man of faith, experience and perspective,” she said. “He is a true legend and an inspiration to all. He led impressive careers in both law enforcement and the military but remains one of the most down-to-earth people I’ve ever known.”

He was there for all the proudest moments of Pack’s career, she said.

“My swear-in, my induction into the Sheriff’s Office Honor Guard, every promotion, and every professional graduation,” she said. “He has been there for me during the hardest parts of my career, too, like delivering death notifications to families who lost loved ones, or when I lost loved ones of my own. I am one of many who can say the same! His legacy will carry on in the heart of everyone he has mentored, trained, or counseled with his leadership over the years. We are forever grateful to him and for him — he is family to us, and we wish him health and happiness in retirement.”

Davis, the retired pastor, said he’s pleased to know his former parishioner is embarking on the next chapter of his life, while expressing gratitude for Gardner’s lasting legacy.

“It now gives other young officers of color something to look forward to — that there is no glass ceiling as it relates to law enforcement,” Rev. Davis stated. “His promotion to the rank was long overdue and it speaks to a culture of inclusion in Chatham but that’s not always the case. Captain Gardner was the first one sitting in that seat, but moving forward, we have to make sure he’s not the last.”

‘FROM A SPACE OF GOOD TO A SPACE OF GREAT’

# Jackson reflects on his first six months as Chatham’s superintendent

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

*Editor’s note: Dr. Anthony Jackson, Chatham County Schools’ superintendent, spent time with the News + Record on his 6-month anniversary in the position. Here’s a report from that conversation. First of two parts.*

The listening and learning mode of Dr. Anthony Jackson’s first six months as Chatham County Schools’ superintendent has put him in a position help lead what he describes as “next-level” conversations he hopes will move the system from “a space of good to a space of great.”

Jackson came to Chatham from Vance County on July 6 after being recognized as the North Carolina Superintendent of the Year in 2020. An educator for more than 30 years, he’d spent five years in Henderson after serving in the same positions in the Nash-Rocky Mount system and in Henry County in Virginia.

“I didn’t want to come in with grand proclamations about what we should be until I really had a clearer sense of who we are as a community and as a school system,” he told the News + Record in a wide-ranging conversation.

What he learned in that “pretty exhaustive” listening mode, Jackson said, is that Chatham has “a very, very strong community that’s focused on providing good experiences for kids; we have a strong school system that’s supported throughout the community — by the business sector, by parents, by our staff, by those who were previously patrons of the school system.”

There haven’t been any disappointing surprises.

“All I see right now are just tremendous opportunities to grow the school system from a space of good to a space of great,” Jackson said. “That sounds cliché, but it’s true. If I had to say one thing that I want to make sure that we’re focused on, it’s not allowing good to be the enemy of great. I’m pushing everybody to say we’re good right now, but there’s still room for us to improve and get better. That’s what I’ve found from our 30,000-foot view.”

From ground-level, Jackson says CCS is looking at what he describes as the opportunities and pathways he and the administrative staff and school faculty can explore.

“We can look at programs we don’t have right now and find ones that may add value to what we’re doing,” he said. “We can look at our cur-

rent programs that are really, really good and that can be enhanced. For example, our dual language, AVID, and our fine arts programs ... Those are phenomenal and have a lot of support from our parents. But where can we leverage more opportunities for our students and even expand what we’re doing there? Are we courageous enough to have these conversations? Do we look at making sure that those programs are offered in every school if they’re not currently? These are the next level kinds of the conversations I want to engage in.”

Here’s more from the conversation:

**You’ve been in a number of different school systems. It’s probably difficult to do, but can you compare cultures? How would you classify the learning culture of Chatham County Schools? In comparison to other places, do you think about how you might be able to make an impact and a positive change?**

I think about culture, but I think about it singularly. I look for similarities first, and here’s what I know: regardless of the community that I’ve served, the school system is the vehicle that parents use to ensure the hopes and dreams of their kids are realized.

So that’s one cultural norm that you’re going to find whether you go to the poorest part of the state to the richest part of the state, to the most educated and the most challenged part of the state. So I don’t do a lot of comparisons. I’m taking the time to listen and learn because every community has its own unique flavor and culture.

The learning culture here involves parents who have very high expectations of the school system, for the outcomes of their children. So I have to set and calibrate the work that we do to make sure that every single thing that we’re doing lines up with what parents are expecting of us, and what our community expects for public education, and what most importantly, what our children deserve.

**How do you go about developing and framing your vision for the school now that you have your feet on the ground? And how do you communicate that to your staff?**

I’m a relationship builder by nature, so a lot of that is going to be through direct communication with staff through setting the stage. From the day I got here, I’ve been trying to get them to understand who I am. I share with the staff and everyone who will listen,



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. He assumed the position back in July.**

**We are basically a school system that should not have challenges around low-performing schools. We have the resources, we have excellent teachers, and we have an excellent, excellent support system for them. So again, my expectations are very clear: that we are going to get better every single day.**

**DR. ANTHONY JACKSON, Chatham Schools superintendent**

my four core principles around The Four Agreements [from the book of the same name by Don Miguel Ruiz — *Be impeccable with your word; Don’t take anything personally; Don’t make assumptions; Always do your best*].

I asked for space and grace through the leader learning and listening process, so that I can get to know them. And then as we got through that, I told them that one of the key areas around building up the strategic plan now is for us to rally around a belief that we have one school system that’s delivering our product in 20 locations, and that parents deserve the quality of that, no matter what ...

So it started all the way back at my first meeting with the entire group, which was our convocation, where I shared with them for this year, I wanted to learn the heart of the organization. The second layer of that now is how do we put all this together?

I’ve heard from you. Now, how do we come together and make this work? Because at its root, I would only correct one thing: It’s not *my* vision, it’s *our* vision. I want to set the stage so that we are all understanding that while I get to hold the leadership mantle, I want to make sure that the vision that I’m espousing for this community reflects all of those voices that are heard.

So I listened first, and then I moved through that. But right now, I will share it anywhere. And my message is pretty consistent. They’ll tell you, I am always talking about we are one school system delivering our product in 20 different locations, and that every single parent deserves the absolute best. Whether they’re in Bennett, or whether they’re at the other end of the county, there should be no difference in the quality of our product that we provide to our families.

**Delivering the best for the students: What does that look like?**

It really does mean that we have assessed the needs of every single part of our community. So one of the things that came up was fine arts opportunities across the district. Well, if we have dance and drama at one side of the county and not at the other side, then we’ve got a gap to fill. We’ve got to make sure that those students who have that capacity and desire have that opportunity.

Now, if we offer it and nobody wants it, that’s one thing. But we should

say that they should still have the opportunities to say, that’s an area that I would like to have access to. And so then it’s incumbent upon us to figure out a way to share those resources and make that available to every student regardless of address or zip code. So I want to be able to go to any school and have access to the same programs that I would in any other school in the county or have access to some mechanism to participate in that particular program.

**What’s your assessment of student performance right now? Since it’s a measurement of the product the system provides, can you discuss the district’s plan to move the needle on performance and maybe some problem areas?**

We just received access to performance data of our students, giving us some predictive data around some areas we need to focus on. So in a very systematic way, we’ve invested in some tools to help our schools disaggregate that data, to use it as a predictor, but also to use it as a formative tool to help build out individualized plans, not only for each school, but for each student.

So my expectation is very clear — that every single school will perform better each year. And that they will take data and look at those areas that are not strong, focus in on those areas, target those areas and improve in those areas. I don’t expect that they’re going to be perfect, but I do expect that every school will make progress every single year.

We are basically a school system that should not have challenges around low-performing schools. We have the resources, we have excellent teachers, and we have an excellent, excellent support system for them.

So again, my expectations are very clear: that we are going to get better every single day. We will not use the pandemic as an excuse for why students cannot perform; we will use it as an opportunity to sharpen our skills and meet their needs differently. So that is our core work: student performance.

Every single school in Chatham should be able to meet or exceed growth; every single school in Chatham should be able to earn a school performance grade of C, B or better. And every single child in our school system should reach the finish line with a very well-defined plan for what they do after they

## CCS’S FOCUS GROUPS

# What’s the goal for Chatham Schools’ focus group sessions?

Chatham County Schools (CCS) is hosting a series of four focus group meetings in February to help create “One Chatham” — the district’s new five-year strategic plan.

The plan focuses on five areas: Curriculum and Innovation, Faculty/Staff, Facilities and Infrastructure, Student Health and Safety, and Communications and Information Sharing.

Two sessions have already been held, and two remain: from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at St. Julia Catholic Church (210 Harold Hart Road, Siler City), and 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 24, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (1192 U.S. Hwy. 64 West Business, Pittsboro).

When asked was the goals and objectives of the focus groups were, Dr. Anthony Jackson said it was to create a roadmap for CCS for the next five years.

“And so this is your opportunity to be and to lend your voice to the direction that we take,” he told the News + Record. “We’re going to hear from our community, we’re going to talk about specific areas and get feedback around just the same questions you’ve asked me — Where are we going? How should we get there? And what will success look like when we arrived?”

The beauty of a good strategic plan, he said, is that if everyone is at the table when you design it, “then everybody can be at the party when you celebrate it.”

“And so that’s our goal, to make sure that we include those voices,” he said. “And so it’s going to be very specific in terms of conversations. And then we come up with what will success look like.”

There will be two pieces to the plan, Jackson said.

“One is our theory of action,” he said. “That’s our ‘If / Then’ statement. So we want the community to recognize here are those important things that if we do this, then we can expect this.”

The second piece, Jackson said, is to develop a profile of a Chatham County Schools graduate. That will come from parents sharing during the sessions what their hopes and dreams for their children are after 13 years of investment in the school system.

“Human investment, capital investment, financial investment, relationship investment — what should that product look like at the end of the day?” he asked. “What should and what will your child be able to do?”

At the end of the day, he said, that work will help determine exactly how a child benefits from having graduated from a Chatham County high school.

“That’s our brand promise,” Jackson said. “That’s what we’re hoping to develop.”

finish here — whether it’s going to work, to the military, or to a four-year college, they should leave here with a very well-defined plan for their next steps. And they’re leaving us with experiences that will give them options.

I’ve been very clear about that since the day I got here. That’s our core work: teaching and learning. And on the other side of it is student performance. We expect that we’re going to have high performance in our district, and that we should be the leaders in the state, not the followers when it comes to academic performance.

**What kind of leeway do you give your principals when they’re looking at the data and working with their teachers? When they see problem areas, how much room do they have to experiment or innovate or try to change things in order to improve those numbers?**

We have a really good instructional support team who are engaged with our schools on a regular basis. The principals do have some level of autonomy in that area, but we have to have a predictable system where we know we’ll get outcomes. And you can nuance that for individuals and schools.

I’m a big believer in innovation. But I’m also a believer in making sure that you’ve done your homework to ensure that now is the right time for that particular innovation. Considering the impact of the pandemic

and the impact of the academic pause that we had to take, we must realize that we don’t have time to experiment at the level that we want because we’ve got a short period of time to close gaps for kids. But where we have tried and true programming that we know will get us the results, I think we have to double down and make sure that we’re doing those things with fidelity.

So for example, AVID — we know that works. We’ve got to double down and make sure that our kids have access to all the tools and that our teachers are trained well, to do that. Now, if a principal wants to nuance that and add to that, conversation can be here. But we got to have the baseline of things that we must make sure are going to make a difference for every single child.

I love innovation, but not at the not at the students’ expense. There’s a difference between innovation and experimentation. For those tried and true things, we have a research base to say they will work in these conditions. For experimentation, we’re trying something new to see if it works. We’ve had to slow down a little bit on the experimentation because time is not on our side. I believe that right now, we have to be extremely urgent about meeting the needs of our kids, particularly those who have had the most daunting impact from the school pause and the impact of COVID-19.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Chatham County Schools Superintendent Anthony Jackson visited Northwood High School as part of his first week of school tour back in August.**

# N.C. one of the worst states for LGBTQ+ protections, national report finds

BY HANNAH MCCLELLAN  
News + Record Staff

North Carolina is one of 22 lowest-ranked states in a national report published last month to examine state laws and policies impacting LGBTQ+ people.

The 8th annual State Equality Index (SEI), released Jan. 20 by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Equality Federation Institute, placed North Carolina in the report's lowest category, "High Priority to Achieve Basic Equality" — due to a lack of LGBTQ-friendly laws and a presence of those deemed as anti-LGBTQ.

"The 2021 State Equality Index outlines and analyzes how over a dozen states across the country led an intentional, coordinated attack on the transgender community, particularly children, that has led to villainization, blatant discrimination, and ultimately, violence," said JoDee Winterhof, Human Rights Campaign senior vice president of policy and political affairs. "On the other hand, we have seen a record-breaking amount of states step up for LGBTQ+ equality and fight to pass laws that champion inclusivity and equity in the face of sweeping discrimination. It is clear that considerable effort has been, and continues to be made, to prevent anti-LGBTQ+ legislation from becoming law, progress toward LGBTQ+ equality in the states truly cannot be stopped."

The 2021 SEI ranked 21 states in its highest category, "Working Toward Innovative Equality." The second category, "Solidifying Equality," had three states; the third, "Building Equality," had four.

North Carolina has few laws to protect LGBTQ+ youth. The state doesn't protect youth from conversion therapy, for example, and has no laws addressing LGBTQ-youth homelessness. Additionally, many N.C. schools don't have policies in place to explicitly protect and welcome LGBTQ+ students.

"Our assessment is much the same," Craig White, supportive schools coordinator at the Asheville-based Campaign for Southern Equality, told the News + Record. "I see several school districts in North Carolina that are doing very well, and in fact, we've got a few school districts whose policies are models for the rest of the country."

"But overall, as a state, I would say that's only a handful of our 100-and-whatever school districts," White said, "so I would say that as a state, we have a lot of work to do."

School districts with strong LGBTQ+ protections, White said, not only have comprehensive policies that anticipate LGBTQ concerns — such as gender-inclusive dress codes, private bathroom facilities and staff trainings — but also provide diverse curricula and a safe environment for students from all backgrounds.

"I think we've been in a place for a long time where there's been an absence of those affirming and welcoming elements — the schools don't have policy, they don't have a welcoming environment, teachers don't have training and LGBTQ people aren't represented in the curriculum," White said. "That's been the status quo for a while, and I think that that's why North Carolina got a poor



Submitted photo

Caroline Puckett, co-president of Northwood High School's Pride club, shows off rainbow apparel at a Pittsboro Pride Day the club held June 26, 2020.

ranking in this national survey."

## 'Mental health outcomes of students'

Chatham County Schools began its two-year equity training efforts with The Equity Collaborative group last February, focusing on race, income, sexual orientation, disability status, religion, gender and other protected classes.

The training is a part of the Equity and Excellence for Everyone (E3) team's work, formed six years ago. The E3 team's recent work led to the district revising its dress code and discipline policies, making language on district forms more gender-inclusive and adding more diverse texts and curricula to classrooms.

Ness Shortley, Horton Middle School's librarian and equity team member, previously told the News + Record that looking at LGBTQ and disability status includes people of color, and can provide a more intersectional approach.

"I feel like I'm constantly pushing equity for our disabled kids and equity for LGBTQ kids," Shortley said then. "And that's not something I've seen a lot of progress on so far."

At Jordan-Matthews High School, Gay-Straight Alliance club officers Rebecca Narcizo and Erick Benitez Espinoza said that for the most part, LGBTQ students aren't targeted at school. They noted that most teachers ask students their preferred name at the start of a semester, but not for their pronouns.

A lack of LGBTQ-focused education is the most pressing issue, Narcizo said. As noted by the SEI, N.C. doesn't have LGBTQ-inclusive sex education laws.

"I have to educate myself on my own things," said Narcizo, GSA vice president, "because my school won't teach me."

School Counselor Margaret Grayson helped a former student start GSA in 2012. J-M, she said, lacks LGBTQ-trained staff — something she hopes to help address soon.

of them don't know," she said. "So they just avoid it."

The club is 10 years old and has hosted socials, movies and game nights, along with its weekly meetings after school. Recently, faculty advisor Katie Rehder Zoomed in guest speakers, like a Guatemalan friend in D.C., who spoke about his Latinx experience in gay community. (At J-M, 63.4% of students are Hispanic, according to the district's most recent ethnic enrollment report.)

Though impacted by the pandemic — and potentially inaccessible to some students without transportation — Rehder said the club provides a space for students to have at

least one support person, particularly for students without family support. LGBTQ youth who report having at least one accepting adult were 40% less likely to report a suicide attempt, 2019 data from the Trevor Project shows.

"I call it like safe and brave space, like a space where you can really be yourself," Rehder said. "Being in a small town where there's not a lot of visibility of the LGBTQ community, it's more important to have an organization, a club like this, at school, because they may not have that anywhere else."

The national SEI cites a lack of youth laws mandating school suicide prevention strategies as a policy that would make North Carolina safer for LGBTQ+ people and youth.

Suicide risk and substance use is higher among LGBTQ+ youth, national and state data shows, particularly for people of color. But acceptance of LGBTQ+ youth can go a long way in reducing that risk, a recent Healthline report documented.

"We often hear these negative statistics about LGBTQ youth and mental health, but it's not really about the youth," White said. "What that is tracking is the families, schools and peer groups around those youth. ... There's a close correlation between the policy climate and the culture of a school and the mental health outcomes of

students — and not just LGBTQ students, but also students of color."

Students and staff welcomed an LGBTQ-friendly policy passed statewide last March, with the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction announcing it would update its PowerSchool student information system to display a "preferred name" field. The move followed years of lobbying by LGBTQ advocacy groups, who've said using a student's legal or birth name

causes emotional harm to transgender students and can put them at risk for being outed.

"I just think that it will make people feel better about themselves," Pride Co-President Oliver Ewy, then a sophomore at Northwood, said of the change. "Because obviously, seeing a name that you don't associate with yourself, or that you associate with negative things can make someone really uncomfortable."

## 'Feeling like they're under attack'

Across the state, recent challenges in school and public libraries have targeted books about racism or sexuality, especially when the latter feature LGBTQ+ characters.

Republican Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson led parent groups last October in characterizing several books with LGBTQ+ main characters as "obscene" material that should be removed from schools. At the time, Robinson referenced his religious convictions in criticizing the books — including his belief that homosexuality is sinful.

"The Constitution offers us this promise of a quality education, which means students seeing themselves reflected in being safe and welcomed at school," White said. "Honestly, right now, a lot of students of color and a lot of LGBTQ students are not experiencing that. They're feeling like they're under attack."

White also cited incidents of teachers being asked by administrators

to remove rainbow flags outside of classrooms, and transgender students being followed into bathrooms "that they have a right to use under federal law," and harassed by other students — bullying that White says violates student Title IX rights.

White emphasized the importance of opposing similar policies that harm LGBTQ students, while also advocating for policies that uplift and protect youth.

"I think that there's a very small minority of people in North Carolina who are carrying this anti-LGBTQ bigotry, but they have a very loud voice right now," he said. "And they're putting school boards and administrators and teachers under a lot of pressure — and the students are really the ones who are feeling that pressure."

For J-M's Narcizo and Benitez Espinoza, a little goes a long way.

"Just having that sense of community in your school is important," Narcizo said of GSA, "because I know a lot of people don't really have that outside of school."

"It's important because it's like a little community — we can make each other laugh," Benitez Espinoza, the club's president, added. "We also try to brighten up each other's days, learn more about each other and what's going on to support — even when it's not all about LGBTQ stuff."

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

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# OBITUARIES

## NICHOLAS PAUL SZYDLEK



Born in Detroit, Michigan on September 16, 1944, Nicholas Paul Szydlek 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 1990s 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); brother, Eddie (Cynthia) Szydlek; sisters, Carol (Fred) Zirotti and Cheryl (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 Szydlek-Lawless; Edwin Joseph Rivers and stepmother Frances Rivers; and brothers Lawrence S. Szydlek and Phillip P. Szydlek.

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.

## ALMA SUE CLAYTON CASH



Alma Sue Clayton Cash, 88, of Apex, died Saturday, February 12, 2022, at home.

Alma was born in Person County on October 12, 1933, to the late Henry Cornelius Clayton and Allie Sue Wagner Clayton. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Paul Cash, one brother, Henry Nathaniel Clayton, and one sister, Clydie Clayton Lewter.

Surviving relatives include one son, Shorty Cash and wife Cathy of

Sanford; two daughters, Teresa Cash of Apex, and Pam Cash of Pittsboro; one brother, Kirby Steve Adcock and wife Sissy of Salisbury, N.C.; nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Saturday, February 19, 2022, at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel from 1 to 1:45 p.m. The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. with Pastor Wesley Thomas and Rev. Bob Wachs presiding. Burial will follow at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made in Alma's memory to Mt. Gilead Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 1785 Mt. Gilead Church Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

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

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

## JOSEPHINE MCAULEY ALLEN

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

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 12, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden.

## ROY R. BURNETTE

Roy R. Burnette, 74, formerly of Siler City and Rochester, N.Y., passed away Friday, February 4, 2022, at his home.

Services were held privately.

## ALEXANDER DAVIS JR.

Alexander Davis Jr., 96, of Sanford passed away on Monday, February 7, 2022, at his home.

The funeral service was held at noon on Monday, February 14, 2022, at First Calvary Baptist Church, with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

## MARIO BONILLA VILLATORO

Mario Bonilla Villatoro, 50, of El Salvador, passed away Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts & Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

## DOUGLAS HOWARD FOXF

Douglas Howard Foxx, 77, of Siler City, passed away Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at Laurels of Chatham in Pittsboro.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts & Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

## VIRGINIA HERNANDEZ RAMIREZ

Virginia Hernandez Ramirez, 37, of Bennett, passed away on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at her home.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts & Son Funeral Home, Siler City.

## HOPE BROWN GOLDSTON



Hope Brown Goldston, 52, of Siler City passed away on Friday, February 11, 2022.

Hope was born September 17, 1969, in Marlboro County. She was preceded in death by her parents, Kelly and Elizabeth "Lib" Brown and her daughter, Philisha Lauren Lott. She never knew a stranger and loved everyone. She enjoyed spending all of her time with her best friend, her daughter Nikki.

She is survived by her husband, Eric Goldston; daughters, Nikki Goldston and Loreal Jones; step-sons, Torace Goldston and Jordan Goldston; and grandchildren, Ryan Lott, Jazmyn Perez, Aubrey Mahen, Grayson Goldston, Kiley Dixon and Suttyn Foushee; and brothers, Phillip Lott, Doug Lott, and Randy Lott.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

## LONNIE IRVING CAREY SR.

SILER CITY — Lonnie Irving Carey Sr., 92, died at home on February 8, 2022.

The eldest son of the late Otis and Lillian Faulkner Carey, he was born on October 9, 1929, in the Pleasant Grove Community of Alamance County, N.C. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Peggy Ann Warren Carey. They traveled the world together from their home base on The Rocky River in Chatham County. After graduating from Pleasant Grove High School and Burlington Business College, he served in the Navy. He earned a bachelor degree from Elon College while working at Western Electric. His entire professional engineering career of forty years was with the Bell System. He was especially proud of his work at Bell Labs.

He is survived by his five children: Terry Carey of Greensboro; Irv Carey (Amy) of Seneca, Maryland; Joel Carey (Joyce) of California, Maryland; Tim Carey (Rese) of Snow Camp; and Crystal Carey (Brawner) of Arlington, Virginia. His nine grandchildren are Bo, Brian, Jane, Nick, Leah, Lenny, Jeff, Tim, and Carly. His seven great-grandchildren are Tanner, Garrett, Thomas, Eleanor, Pearl, Christopher, and Anderson. While predeceased by sister, Lala Rascoe and brother, Stanley Carey, he is survived by two brothers and three sisters: Glenda Newcomb, Neil Carey, Angie Pendergrass, Fairley Carey, and Jill Saunders.

Memorial contributions may be made to Long's Chapel Cemetery Fund, 1526 McCray Road, Burlington, N.C. 27217.

Lonnie Laid in repose on Friday, February 11, 2022, from 1 until 5 p.m. at Loflin Funeral Home of Liberty. The family received friends for a time of visitation one hour prior to the service. That celebration of Lonnie's life was held Saturday, February 12, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Long's Chapel Christian Church, 2364 N.C. Hwy. 49 N, Burlington, N.C., with burial following in the church cemetery.

Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at [www.LoflinFH.com](http://www.LoflinFH.com).

Loflin Funeral Home of Liberty is honored to serve the Carey family.

## PEGGY AYERS PILSON

Peggy Ayers Pilson, 77, of Washington, N.C., passed away on Monday, February 7, 2022, at her home.

The funeral service was held Friday, February 11, 2022, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Rev. Vanya Mullinax officiating. Burial followed in Rocky Fork Christian Church Cemetery.

She was born in Hoke County on October 7, 1944, to the late Andrew Vest Ayers and Annie Hutchins Ayers. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by twelve brothers and sisters, and nine half-brothers and sisters. Peggy taught mathematics at the post-secondary level at Martin Community College and Beaufort Community College.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Paul Dave Pilson Jr.; children, Tina Sikes of Fuquay-Varina, John Robert Hoffman of West Virginia, Billy Ray Hoffman of Williamston and Paula Ann Falat of Texas; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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

## DAVID GENE FAIRCLOTH SR.

David Gene Faircloth Sr., 82, of Sanford, died Monday, February 7, 2022 at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

No service will be held at this time.

Mr. Faircloth was born September 14, 1939, son of the late Marvin McKinley and Mary Katherine Howard Faircloth. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Cecil Faircloth and Marvin Faircloth Jr.

Surviving is his wife, Mary Flitcraft Faircloth of the home; a daughter, Kisha Lucas of Lillington; son, David Gene Faircloth Jr. of Lillington; a sister, Mary Magdalene Booth of Eolga, W.V.; brother, Bud Faircloth of Magnolia, Delaware, and his grandchildren. Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com).

## HENRY DANIEL LEE

Henry Daniel Lee, 87, of Cameron, died Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at his home.

The family will hold a private celebration of life service at a later date.

He was born June 25, 1934, son of the late Daniel N. and Katie G. Byler Lee. He was preceded in death by his parents and 14 brothers and sisters.

Surviving is his wife of 59 years, Joan Carol Lee of the home; sons, Daniel Edward Lee of Bunnlevel, Henry Alan Lee of Kentucky, and John David Lee of Lillington; sisters, Lena Lee Byler of Wilmington, Pennsylvania, Matilda Lee Nessler Smith of Virginia; and brother, Simon Lee of Centerville, Pennsylvania; half-sister, Nancy Lee Zook of Ohio and half-brother, Levi Lee of Atlantic, Pennsylvania; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family request memorial gifts be made to the Smith Funeral Home in Broadway for funeral expenses. Online condolences can be made at [www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com](http://www.smithfuneralhomebroadway.com).

## MARY ELIZABETH PETTY KEARNEY

Mary Elizabeth Petty Kearney passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

Mrs. Kearney was born April 26, 1946, in Sanford to the late Rollie and Mable Lewis Petty.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church with burial following in Lee Memory Garden.

## ALLAN ECKHAUS

Allan Eckhaus, 86, of Chapel Hill passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2022.

Arrangements by Cremation Society of the Carolinas.

## CARRIE B. PATTERSON

Carrie B. Patterson, 60, of Aberdeen, passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

## RUSSELL JERRY JOHNSON

Russell Jerry Johnson, 85, of Siler City passed away Friday, February 11, 2022, at Moses Cone Memorial Hospital.

The body laid in repose on Monday, February 14, 2022, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home. The funeral service was held Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Sapling Ridge United Methodist Church, with Rev. Jason Dickerson and Pastor Jerry Johnson officiating. Internment followed in the church cemetery.

Russell was born February 24, 1936, son of the late Edward Lester and Berta Fox Johnson. He was a well known farmer in the Silk Hope Community. He was instrumental in starting the Silk Hope Fire Department where he was an active member and captain. He was also a member of Sapling Ridge United Methodist Church. In addition to his parents, Russell was preceded in death by his brothers, Gene, Robert, and Palmer Johnson, and sister, Berta Faye Johnson King.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Hannah Scarlett Johnson; sons, Mike Johnson of Gainesville Georgia, Jerry Johnson of Asheboro, and Randy Johnson of Bevard; eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and sisters, Judy Johnson and Rachel Cox, both of Siler City.

Memorials may be made in Russell's memory to Sapling Ridge U.M.C. or to a charity of choice.

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

Smith and Buckner Funeral Home is serving the Johnson family.

## PAMELA ALLRED VOSS

Pamela Allred Voss, 53, of Robbins, passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

The graveside service was held on Monday, February 14, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Pine Grove Baptist Church with Andy King and Kirk Sams officiating.

Pam was born on December 26, 1968, to Brenda J. and Vernon Lee Allred. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Carlie Voss; father, Vernon "Buck" Allred; sister, Sharon A. Craven; and grandparents, Clyde and Derotha Allred and Worth and Arlene Jeffries.

She is survived by her husband, Bryant Voss of the home; sons, Christopher V. Newsom of Mt. Holly and Cody R. Voss of Seven Lakes; daughters, Cailyn V. Chadwick of Robbins and Victoria Hash, of the home; mother, Brenda J. Allred of Robbins; brother, Matthew Allred of Waynesville; and sister, Meredith A. Brady of Robbins.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Carolina Bible Camp and Retreat Center, 1988 Jericho Church Rd., Mocksville, N.C. 27028.

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

Joyce-Brady Chapel is honored to serve the Voss Family.

## JOHNNY BARRETT KNIGHT JR.

Johnny Barrett Knight Jr., 75, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

The funeral service was held at 3 p.m., Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the Chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home with Rev. Scott Yow officiating. The burial was private.

Johnny was born in Harnett County to the late Johnny Barrett Knight and Violet Holder Sharpe. Johnny was a self-employed equipment operator, running J. B. Knight and Son Construction Company.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Rebecca Everette Knight of the home; son, Darryl Barrett Knight of Sanford; and stepson, Ricky Lawson of Loris, S.C.; two daughters, Karen Knight Ward and Pamela Rackley, both of Sanford; brother, Alex "Buddy" Knight of Sanford; sisters; Ondrea Goins and Linda Funderburke, both of Sanford; and four grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

**OBITUARIES**

Continued from page A9

**RUBY MAE HOLT GODWIN**

Ruby Mae Holt Godwin, 96, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at River Trace Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Washington, N.C.

A graveside service was held Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Buffalo Cemetery with Jody McNeill officiating. The family received friends following the service in the cemetery.

She was born in Harnett County on May 11, 1925, to the late Lewis Gray and Maggie Docia Graham Holt. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Owen E. Godwin and brothers Max Gray Holt and Gary Lewis Holt. Ruby was a charter member of Edgewood Presbyterian Church where she served in many capacities.

She is survived by her daughters, Gwen Briley of Chocowinity, N.C., and Sherry Godwin Holder of Sanford; three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Edgewood Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 1624, Sanford, N.C. 27331.

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

**TYRONE LAMONT JONES JR.**

Tyrone Lamont Jones Jr., 23, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2022.

The funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 19, 2022 at Cameron Grove A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

**CORNELIA MAE (HEADEN) JACKSON**

Cornelia Mae Headen Jackson, 93, formerly of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at her home in Baltimore, Maryland.

The funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home. Burial followed in Lee Memory Gardens.

**RALPH LESLIE WATSON**

Ralph Leslie Watson, 46, of Sanford, passed away on Sunday, February 6, 2022, at his residence.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

**HILDA SPEAGLE HOLDER**

Hilda Speagle Holder, 81, of Siler City, passed away Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at her home.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts & Son Funeral Home.

**FANNIE JANE WARE**

Ms. Fannie Jane Ware, 82, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, February 13, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

# ‘Brighter Futures’ group to host community info session, Q&A on Feb. 23

*Project seeks 90% reduction in school suspensions, elimination disparities in suspension and delinquency rates*

A group of Chatham residents says the negative effects of school suspensions — which includes the interruption of the suspended students’ education — are as concerning as the disproportionate rates at which students with disabilities and Black and multiracial students are referred to law enforcement for actions at school.

**Delaney**

Next Wednesday, the group — organized by the Chatham Community NAACP — will host a community information Zoom meeting to get resident input and a question-and-answer session about the topic and share more information about its “Brighter Futures” project goals, which include:

- a 90% reduction in school suspensions
- a 90% reduction in school-related juvenile delinquency
- the elimination of racial, disability, and economic disparities in suspension and delinquency rates
- limiting school/student resource officer (SRO) roles to state law requirements

This week, we speak with David G. Delaney, an attorney and Chatham County resident, about the so-called “school to prison pipeline.”

Delaney is helping to develop a plan to work to reduce exclusionary practices and school-related delinquency complaints and create a collaborative community partnership to maintain safety in schools — yet at the same time interrupt that pipeline.

Delaney serves as chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee of the Chatham Community NAACP Branch. He is vice president and assistant general counsel for cybersecurity with Truist Financial, a parent of two elementary school children, and has taught law and public policy at Indiana University and UNC-Chapel Hill.

**For those not aware of the “Brighter Futures” effort, can you give us a synopsis of its objectives, and the report you’ve helped put together about it?**

Sure. This report proposes several goals that would make Chatham County the statewide leader in reducing student suspensions and school-related juvenile delinquencies. North Carolina data on those topics tell us that Chatham’s students of color and students with disabilities are several times more likely than their peers to be suspended or referred to the criminal justice system. We want to eliminate those disparities, cut suspensions and delinquencies by 90% over the coming year, use school resource officers in limited circumstances, and ultimately propose improvements in state law on these topics.

**And remind us how you got involved, and who else is a part of this project...**

Brighter Futures is the

**Table 2: Key Punitive Discipline Rates Compared to White Students**

Subgroup	Criminal Acts	Referral to Law Enforcement
Black	<b>2.7X higher</b>	<b>3.4X higher</b>
Hispanic	<b>3.1X higher</b>	<i>0.8X lower</i>
American Indian*	<i>No criminal acts</i>	<b>58X higher</b>
Asian	2.3X higher	<i>No referrals</i>
Two or More Races	<i>1.8X higher</i>	<b>2.6X higher</b>
Economically Disadvantaged	2.8X higher	1.79X higher
Students with Disabilities	<b>3.5X higher</b>	<b>3.7X higher</b>

**Bold text** shows points of particular concern. *Italicized text* shows relatively positive points.  
\* The DPI data suggest one or more anomalous incidents that warrant further inquiry before reaching conclusions about practices affecting American Indian students. Therefore, the American Indian subgroup is not included in the discussion and comparisons below.

Report screen grab

**One of the charts from the ‘Brighter Futures’ report produced by a team headed by David Delaney. The chart illustrates the discipline rates of specific groups of students compared to white students.**

product of the criminal justice committee of the Chatham Community NAACP Branch. Our members are Mary Nettles, Gina Bachelier, Sam Cooper, Carl Fox, Bob Pearson and David Warren.

When we stood up the committee early last year, there was consensus to focus on student concerns. We knew that most juvenile delinquency complaints are school-related. We also knew that students fall behind their peers when they are removed from their normal learning environments. But we didn’t know specifically what steps or resources would be needed to keep students in school and out of the criminal justice system.

To supplement our own research and expertise, we consulted a number of experts, including retired University of Kansas professors Ann and Rud Turnbull on special education, North Carolina Central University law professor Irving Joyner on state law, Rosalyn Darling on sociology, and former CCS Interim Superintendent Randy Bridges.

**What’s new since our last conversation?**

It has been a busy few months.

Our committee members have discussed our goals with Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson and his leadership team. Branch president Mary Nettles and I have joined two CCS Equity Ambassador meetings to propose relationships between our work and the new CCS strategic plan taking shape. I briefed the Chatham County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council on our goals and plans, asked Public Health Director Mike Zelek to contribute his expertise, and discussed our plans with numerous parents and nonprofits. Judge Carl Fox has also coordinated with Chief District Court Judge Samantha Cabe about forming a School Justice Partnership through a N.C. Judicial Branch program that helps communities commit to shared goals. Community inter-

est and support really have been strong.

**The event on the 23rd: what’s going to happen, and what are the goals?**

On Wednesday we will host a one-hour discussion via Zoom to reconnect with many of those public officials. We are also inviting nonprofits and individuals seeking specific ways to link their work with ours. If interested, write me at [DelaneyLawNC@gmail.com](mailto:DelaneyLawNC@gmail.com) with your ideas and some background. We will give a brief overview of Brighter Futures then

ask participants what they think must happen to achieve Brighter Futures goals. Ideally, the meeting results in a mapping of specific activities, timelines, and resources needed to make progress together.

**Who will participate?**

Most of our committee members and experts will participate. We don’t have all responses yet, but we are thrilled that newly-elected N.C. NAACP president Deborah Dicks-Maxwell has confirmed, along with several CCS leaders and leading local nonprofits like Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE) and

Communities In Schools of Chatham County. CORE, like Communities in Schools and other local nonprofits, is already supporting CCS equity goals, and we look forward to partnering to amplify each group’s impact.

**Afterward ... how will you follow up, and where will the NAACP go from there?**

The next big step is to work toward a memorandum of understanding that formalizes a School Justice Partnership among public officials, nonprofits, and other key stakeholders. Many counties already have such partnerships that have helped make great improvements for their students. We think Chatham County can make the biggest gains of any county, and if that’s successful then perhaps our work can drive a similar statewide effort by the NAACP and other partners.

To see our prior chat with Delaney, go to <https://www.chathamnews-record.com/stories/group-seeks-alternatives-for-students-whose-brushes-with-the-law-stymie-academic-path,10958>.

To register for the “Brighter Futures” event, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84107155714?pwd=Y0tLQmNTM-FQ4TWIwTHNvNXpHd-m10UT09>.



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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 - 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

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

## WANTED

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## SERVICES

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## HELP WANTED

**THE ARC OF NORTH CAROLINA** is seeking someone to work with a young lady who lives at home but needs extra support to do the things she loves! If you are creative and interested in making a difference in someone's life- helping then with cooking, money management, and fun hobbies, please apply! A high school diploma, experience working with people with disabilities, and the desire to make someone's life better is all you need. Pay rate is \$15/hr. For more information or to apply call Sandy at 919-816-7827 or email at Srogowski@arcnc.org. F17,24,2tp

**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. F3,10,17,24,4tp

**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 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,F17,4tp

**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 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. 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,F24,4tp

**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,F24,4tp

**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 pleaded 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,F24,4tp

**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

## CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

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**Display ad deadline** Monday — 5 p.m.

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**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 day 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 Executor of the Estate of **BENNETT WATSON COWPER ROBERTS, JR.**, deceased, of Chatham County, North Carolina does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of May, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This 3rd day of February, 2022. Angela Lane Roberts, Executrix of the Estate of Bennett Watson Cowper Roberts, Jr. c/o Gwendolyn C. Brooks Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707 F3,F10,F17,F24,4tp

**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 PROCESS OF PUBLICATION** TO: Biological father/Father/unknown father of the above female child, born in Orange County, NC to Marisa Temkey.

## Chatham News + Record

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

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Pittsboro Christian Village  
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 60**

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor 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

**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 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. Vandever, 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. Vandever, 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 Fadel, Attorney 119 N Fir Avenue Siler City, NC 27344 F10,F17,F24,M3,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 63**

All persons having claims against **BILLIE M. HAMKE** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of February, 2022. Dean A. Hamke, Executor 304 Mattered Dr Clayton, NC 27527 c/o Brady/Cobin Law Group, PLLC 4141 Parklake Avenue, Suite 130 Raleigh, NC 27612 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **JOHN BRUCE BAIRD**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, are hereby notified to present them to William Benjamin Baird, Executor of the decedent's estate, on or before May 17, 2022 in the care of the undersigned 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. This 17th day of February, 2022. William Benjamin Baird, Executor Estate of John Bruce Baird Wilson Reives & Silverman, PLLC Post Office Box 1653 Sanford, NC 27331 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 759**

All persons having claims against **WASIM QUDOOS CHAUDHRY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of February, 2022. Rabia Ibrahim, Administrator 481 Pine Lake Drive Siler City, NC 27344 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 631**

All persons having claims against **DANIEL JOSEPH FLYNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of February, 2022. Kathleen A. Flynn, Ancillary Executrix 48 Rolling Hills Rd Burlington, NC 27217 c/o Brown Estate Planning P.O. Box 920 Graham, NC 27253 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tp

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO**

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold the following Public Hearings on **Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom** to consider the following items: **Zoning Text Amendments. ZTA-2022-02.** Planning Staff is requesting text amendments to the Pittsboro Unified Development Ordinance including: amend "Article" to "Chapter," Amend "site specific development plan" to "site specific vesting plan," amend "Pre-Application Conference" to "Pre-Submittal Meeting," amend "Planning Director" to "Planning Director, or his/her designee," amend pre-submittal meeting application deadline to seven days, amend Planning Director powers and duties, reorganize order sections in Chapter 10, amend Community Meeting standards, amend exemption plat, minor plat, preliminary plat, and final plat standards,

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remove criminal penalties for riparian buffer and stormwater management, and delete the recommended plant list. Zoning Text Amendments. ZTA-2022-03. Town Staff is requesting text amendments to the Pittsboro Unified Development Ordinance including: Amend the Affordable Housing Incentives. Proposed Annexation: A-2022-01. Chatham Park Section 5.1 East - Wendover Parkway. Annexation request for a total of 14.919 acres, located adjacent to US Highway 64 Business and Chatham Park Ways, and more particularly described as a portion of parcel numbers 87175 and 7339. The purpose of the public hearings is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the request. The complete records are on file at the Town Planning Department located at 480 Hillsboro Street, Suite 400, and are available for inspection through e-mail. Substantial changes in the proposed amendments may be made following the public hearing. The meeting will be held via

Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom Meeting can be found on the Town's website at [www.pittsboronc.gov](http://www.pittsboronc.gov). If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Clerk, Cassie Bullock, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or via email at [Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov](mailto:Cbullock@pittsboronc.gov) by 4 p.m. on February 28, 2022. F17,F24,2tc

immediate payment to the undersigned. This 17th day of February 2022. Richard Vickers, Personal Representative, c/o Larry H. Rocamora, Attorney for the Estate, McPherson, Rocamora, Nicholson, Wilson, & Hinkle, PLLC, 3211 Shannon Road, Suite 400 Durham, NC 27707 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tc

Durham, NC 27707 c/o Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A. 111 Cloister Ct., STE 200 Chapel Hill, NC 27514 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tc

online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. Terracon Reference No.: 49207223. F17,1tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS PAZ ABRAHAM BONILLA COUNTY OF CHATHAM NORTH CAROLINA 22 E 71**  
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **PAZ ABRAHAM BONILLA** deceased, are notified to exhibit them to Evi Griselda Bonilla, Executor of the decedent's estate on or before May 20, 2022, c/o Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for the Estate, at P.O. Drawer 1529, Hillsborough, North Carolina 27278, or be forever barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above named Executor. This the 17th day of February, 2022. Evi Griselda Bonilla, Executor of the Estate of Paz Abraham Bonilla Coleman, Gledhill, Hargrave, Merritt & Rainsford, P.C. Katherine T. Merritt, Attorney for Estate P.O. Drawer 1529 Hillsborough, NC 27278 (919) 732-2196 F17,F24,M3,M10,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified as Personal Representative of the Estate of **AUBREY BARRETT VICKERS**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, on the 11th day of February, 2022, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against said estate to exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of the attorney for the estate on or before the 19th day of May, 2022, or this Notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 83**  
All persons having claims against **NOAH MIAH MATTHEWS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of February, 2022. Micah Noel Matthews, Executor 4101 Five Oaks Drive, Unit 31

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) are proposing to build a 265 foot Self-Support Telecommunications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The site location is 5684 NC Highway 87 North, Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina 27312 (35° 47' 12.89" North and 79° 14' 41.19" West). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1208395. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS - Interested persons may review the application ([www.fcc.gov/asr/applications](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/applications)) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review ([www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest](http://www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest)) and

# Immigrant Advisory Committee appoints subcommittee members, works on project timeline

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Immigrant Community Advisory Committee appointed members to its five subcommittees and discussed a timeline for realizing the town's Building Integrated Communities plan during its monthly meeting last Tuesday. Those subcommittees include Business & Entrepreneurship, Housing and Public Transportation, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, Parks & Recreation and Youth Mental Health, and Communications and Leadership. Each subcommittee holds up to three committee members, plus a town employee specializing in that topic.

"This is the first year, so there's a lot of learning that we have to do," member Victoria Navarro said during Tuesday's meeting.

All subcommittee topics derive from the town's 44-item Building Integrated Communities action plan, which community leaders finalized in early 2019 to address immigrant residents' needs based on information gathered during a two-to-three-year community planning project.

The plan's eight key strategic objectives include communication, housing, leadership, youth mental health, business & entrepreneurship, public safety & law enforcement, parks & recreation, and public transportation. Residents

## WHICH BIC RECOMMENDATIONS HAS SILER CITY CHECKED OFF?

DATE	ACTION ITEM
2019	SILER CITY PARKS & RECREATION PUBLISHES BILINGUAL NEWSLETTERS.
2019	TRANSLATE THE TOWN OF SILER CITY GOVERNMENT GUIDE INTO SPANISH AND POST ON WEBSITE.
2019	PROVIDE SPANISH INTERPRETATION FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS (NOW UPON REQUEST).
POSTPONED	HAVE SCPD PARTICIPATE IN THE HISPANIC LIAISON'S ANNUAL SEPTEMBER HISPANIC HERITAGE FIESTA.
POSTPONED	PARTICIPATE IN THE FAITH ID PROGRAM; INITIAL SIGN-UP EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL OF 2020.
JUNE 2021	PROVIDE A 5% PAY INCENTIVE FOR ALL BILINGUAL TOWN EMPLOYEES.
JUNE 2021	ESTABLISH AN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD.
DEC. 2021	SCPD OFFICERS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING PROGRAM, AN IMPLICIT-BIAS TRAINING PROGRAM.
DEC. 2021	OFFER A GOOGLE TRANSLATE BUTTON ON ITS WEBSITE TO TRANSLATE THEIR SITE INTO OTHER LANGUAGES, INCLUDING SPANISH.

CN+R graphic by Victoria Johnson

may view it in full at [unc.unc.edu/3Donqpl](http://unc.unc.edu/3Donqpl).

According to the town's resolution, the committee will report its initial recommendations and priorities for carrying out the BIC plan to the Siler City Board of Commissioners at the end of the year.

To prepare and plan for that report, committee members agreed to meet in their subcommittees outside of their monthly meetings, meet with town department heads in their assigned areas to better understand how to apply BIC and report back to the committee at large. "Essentially, the sub-

committees become specialists in those areas in understanding how those respective departments navigate with currently and also what they're also doing internally to help support BIC," Chairperson Hannia Benitez told the committee.

First, however, committee members resolved to meet at least once within their assigned subcommittees before their next monthly meeting to lay out a general game plan and appoint a subcommittee chairperson.

The Immigrant Advisory Committee will meet again at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, inside the Wren Memorial Library and on Zoom via [bit.ly/3JfKave](http://bit.ly/3JfKave).

### Other committee business

- Navarro, a digital marketing special-

ist, proposed that the committee look into creating an Immigrant Advisory Committee Facebook page to better spread the word about their activities and meetings to interested residents, as well as solicit feedback or public input.

"I think that social media, very specifically Facebook, is gonna be very strong for our community to engage with us," she said. "Right now, something's that really hard, you know — we're not really having a lot of get-togethers with big parts of our community for us to ask these questions, so I think social media is going to help a lot."

- First launched last December, Siler City's new official website now translates town webpages, information and even meeting agenda

## The Immigrant Community Advisory Committee subcommittees and their members:

- COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP**
- Hannia Benitez
  - Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez
  - Carlos Simpson
  - Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson

- BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP**
- Norma Hernandez
  - Jisselle Perdomo
  - Jack Meadows, Siler City's planning and community development director

- PARKS & RECREATION AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH**
- Norma Hernandez
  - Victoria Navarro
  - Shirley Villatoro
  - Jack Clelland, Siler City's Parks & Recreation director

- HOUSING & PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**
- Hannia Benitez
  - Victoria Navarro
  - Jack Meadows

- PUBLIC SAFETY & LAW ENFORCEMENT**
- Jisselle Perdomo
  - Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez
  - Shirley Villatoro
  - Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner

into Spanish, Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson told the committee last Tuesday.

The town has historically posted meeting agenda packets as PDF attachments, but Johnson has begun to copy and paste the agenda outlines directly onto the site's committee and board webpages, allowing the site's new feature to translate them.

"For the full agenda packet, they would still have to click the PDF link, but you know, at least they would have the agenda cover and kind of see where stuff is on the actual agenda," Johnson told the com-

mittee. "... So I think that works a bit better. I was pretty excited about that."

The site's new translation feature also offers over 100 other languages.

"There's a couple of other tweaks of course within the subcommittees we can work and, you know, tweak around it to make it better," Benitez said, "but it's those baby steps that we're taking, and I know it was very exciting when we saw that it could happen."

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

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# MURAL

Continued from page A1  
 a front-facing facade and create something that has some meaning.”

Alexandre talked with the Crawford family for months regarding the topic of the mural. She knew she wanted to highlight local leaders in Chatham County, but she wanted to make sure to highlight the stories of Black leaders from around the county.

“The Plant is a pretty white space, and so, I wanted to celebrate and shout out the Black leaders that are here or were here,” Alexandre said. “Throughout my research, I wanted to primarily highlight the legacies and honor Black women, and relate that to land and nature because I feel like I don’t see enough of those narratives.”

While researching for a portrait topic, Alexandre came across the story of Small, an active leader in the Chatham community during the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights movement.

“As I continued with my research, she just became more interesting to me and I really wanted to do a piece about her,” Alexandre said. “I remember seeing a grainy black and white picture of her (Roxie) and thinking, ‘That’s such a strong gaze, and I would love to capture that.’”

Small was born in Pittsboro in 1899 and spent the majority of her life there. According to a biography written by Small’s granddaughter, Joanne Small James, Small had a passion for education, especially for her family members.

She was the first PTA



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**Local artist Claire Alexandre standing next to her mural at Chatham Ciderworks, which was unveiled on Sunday.**

president at Horton High School and served in that capacity for almost 25 years. She even ran for the Chatham County Board of Education in 1962, making her the first Black candidate on the ballot — according to Joanne’s writing. She lost that race; according to stories told by her family, the margin was just a single vote.

Small also was a co-founder of the Chatham Community NAACP branch, served as the chapter’s first president, received the “Mother of the Year” award from the NAACP in 1956, was a minister at Russell Chapel and Mitchell Chapter churches and marched and protested on behalf of the Civil Rights movement.

Alexandre said she was touched by Small’s accomplishments, as well as the personal stories from Small’s family members.

“The fact I was able to find a personal narrative made me able to get a

more vivid picture of Roxie, and I really just wanted to use that in this commission,” Alexandre said.

The mural features Small holding a “basket of abundance,” filled with various fruits and vegetables grown in Chatham County, as well as a bottle of cider to symbolize Chatham Cider Works. The painting also featured details related to Small’s life, including downtown Pittsboro, hands working behind her head and even peach tree branches to symbolize the fruit tree Small had in her yard.

“The piece could work without the portrait, but it is so important that we include narratives of how people and the land work together,” Alexandre said.

Small’s daughter-in-law, Ella Mae Small, was present at the mural unveiling along with other Small family members. Ella Mae spoke about her mother-in-law to the community, talking about how



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

**The Small family and artist Claire Alexandre standing next to the mural of Roxie Small outside of Chatham Ciderworks.**

Small was as a person, outside of her accomplishments.

“She was a very dedicated lady who loved her family,” she said. “She had a loving heart. She was kind, she was unselfish — whenever there was somebody who needed help, she was always there.”

Ella Mae told a personal story from her relationship with her mother-in-law involving her husband, Allen Small.

The two were looking to buy their first house together, but didn’t have the funds. Allen called his mother for advice; by the next morning, she had agreed to give the couple the money needed to purchase their home.

“I told him (Allen) we had to pay her (Small) back, so I set up a monthly schedule to make sure she got her money back, plus more,” Ella Mae said.

Ella Mae says she thought the world of her mother-in-law, referring to her as “Mama

Small.”

“She was a lady that I used as a role model,” Ella Mae said. “When we lost her, we lost the matriarch of our family, and it was hard on all of us. But we realized she had led a life that would always be remembered.”

Chatham Cider Works’ Ahmad said Alexandre’s mural serves as an example of the hard work people from the past put in to create the Chatham County of today.

“The piece could not be more fitting for everyone in Chatham County,” she said. “I think all of us have learned lessons from what we have, and it was due to the hard work of the people before us that we have what we have today.”

For Alexandre, the location of the mural — very visible as you enter into the main area of The Plant — could help provide a “striking” impression among its patrons.

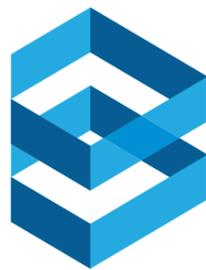
“I could have done something that was

devoid of meaning, and I thought this is a great opportunity for people to educate themselves on who the leaders are, who the Black leaders are and who the Black women leaders are,” Alexandre said. “I want people to realize the work that Roxie has done, and I, in particular, would like folks to see the community elements of the piece as well.”

For Ella Mae, she says she’s happy and excited to see one of her role models memorialized in the community Small gave so much to.

“She was just all out there in everything that was happening in the community,” she said. “Whatever it was, she was involved. She always tried to do her best, and whatever it took, she would do that. This could not have happened to a more deserving lady.”

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



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## 2021-22 NCHSAA 3A SWIMMING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Confidence and controversy: Chargers overcome 'bad call' to claim school-best 3rd place in state meet

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record  
Correspondent

CARY — No, Abby Emrich said with confidence and a little giggle at the conclusion of the NCHSAA 3A Swimming and Diving State Championships at Triangle Aquatic Center last Friday.

Webbed feet don't run in the family. "We're very tall," the freshman Northwood swimmer said, explaining why she and sister Lauren, a junior, have mad water skills that helped to propel

the Chargers to a third-place team finish — believed to be the school's best-ever showing at the state meet. Well, that, and they've been at it since the age of 2 or 3, and also compete on a year-round club team.

Abby seized 3rd place in the Women's 200 Yard Individual Medley, 5th place in the Women's 100 Yard Butterfly and was on the Women's 200 Yard Freestyle Relay team with senior Gwen Hoeg, junior Bianca Perez and senior Julia Earnshaw that nabbed a silver medal.

Lauren was on the Women's

200 Yard Medley Relay team with senior Mia Corrado, Hoeg and Earnshaw that won silver, and finished 6th individually in the Women's 100 Yard Breaststroke.

"We have very different skillsets," Abby Emrich said. "I prefer butterfly and freestyle, and she's a very good breaststroker and backstroker."

"I had some pretty high expectations coming into the meet," she added. "I was pretty excited to come here and race no matter what place I got, so

See **SWIM**, page B4



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**A view of the pool at the Triangle Aquatic Center during the NCHSAA 3A Swimming State Championships last Friday in Cary. Northwood had 8 championships finalists during the meet.**

## 'I JUST PUSHED MYSELF THROUGH IT'

# Knights' Walden scores 1,000th point in immaculate 1st period vs. Wolves

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Tamaya Walden was on the brink of history. And everyone knew it.

Entering last Tuesday's showdown with conference foe Woods Charter — which Chatham Charter won, 71-32 — the Knights' junior guard needed just 12 points to secure a spot in the record books.

She hit that mark before the game's first foul was called.

With 2:45 to play in the first quarter, senior guard Mackenzie Brooks picked the pocket of Wolves sophomore Lexi Smollen and pushed the ball to Walden, who was streaking down the middle of the court.

Walden was being matched step-for-step by Wolves junior Lucy Miller, but hustled toward the right side of the paint and forced up a shot from just below the block while drawing contact from Miller's body.

The shot rolled around the rim and fell in as the official's whistle blew.

There they were — career points number 1,000 and 1,001.

Walden was officially the third 1,000-point scorer in Chatham Charter history.

"(My mindset) was that I'm going to score 12 points before the end of the first quarter," Walden said after the game with a smile of relief washing over her face, holding a bouquet of flowers given to her by her teammates. "I've been thinking about it all week,



Staff photo by Lee Moody

**Chatham Charter junior Tamaya Walden celebrates after scoring her 1,000th point on an and-one basket against the Woods Charter Wolves on Feb. 8. The Knights trounced the Wolves, 71-32, with Walden scoring 31 points on the night.**

having anxiety, but I just pushed myself through it."

Walden not only scored 13 of her team's first 17 points — including the first 11 — to hit the milestone, but also took nine of the Knights' first 16 shots.

Getting to 1,000 points was undoubtedly on her mind.

And with each 3-pointer splashed and each basket hit, fans in the crowd mumbled to one another about how many more points she needed.

From 12 to 9 to 6 to 4 to just 1, the crowd waited in anticipation as Walden inched closer to a goal she set for herself as early as her freshman

See **WALDEN**, page B2



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Northwood 182-pounder Ryan Brinker is lifted by his opponent during his match in the NCHSAA 3A Mideast Wrestling Regionals last Saturday.**

## NCHSAA 3A MIDEAST WRESTLING REGIONALS

# Three Chargers punch tickets to states after redemption-filled regional tourney

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record  
Correspondent

CAMERON — Northwood 220-pounder Jake Dunning weathered a brutal onslaught by his Orange High School nemesis Elijah Acosta to drive him to his back in the semifinal bout at the 2022 NCHSAA 3A Mideast Wrestling Regionals, hosted by Union Pines.

His 5-2 victory was an electrifying moment of redemption.

But like the old lead-in to the ABC Wide World of Sports, Dunning experienced both the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat on Saturday. He ran into a human buzz saw named Landon Sargent of Cape Fear in the championship finals, settling for 2nd place and a lesson learned.

Dunning is one of three Northwood grapplers advanc-

ing to the state championship tournament this weekend, helping the Chargers secure 6th place among the 26 teams represented at regionals. Andrew Kimbrel at 138 pounds and Ethan Kuball at 170 pounds also punched their tickets to the state tournament with 4th-place finishes.

"To be honest, I always thought I'd have a few guys going (to states) because of their work ethic. I figured it would pay off," said first-year Northwood Head Coach Joe Harris.

If there was one disappointing turn of events it was 170-pound junior Cliff Davis not repeating as a state qualifier.

"I was very surprised. I know his last match was tough" against Cedar Ridge opponent Kaden Tatro, Harris said. Davis dropped a 7-0 decision in the "blood round"

in which wrestlers in the consolation bracket either qualify for states or fall one match short.

Dunning, a stout grappler himself, realized early in the finals the muscular Sargent was going to be a handful.

"Oh, yeah, he was (strong)," Dunning said. "That's definitely the best guy I've ever faced. That was the first time I got pinned since early last season. It was a wake-up call, but I made it to states, which was my season goal, and I did that taking second at regionals, and I got myself a silver medal, and I beat the Orange kid who beat me three times this season."

"That last boy he wrestled was big," Harris said. "He was strong. He knew what he was doing. To see him get pinned was unlikely. ... Jake has ar-

See **TOURNEY**, page B5

# A look at the biggest storylines from Super Bowl LVI

The Cincinnati Bengals' magical run — which included the Super Bowl journey of a lifetime after downing the AFC's top two seeds and overcoming the largest of preseason odds — finally came to an end on Sunday in sunny Los Angeles.

There, the Rams hoisted their first Lombardi Trophy since moving to L.A. after a nail-biting 23-20 victory at SoFi Stadium that featured a late-game, penalty-filled comeback that solidified individual legacies, rewarded the team's "all-in" mentality and cemented the Rams as the second-ever

team to win the sport's biggest game on their home turf.

Last week, the two of us — Sports Editor Victor Hensley, who picked the Bengals to win, and intern Max Baker, who correctly picked the Rams — shared game previews.

Now, here's our in-depth look at the biggest storylines from Super Bowl LVI.

## The Bengals couldn't stop the Rams' top receivers

**MAX:** Before going down with a knee injury, Odell Beckham Jr. was the story. He hurt the Bengals' secondary twice before leaving the game in the second quarter. In less than a half, he had two catches for 52 yards and a touchdown as Matthew Stafford's top target. But when he left with what is now being reported as likely a torn ACL in the second quarter, Cooper Kupp emerged. After one of the most historic seasons by a wide receiver in NFL

history, Kupp delivered in the game's biggest moments. He finished with two touchdowns, including a 1-yard score on the Rams final drive of the game to seal a 23-20 victory.

The Rams struggled all night to run the ball. Running back Cam Akers ran for 21 yards on 13 carries while Darrell Henderson Jr. had just seven yards. After Beckham's injury, the Rams found a way to get the ball to their best player and that was just enough.

**VICTOR:** The magnitude of the Beckham injury cannot be overstated. With the Rams already being without tight end Tyler Higbee, then losing their No. 2 guy who was on pace to have a 100-plus-yard game, it visibly hurt their offense, which stalled for most of the third quarter. And, for a moment, when the Bengals were finally starting to move the ball — especially with the controversial 75-yard TD to wide receiver Tee Higgins to start the third quarter — and the Rams weren't going

anywhere, I thought Cincinnati had the game locked down.

But, as people have all season long, I forgot about Kupp. He arguably had the greatest season ever for an NFL wide-out ... and taking over the Super Bowl in that fashion, on the big stage, just solidifies the fact that we were watching something special. Not to mention that Bengals' cornerback Eli Apple — who allowed two TDs on his watch on Sunday, including the game-winner — deserved the karma that came his way after stirring the pot on social media all postseason long. That was a pretty sight to see.

## Where was Joe Mixon?

**VICTOR:** Max, I'm not sure where you stand on it, but there have been some baffling decisions by head coaches in this year's postseason. One of the most notable of which, in my mind, came

See **FOOTBALL**, page B6



**VICTOR HENSLEY**  
Sports Editor



**MAX BAKER**  
CN+R Intern

## CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

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

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

This week can only be described in a couple of words: championship week. All week long, Chatham County's hottest basketball teams will be competing in their respective conference tournaments, giving way to heated battles, potential upsets and punched postseason tickets. If it can live up to the hype of last week — where we saw a couple of Northwood athletes take home state titles, some schools compete for swimming glory and wrestlers qualifying for states this weekend — then we're in for a treat. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

## THIS WEEK

## Wednesday, February 16

Basketball: Northwood women vs. Orange (Central Carolina 3A Conference Tournament), 6 p.m.

Basketball: Seaforth women vs. Bartlett Yancey (Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament), hosted by Cummings), 6 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Charter women vs. Woods Charter (Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tournament), hosted by Clover Garden), 7 p.m.

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews men vs. TBD (If J-M wins Tuesday; Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament, hosted by Cummings), 7:30 p.m.

Basketball: Northwood men vs. Orange (Central Carolina 3A Conference Tournament), 7:30 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Charter men vs. TBD (Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tournament), hosted by Clover Garden), 8 p.m.

## Thursday, February 17

Wrestling: Northwood at NCHSAA 3A State Championships (1st round; hosted at Greensboro Coliseum), 3 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Central women vs. J-M/Cummings (Depending on Tuesday's results; Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament, hosted by Cummings), 6 p.m.

Basketball: Jordan-Matthews women vs. TBD (If J-M wins Tuesday; Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament, hosted by Cummings), 6 p.m.

Wrestling: Seaforth at NCHSAA 2A State Championships (1st round; hosted at Greensboro Coliseum), 7 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Central men vs. North Moore (Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament, hosted by Cummings), 7:30 p.m.

## Friday, February 18

Wrestling: Northwood, Seaforth at NCHSAA State Championships (Quarterfinals; hosted at Greensboro Coliseum), 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Charter women vs. TBD (Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tour-

namment Championship; hosted by Clover Garden), 6 p.m.

Basketball: Northwood women vs. TBD (If Northwood wins Wednesday; Central Carolina 3A Conference Tournament Championship), 6 p.m.

Basketball: Seaforth/Chatham Central/Jordan-Matthews women vs. TBD (Depending on earlier results; Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament; hosted by Cummings), 6 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Central/Jordan-Matthews men vs. TBD (Depending on earlier results; Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Tournament; hosted by Cummings), 7:30 p.m.

Basketball: Chatham Charter men vs. TBD (Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tournament Championship; hosted by Clover Garden), 7:30 p.m.

Basketball: Northwood men vs. TBD (If Northwood wins Wednesday; Central Carolina 3A Conference Tournament Championship), 7:30 p.m.

## Saturday, February 19

Wrestling: Northwood, Seaforth at NCHSAA State Championships (Championship Finals; hosted at Greensboro Coliseum), 4 p.m.

## LAST WEEK

## Monday, February 7

All sporting events postponed.

## Tuesday, February 8

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women clobbered the Woods Charter Wolves, 71-32, on a special night for Knights sophomore Tamaya Walden, who scored 13 of her team's first 17 points to hit the career mark of 1,000 points. Leading the Knights on the evening were Walden (31 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals) and senior Alexis Baldwin (12 points, 14 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals).

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men routed the Woods Charter Wolves, 78-22, at home to remain unbeaten in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference at 10-0. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Adam Harvey (14 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals), sophomore Aidan Allred (13 points, 1 rebound, 2 assists, 3 steals) and freshman Brennen Oldham (12 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 44-31, on the road. Leading the Jets on the night were senior Ellia Wright (7 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals) and junior Maggie Thornton (7 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men handled the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 58-33, on the road.

Basketball: The Northwood women thrashed the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 53-27, to stay unbeaten at 11-0 in the Central 3A conference (21-1 overall). Leading the Chargers on the evening were senior Olivia

Porter (21 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals) and junior Te'Keyah Bland (12 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal, 5 blocks).

Basketball: The Northwood men crushed the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 79-35, at home to stay perfect in the Central 3A conference at 11-0. Leading the Chargers on the night were sophomore Griffin Hobbs (18 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal), sophomore Fred Whitaker Jr. (17 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, 3 steals), sophomore Drake Powell (15 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals, 1 block) and sophomore Ashton Elliott (13 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists).

Basketball: The Seaforth women defeated the Graham Red Devils, 59-32, at home. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Peyton Collins (16 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals), freshman Gabby White (15 points, 14 rebounds, 6 assists, 5 steals, 2 blocks) and sophomore Hannah Ajayi (15 points, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals).

Basketball: The Seaforth men narrowly defeated the Graham Red Devils, 54-51, at home.

## Wednesday, February 9

Basketball: The Seaforth women defeated the Graham Red Devils in a close game, 48-40, on the road. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Gabby White (17 points, 14 rebounds, 1 assist, 2 steals, 2 blocks) and sophomore Hannah Ajayi (12 points, 6 rebounds, 1 steal).

Basketball: The Seaforth Hawks lost a close game to the Graham Red Devils, 56-54, on the road.

Basketball: The Woods Charter women lost a lopsided game to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 64-33, at home. Leading the Wolves on the night was sophomore Lexi Smollen (13 points).

Basketball: The Woods Charter men routed the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 69-50, at home.

## Thursday, February 10

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men clobbered the River Mill Jaguars, 74-24, at home to secure an unbeaten season in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference at 10-0 (25-1 overall). Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Adam Harvey (20 points, 7 rebounds, 8 assists, 2 steals, 3 blocks), freshman Brennen Oldham (16 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 steal, 1 block) and freshman Beau Harvey (10 points, 2 rebounds, 7 assists, 1 steal).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men stomped the East Davidson Golden Eagles, 51-36, at home.

Basketball: The Woods Charter women beat the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 47-33, on the road. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Lexi Smollen (22 points) and sophomore Chloe Mitchell (16 points).

Basketball: The Woods Charter men defeated the Southern

Wake Academy Lions, 47-36, on the road.

## Friday, February 11

Swimming: The Northwood women finished in 3rd place (225 points) at the NCHSAA 3A Swimming and Diving State Championships at Triangle Aquatic Center in Cary. The Chargers' championship finalists included: freshman Abby Emrich (3rd, women's 200-yard IM, 2:08.30; 5th, women's 100-yard butterfly, 59.57), senior Julia Earnshaw (5th, women's 50-yard freestyle, 24.38; 4th, women's 100-yard freestyle, 52.75), senior Mia Corrado (3rd, women's 500-yard freestyle, 5:06.07; 2nd, women's 100-yard backstroke, 57.95), junior Lauren Emrich (6th, women's 100-yard breaststroke, 1:11.26) and the relay teams for the women's 200-yard medley relay (Corrado, Lauren Emrich, senior Gwen Hoeg, Earnshaw; 2nd, 1:51.12) and the women's 200-yard freestyle relay (Hoeg, junior Bianca Perez, Abby Emrich, Earnshaw; 2nd, 1:40.39).

Track: Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom competed in the NCHSAA 1A/2A Indoor Track and Field State Championships at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem, where he placed 3rd in the men's 1600-meter run (4:39.85) and 3rd in the 3200-meter run (10:02.19).

Basketball: The Seaforth women defeated the Chatham Central Bears on the road, 48-37, to solidify an undefeated regular season in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference (12-0, 15-7 overall).

Basketball: The Seaforth men defeated the Chatham Central Bears, 58-43, in the teams' second meeting of the season.

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers for the second-straight game, 56-36. Leading the Jets on the night was senior Ellia Wright (14 points, 4 rebounds, 1 assist, 5 steals).

Basketball: The Jordan-Matthews men crushed the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 66-42, to extend the team's winning streak to 3 games.

Basketball: The Northwood women trounced the Western Alamance Warriors, 59-30, to finish their one-loss regular season with a 22-1 overall record and a perfect 12-0 conference record in the Central 3A.

Basketball: The Northwood men defeated the Western Alamance Warriors, 53-27, to conclude the regular season with a 19-3 overall record (12-0 in the Central 3A conference).

Wrestling: The Chatham Central Bears had one wrestler qualify for the NCHSAA 1A State Championships after their performance at the 1A East Regionals: Jarrett Mashburn (2nd, 220 lbs.). Mashburn went 2-1 at regionals, falling to Uwharrie Charter's Jaden Marion in the championship match.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter women routed the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 72-41, at

home, rounding out their conference season with a 7-1 record.

## Saturday, February 12

Track: The Northwood Chargers competed at the NCHSAA 3A Indoor Track and Field State Championships at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem, where they placed 11th in the women's events (18 points) and 18th in the men's events (10 points). The Chargers had one individual — senior Caroline Murrell (1st, women's 3200-meter run, 10:46.69; 2nd, women's 1600-meter run) — and one relay team — Boys 4x800 Meter Relay (1st, 8:25.61) — take home state titles in their respective events.

Swimming: The Seaforth Hawks competed at the NCHSAA 1A/2A Swimming State Championships, where they placed 13th in the men's events (56 points) and 36th in the women's events (10 points). The Hawks had two swimmers — Ben Lajoie (6th, men's 500-yard freestyle, 5:04.29) and Evan Hepburn (8th, men's 100-yard breaststroke, 1:01.75) — in championship finals events.

Wrestling: Jordan-Matthews and Seaforth competed in the NCHSAA 2A Mideast Regionals, hosted at Seaforth, with four Hawks wrestlers qualifying for the upcoming state tournament: Layne Armstrong (1st, 113 lbs.), Lockard Bowen (2nd, 120 lbs.), Maddock Cody (4th, 126 lbs.) and Judge Lloyd (4th, 152 lbs.).

Wrestling: The Northwood Chargers competed in the NCHSAA 3A Mideast Regionals at Union Pines, where they had three wrestlers qualify for the upcoming 3A state tournament: Andrew Kimbrel (4th, 138 lbs.), Ethan Kuball (4th, 160 lbs.) and Jake Dunning (2nd, 220 lbs.).

Basketball: The Chatham Central women beat the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 38-27, to end the regular season with a 10-11 overall record (9-2 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference), while the Jets fell to 5-16 on the year (3-8 in the conference).

Basketball: The Chatham Central men eked out a win over the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 58-50, on the road to finish the regular season with a 7-10 overall record (6-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference). With the loss, the Jets end the regular season with a 5-16 overall record (4-7 conference).

Basketball: The Seaforth women routed the Chatham Charter Knights, 57-37, to finish the regular season with a 16-7 overall record and on a 10-game winning streak.

Basketball: The Chatham Charter men defeated the Seaforth Hawks, 44-23, in a defensive battle to finish the season with a 26-1 overall record (10-0 in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference), while the Hawks finish the regular season at 12-8 (9-3 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).

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## WALDEN

Continued from page B1

season.

As she sat at 999 career points, Walden missed a couple of open 3-pointers in a row, growing the suspense of the moment.

Then, her chance came as she went 1-on-1 with Miller in transition.

When the shot fell, Walden shrank toward the ground and exploded with a yell as her teammates came to congratulate her.

It was a sudden rush of emotions ranging from excitement to flat-out relief.

"I wanted to run up in the stands," Walden said of her history-making moment, laughing, "but I just told myself to stay on the court."

It took Walden 64 games to surpass 1,000 career points, doing so as a junior with essentially 2 ½ seasons under her belt — given that in last year's COVID-shortened season, she played just 11 games — a major accomplishment for a player who has continued to improve year after year.

"Once I saw myself get better each year, I noticed that my points-per-game were getting higher, so I was hoping I could reach (the 1,000-point mark) by my sophomore year, but then COVID affected it," Walden said. "But I got it my junior year, so I'm happy with that."

This season has been a breakout one for Walden, who is averaging 22.5 points per game, up nearly 10 points from her previous high of 13.1 PPG during her freshman year.

She's been an offensive powerhouse this season, scoring more than 20 points



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Chatham Charter junior Tamaya Walden poses with a banner made in honor of her hitting her career milestone of 1,000 points after the Knights' win over Woods Charter on Feb. 8. She became just the third women's basketball player in school history to hit that mark.**

in 15 of her team's 22 games, including three games with at least 30 points — the first season of her career in which she has even a single 30-point game.

By night's end, Walden posted 31 points against the Wolves on 11-of-19 shooting (58%), nearly matching her career-high (34), which included a career-high six 3-pointers as she shot 60% from behind the arc.

Better yet, she was a bucket away from outscoring the entire Wolves team (32 points total).

"When she's playing the way she played tonight, we can about play with

anybody," Knights Head Coach Jeff Patterson said after the win. "When she's on, she can pull up 2-3 feet behind the line. ... She's been the glue for us."

With Walden playing the way she was — draining four 3-pointers en route to a 17-point opening period — the Wolves never really stood a chance.

Smollen, a standout sophomore for the Wolves in her first true season, was brilliant at times, including the opening possession that saw her take a defensive rebound coast-to-coast as she sliced down the left portion of the lane to score a textbook transition layup and put the Wolves up, 2-0.

But the Knights were on a different level, smashing their in-county rivals in the first quarter, 27-7, behind Walden's offensive barrage and senior Alexis Baldwin's play in the paint.

All night long, it was obvious the Knights were having a blast — laughing, smiling and cheering whenever a teammate scored, drew a foul or came up with a steal.

At one point, Walden dished an assist down low to Baldwin with a pass from well behind the 3-point line and swiftly began backpeddling down the court, screaming in jubilation after Baldwin completed the assist with a layup.

On an evening that also doubled as senior night for Baldwin and Brooks, the team's only upperclassmen, the Knights showed time and time again just how tight-knit they are, an important element needed to make a deep playoff run.

"Me and my team, we're just really close, and today was a special day for all of us, for the seniors, everybody was so excited," Walden said. "Other than the anxiety and just being happy for each

other, we just came together to win this game. ... I really do love (the seniors). They're like my closest friends."

By halftime, the Knights had amassed a 44-15 lead — one which would have been larger had it not been for the team's six missed free throws in the second quarter — and that was pretty much all she wrote.

Patterson sat his starters for most of the fourth quarter, giving way to a late Wolves run, which helped shrink the gap to just under 40 points.

Chatham Charter's 39-point victory marked the second time this season that the Knights have beaten the Wolves by 30-plus, with the first time coming in a road win, 63-30, on Feb. 2. The Wolves, who started the season 6-0, have sense faltered a little as they sit with a 4-4 record in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference (11-5 overall).

Though they'll have a shot to redeem themselves — and claim a postseason spot — depending on their play in the conference tournament this week.

The Knights, on the other hand, have won six conference games in a row, tying them with the Clover Garden Grizzlies for the regular-season Central Tar Heel 1A title (7-1 record).

"That was probably one of the best all-around games we've played," Patterson said. "We have been trying to get them to play like this from day one. It seems like now, toward the end of the season, they're buying in, which could be a good thing to get them ready for the conference tournament."

Reporter Victor Hensley can be reached at [vhensley@chathamnr.com](mailto:vhensley@chathamnr.com) or on Twitter at [@Freezeal33](https://twitter.com/Freezeal33).

## Running to the top



Submitted photo

Northwood's boys 4x800 meter relay team (top row, in green, from left to right: Marco Sanchez, Jackson Adams; bottom row: Christian Glick, Colin Henry) poses for photos on the podium after winning the state title at the NCHSAA 3A Indoor Track & Field State Championships last Saturday at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem. The Chargers finished with a time of 8:25.61 after being seeded 8th going into the meet.



Submitted photo

Northwood senior Caroline Murrell (right) poses beside of Charters Head Coach Cameron Isenhour after winning the state title in the women's 3,200-meter run at the NCHSAA 3A Indoor Track & Field State Championships at JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem. Murrell set a 3A state meet record with a time of 10:46.49, beating the previous record by more than 2 seconds.

### FINDING A RHYTHM

# Chargers explode for 11 threes in 44-point trouncing of Eagles

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record  
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — To its chagrin, Eastern Alamance learned that the most dangerous place to be on a basketball court is between Northwood's Griffin Hobbs and a sluggish scoring streak.

Hobbs, a sophomore shooting guard, fired up a game-high 18 points last Tuesday to help the Chargers smother the Eagles, 79-35. It was bombs away for Hobbs, who pumped in five 3-pointers in his season-high tally.

"Coach told me before the game he wanted me to get up a couple more shots this game and I was just kind of feeling it tonight. It was good energy, it was a good crowd, and it just felt good to perform in front of them," Hobbs said. "I'm a 3-point shooter, but tonight I was in a rhythm. I saw the first two go in, and after that it just felt good for me."

That's not a rhythm Hobbs has experienced in recent games.

"I felt like I've been in a little

bit of a slump for not shooting my shots as much as I should lately, so tonight it felt really good to get up there," Hobbs said.

Hobbs credited the Chargers' guards with penetrating the paint, making the defense collapse and then getting out so the guys at perimeter were able to either shoot it up or get into the paint for an easy layup.

"One of our main points as a team is our defense," Hobbs said. "We don't like to give up more than 40 points a game. That's our goal every game."

Northwood capped off its regular season a few days later with a 53-27 win over Western Alamance on Friday, but there are some goals beyond what's in front of them.

"We all have state championship on our mind," Hobbs said. "Also conference championship. We just want to really work on getting better these next couple of weeks."

Joining Hobbs in double digits were sophomores Fred Whitaker Jr. (17), Drake Powell (15) and Ashton Elliott (13). The Chargers were relentless with their 3-pointers, pumping in 13

compared to 17 traditional buckets. Ten of the 11 players who suited up scored. Senior Kasen McCawley led the Eagles with 16 points, followed by sophomore Michael Reaves with 11.

Northwood coach Matt Brown said the 3-point barrage wasn't characteristic of his team.

"I'm hoping it becomes a little more typical," Brown said. "We've been working really hard on our jumpers and being consistent with our jumpers. If we can get that (3-point attack), that's a big piece of our puzzle that we're missing right now."

Eastern Alamance had a very literal tall order in trying to upset Northwood. The Chargers had a towering height and wingspan advantage. The Eagles couldn't drive into the paint, were forced to take outside shots, struggled futilely to get rebounds and were stymied with multiple turnovers and errant passes.

"That's what we pride ourselves on," Brown said. "Don't turn the ball over, play really well on defense. I thought our bench gave us a spark at the beginning of the game, and

we shot the ball really well tonight. I told the boys after the game their hard work is starting to pay off, and they're starting to click."

The Chargers opened with a 19-5 lead in the first quarter, which included a 13-point run in the final four minutes. The attack was propelled by Drake Powell's 7 points, which included a 3-pointer and one of his two slam dunks that ignited partisan cheers from the Northwood bench.

The second quarter was more of the same, starting with a rebound demonstration by Max Frazier. He put up four consecutive shots, getting three of his own rebounds in the process, to score his only bucket of the game. After a nearly 6 ½-minute drought, Eastern Alamance got back on the board at 5:35 when Justin Andrews briefly solved the Chargers' defense.

The third quarter started with another oddity. McCawley had the ball near midcourt, but fumbled the ball and inexplicably didn't pick it up, apparently thinking mistakenly the whistle blew it dead. Powell seized

the ball, dashed to the Northwood basket and soared to the rim for an electrifying dunk.

Whitaker dropped in 10 points during the third quarter, including a 7-point run of his own that included a pair of free throws, a steal that he converted into a layup and a 3-pointer. Kenan Parrish helped the cause with a nifty turnaround jumper near the top of the key.

A 3-pointer by Hobbs with 5:03 to play in the fourth quarter triggered a continuous running clock because the lead expanded past 40 points, 72-30, as Northwood brought its bench in for much of the rest of the game.

This season, the Chargers have won 10 games by at least 20 points and with the most recent wins over Eastern and Western Alamance, they've claimed the Central 3A conference title after posting a perfect 12-0 record.

It's the team's third-straight year earning a regular-season conference championship, an accomplishment that has been followed up with a trip to the state semifinals in each of the last two seasons.

## Late educator and coach Karen Sbrollini Heilman honored during Northwood's 'Play4Karen' fundraiser

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record  
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Something curious was stirring in the student section at the Northwood High School gym last Tuesday night.

The students were adorned in a crazy quilt of bathrobes, sweat-shirts, t-shirts and slippers in shades of rose, flamingo, bubble-gum and coral as they chanted their typical good-natured taunts at the visiting Eastern Alamance basketball team. Call them Witty in Pink.

But the pink attire also festooned the adult seating, where men and women wore dresses, blazers and button-down shirts in the soothing shades often associated with charm and femininity.

It was the Northwood basketball team's "Pink Game," an annual opportunity to support cancer research and to show up in pink to raise awareness of the disease. This year's edition, on Feb. 8,



A group of Northwood women's basketball players and cheerleaders poses alongside Thomas "Newt" Heilman II (center, green hoodie), the husband of late educator and coach Karen Sbrollini Heilman, who was honored with the 'Play4Karen' fundraiser during the Chargers' annual 'Pink Night,' which raised over \$500 for a scholarship in her name.

honored the memory of Karen Sbrollini Heilman, a longtime coach and teacher at Perry Harrison Elementary School who succumbed to an aggressive form of the illness last September.

"The kids bought in

and it was great," said Northwood Athletic Director Cameron Vernon of the cause.

Heilman's life and legacy were honored at halftime, and cancer survivors attending the game were called to the

floor to be recognized and showered with loud claps of love. The "Play 4 Karen" event raised \$507 for the Karen Sbrollini Heilman Scholarship, coordinated through the Rotary Club of Pittsboro with proceeds benefiting

seniors at Northwood and Chatham Central high schools.

Memories posted on the funeral home web page are a testament to why the lifelong athlete was chosen in 2018 as Teacher of the Year at

Chatham Central High School. She was praised as "a light of happiness in the community," "a great teacher who made learning fun," "energetic, positive, friendly, and an inspiration to keep moving and stay active."

"She wasn't just my coach, she was an extremely positive role model. She was always so happy and passionate," read another.

"I used to coach against Karen when she was at Perry Harrison and I was at North Chatham," Vernon said. "It was one of my first coaching jobs and it was kind of a rivalry. Her teams were always real competitive against ours and, personally, her teams made me a better coach because I always had to prepare for them."

When Vernon became the women's basketball coach at Northwood, Heilman's daughter, Becca, played for him.

"Karen loved basketball," Vernon said. "She was at every game, she was at every one of our

See **HONORED**, page B6

# Reed takes hold of Chargers' uncertain season, propels them to unlikely success

**BY DAN E. WAY**  
News + Record  
Correspondent

CARY — It might not have been a fairytale ending for the Northwood women's swimming team at the NCHSAA 3A Swimming and Diving State Championships last Friday, but they wrote one heck of an unlikely script.

The Chargers proved they belong among the state's elite swimming circles, claiming a 3rd-place team finish to go along with a pile of individual and relay hardware.

But don't tell them they are overachievers or talk about a Cinderella season. They worked hard to get into the upper ether against odds that would have made a lesser ensemble wither into also-rans.

They've had a revolving door of coaches. With the current season about to start in November, they still didn't have a mentor.

They finally found a coach, but she had no high school coaching experience.

The Chargers don't even have a home pool to practice in.

They have one of the smallest rosters in the state.

For a substantial portion of the team, this was their first real-feel season since the COVID pandemic cast a long shadow last year.

But what the Chargers did have was heart and a motivation to excel.

"I'm just really proud of the swimmers," said Northwood coach Rebecca Reed, who plied the pool for the James Madison University swim team during her collegiate career, and later coached some youth teams.

"It was my first year coaching high school, definitely a big learning experience," Reed said. "The team is small, especially our boys. We only had six boys on the team, total. On the girls we had 14, but we have a lot of depth on the girls team, a lot of really fast swimmers."

So she had some talent. But what about a facility?

"That's one of the uphill battles we're facing," she said. "There's no pool space in Pitts-



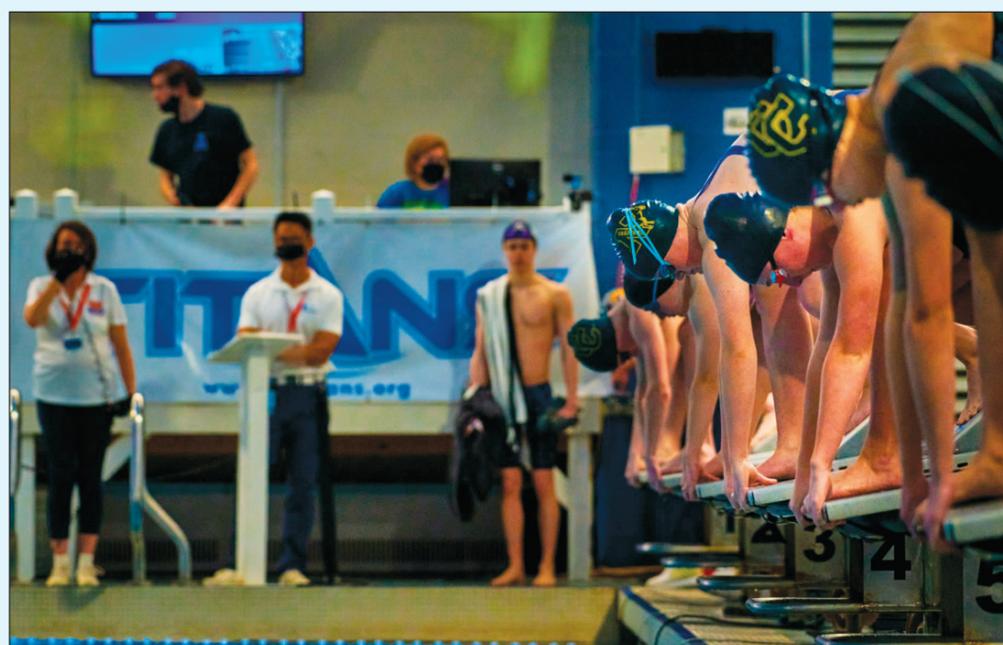
Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Northwood freshman Holly Thesing steps onto the board before her race in the women's 200-yard freestyle at the NCHSAA 3A Swimming State Championships at Triangle Aquatic Center last Friday. She placed 1st in the consolation final with a time of 2:01.22.**



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**A Northwood swimmer glides her way through the women's 200-yard freestyle relay during the NCHSAA 3A Swimming State Championships at Triangle Aquatic Center last Friday.**



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Northwood freshman Abby Emrich (center right, in Northwood cap) prepares to dive into the pool during the women's 100-yard butterfly at the NCHSAA 3A Swimming State Championships at Triangle Aquatic Center last Friday. Emrich placed 5th in the championship final with a time of 59.57.**

boro. The kids were driving to the Ingram Family YMCA in Sanford two nights a week for one hour, which is just not enough time" for improving skills — never mind the 20-mile one-way trek.

Because she grabbed the coaching vacancy lifeline two weeks before the season opened, she didn't have a chance to reserve more practice nights and lanes. That had already been negotiated.

Securing more lanes and days is one of her biggest goals

for next year. That's right. She plans to be back.

"One of the things that I learned this year is none of the kids have had any sort of continuity in the coaches," Reed said. "Towards the end of the season I started talking with the sophomores and the juniors about how we can grow the team, and get more kids to join, and figure out how to replace the seniors."

Eight of the 14 women swimmers are seniors.

Reed said she was excited for her second season after overcoming a steep learning curve from an administrative and team management perspective.

"It feels silly to let that go and not take that into another season," she said. "It was great to be around the kids again. It's been a while since I coached. We've got a lot of different personalities. ... We had a lot of really great attitudes about improvement. Everybody was really receptive to feedback, supportive of

each other, supportive of the team and happy to be there. They were a really good and awesome team to coach this year."

While none of the boys qualified for states, Reed said they put in a lot of hard work and improved over the course of the season. Some of the boys who participated for the first time also play spring and fall sports. They learned a thing or two about being in the water.

"Swimming is not easy. I think there's a misconception that it is," Reed said. "You can play at a beach, and you can play at a pool. But swimming can use muscles that you're not used to working, so it can be humbling for a kid who doesn't have that background to try to come and swim year-round."

Senior Julia Earnshaw flexed her swimming muscles on Friday, but found getting into the right mindset was more challenging than the obstacles the team has faced.

"I just really wanted to go out on a good note, and just swim the best that I can," Earnshaw said. She worked hard "to get myself in a place where I didn't stress out about what place we got, just really have fun, so I could remember a good memory instead of a stressful memory."

Capping the uncommon season with a 3rd place team finish should be a memory she and her teammates can cherish for a long, long time.

## SWIM

Continued from page B1

I was pretty thrilled with the places that I got."

She was also ecstatic with setting a personal best in the 200-yard freestyle during the preliminaries, and then shattering that mark by two seconds in the finals after picking up steam on her final lap to move up in the field.

"I guess I was just trying to give everything I had into coming home. I saw a bunch of people around me and I was just trying to not breathe and get to the wall," Abby Emrich said. "Normally the first half of the race is my strength, but this time I really just powered home."

"Third is awesome. It's higher than we've placed before," said first-year coach Rebecca Reed. "The girls all swam so fast. Lots of best times, not just high-school best times but the fastest they've ever swam, so they all had a lot to be proud of."

Still, Reed conceded, finishing third was bitter-sweet, considering what might have been.

Northwood was in a solid second place behind eventual winner Carrboro going into the last event, the Women's 400 Yard Freestyle Relay. But the Chargers didn't have a relay team in that event.

J.H. Rose of Greenville finished second in the race, and picked up 34 points while Northwood watched helplessly as they fell to third place in the final team standings, 8 team points out of

second. The Chargers' 400-yard free relay team got disqualified at the regional qualifier and was disqualified entry to the state meet.

"They disqualified me because they said that my feet didn't touch the wall, but my toes touched the wall, and I wouldn't lie," said Earnshaw, a senior, who insists she felt her toes dig into and push off the wall.

"They disqualified us and didn't even give us a chance to hear what we had to say," Earnshaw said. "I felt bad. I'm not going to blame myself for that. It was just a bad call. They didn't see it I guess."

Reed said the disqualification was highly controversial. She is confident Earnshaw, a seasoned senior, did not make the freshman mistake the judges alleged.

It was especially unsettling since the 400-yard free relay has

been a strong point for Northwood. The team of Earnshaw and her sister Suzanne, Corrado and Hoeg finished in 4th place at states in 2021, 6th in 2020, and the Earnshaw sisters, Corrado and Madeline Posse captured 4th in 2019.

Earnshaw, who will be swimming for Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton next year, did get a silver medal for her role on the Women's 200 Yard Medley Relay team. She also was awarded a 4th place individual medal in the Women's 100 Yard Freestyle and finished 5th in the Women's 50 Yard Freestyle.

"I think the 50 and 100 free are 100% the fastest events at this meet, so I'm very proud of myself for making it that high up. It's awesome," Earnshaw said.

The 200 Yard Medley Relay team had a terrific showing, she said, finishing second to Carrboro by .03 of a second in the

preliminaries, and .52 of a second in the finals.

Carrboro's team included commits to UNC, Texas and New York University, Earnshaw said, "so the fact that we could even get that close to them is super impressive, and I'm just so proud of my team."

Corrado took 3rd in the Women's 500 Yard Freestyle and shared a silver medal in the Women's 200 Yard Medley Relay, but she was particularly pleased with her 2nd place in the Women's 100 Yard Backstroke.

"That was a really fun race, it was really fun to race Emily," Corrado

said. "I feel like I did a really good job executing. I tried to keep my first 50 and second 50 as close as possible in splits, so I feel like that was really well executed."

Corrado, a senior who has been swimming since she was 8 years old, was up against some fierce competition in the 500-yard freestyle. Emma Hastings of J.H. Rose set a state record, finishing at 4:48.78 in the finals to claim automatic All-American honors, but Corrado kept her time of 5:06.07 in perspective.

"I felt like I was pretty consistent through the race and it was fun to

race some of those really fast swimmers in the state, so it was just a really good experience all around," she said, noting that she shaved 8 seconds off her time in the preliminaries.

Corrado, who will continue competing for UNC-Wilmington next year, appreciated the total team effort.

"We've been scoring lots of points and I feel like at this meet we've been doing really, really well all around in every single event we've been swimming," she said. "It's been great to swim with them and to see them throughout the year."

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SEAFORTH 58, CHATHAM CENTRAL 43

# Hawks fend off Bears' electric shooting night to claim season sweep of in-county rivals

BY BLAIR MITCHELL  
News + Record  
Correspondent

BEAR CREEK — The battle last week in Bear Creek was a matchup you didn't want to miss.

The amped-up crowd on both sides and plethora of back-and-forth plays between the two teams made for a great game with many ups and downs.

The Seaforth Hawks (12-9, 9-3 conference) came into this feud looking to capitalize on already having beaten the Chatham Central Bears (7-10, 6-5 conference) earlier in the season. But Chatham Central was hoping to even the score against Seaforth and try to improve on their conference record to inch closer to a playoff spot.

The Hawks, for the most part, controlled the game throughout its runtime, securing a 58-43 win over the Bears once the final buzzer sang.

Seaforth standout sophomore Jarin Stevenson — a player who's received loads of Division I interest this season — didn't disappoint.

His buckets in the post and defensive presence down low made for a troublesome night for the Bears, who, at times, struggled to keep pace with a

surging Hawks squad.

Stevenson finished with a game-high 21 points.

"We were trying to do something to take him out of his game," said Bears Head Coach Robert Burke, whose team also gave up 19 points to Stevenson when the two teams clashed on Jan 28.

Chatham Central senior Nick Jourdan gave the Hawks much trouble from beyond the arc, draining five 3-pointers throughout the game, culminating in an impressive 17-point performance.

However, he wasn't the only Bear that was hitting shots from deep, as freshman Reid Albright also hit two colossal 3-pointers for Chatham Central.

But from the opening tip, Seaforth took command of the game.

An early and-one bucket by Stevenson led to a put back by Hawks sophomore Chris Walker after the missed free throw by Stevenson.

Later, a quick steal and fast-break layup by Seaforth sophomore Lochlan Haddix gave the Hawks an 8-2 lead into the first timeout, but Chatham Central wasted no time in striking back, with Jourdan making two 3-pointers to shorten the

deficit to 12-8.

When the first quarter ended, Seaforth held onto a 16-10 lead.

Stevenson was subbed out following the conclusion of the first quarter, which gave way to a 6-1 run by the Bears. Chatham Central's Albright and Jourdan combined to make two massive 3-pointers, cutting it to a one-point game, 17-16, in favor of the Hawks.

After the triples, the Chatham Central crowd was ebullient, but a pair of missed free throws by the Bears cost them a shot at the lead.

"We missed a buttload of free throws," said Burke after the game.

With 3:50 left to go in the second quarter, Stevenson was subbed back in, which guided the Hawks on an 11-0 run in the final minutes of the first half.

It started with sophomore William Perkins hitting a big 3-pointer for Seaforth that led to a fastbreak layup after a miss by the Bears.

Capping off the Hawks' four minutes of dominance was a halftime buzzer-beater by Matthew Lucas. The 6-foot-3 freshman came away with the rebound after a missed 3-point attempt and pulled up for a mid-range shot over Bears

senior Collin Lagenor for the basket. As the buzzer sounded, the Seaforth crowd and fans emitted a loud burst of excitement.

Coming into the second half, Seaforth led the game, 26-16.

Chatham Central came out of the locker room hot, cutting the deficit to five, 31-26, with those points coming from a layup by Lagenor and a 3-pointer from Jourdan.

Stevenson then put a stop to the Bears' run with 2:57 to go in the third quarter with an emphatic and-one under the basket that got the Seaforth crowd and bench out of their seats. But the celebrating from the Hawks' fans were quickly turned into an uproar of frustration after a technical was called on Stevenson following the play.

In response to the drama of the previous sequence, Stevenson put down a vicious block in the next one, leading the crowd back onto their feet.

The Hawks went on another tear late in the third with a 10-2 run, concluding the quarter with a 41-28 lead and putting them in prime position to win the game.

Albright opened up the final quarter with a 3-pointer for the Bears.

The teams then exchanged back-to-back charge fouls, contributing to the game's final minutes being both physical and eventful.

With 2:45 left to play, Seaforth freshman Noah Lewis made two clutch free throws for the Hawks to give them a 10-point lead, 50-40, and seal the win.

Jourdan hit another 3-pointer for the Bears, but at that point, it was too little, too late.

Little sealed the game for the Hawks with an and-one in the final minute, propelling the Hawks to their final regular-season conference victory of the year, 58-43.

With the win, the Hawks improved to 12-8 overall and 9-3 in conference play before falling to the North Moore Mustangs in the first round of the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference tournament on Monday.

The Bears, however, fell to 6-10 overall and 5-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A, but followed it up with a 58-50 win over Jordan-Matthews Jets the next day and a 71-62 victory against the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers on Monday in the first round of the conference tournament, keeping them alive.



Submitted photo

## 1,000th career point

Jordan-Matthews senior Ellia Wright poses with a basketball after scoring her 1,000th career point in a 38-27 loss to the Chatham Central Bears last Friday. Wright is averaging 14.7 points-per-game for the Jets this season.

## TOURNEY

Continued from page B1

as he needs to work on a little bit."

After a brief scramble in the first period, Sargent used a pass-by for an early takedown. He then turned Dunning to his back with an underhook and reverse half, stepping over to sink a half nelson and body press for the fall, crushing Northwood's last hope for a regional champion.

In the semifinals against Acosta, Dunning gave up a second period escape on a stand-up to fall behind, 1-0, but as they jostled from their knees and their bodies clashed, Dunning reached back, slipped his arm around Acosta's head and hipped into him for a takedown and near fall for a 4-1 lead.

Acosta escaped to close out the second period, and took the top position to start the third period. He worked feverishly on a near wrist, far arm post in an attempt to force Dunning to his back, and briefly flirted with a cradle. Dunning bent and grimaced, got warned for stalling but did not go over, finally working his way free for the 5-2 final score and clinching a spot in states.

"I was a pretty big celebrator last year and I got in quite a bit of trouble with my coach for that so I hadn't been doing much celebrating this year," Dunning said. "But I think that was definitely something to celebrate, so ... I came off the mat screaming and flexing. Definitely the best moment for me in wrestling so far, beating the rival and making it to states."

Although he's getting an opportunity in his debut season to be in the corner at the state tournament, a privilege that takes some coaches years to accomplish, if ever, Harris was humble in success.

"It's very special. Like I said before, it comes from coaches in the past that came through as well," Harris said. "It's not just me this one year."

Kuball finished the tournament at 3-2, earning two pins and a major decision before falling in the fight for 3rd place to Gatlan Thompson of Cape Fear, 8-2. After a



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood 220-pounder Jake Dunning (left, in uniform) screams after pinning Orange's Elijah Acosta, who defeated him three times this season, during the NCHSAA 3A Mideast Wrestling Regionals last Saturday at Union Pines. Dunning placed second in his weight class at regionals, making him one of three Northwood grapplers to qualify for the state tournament this weekend.

scoreless first period, Thompson hit a stand-up escape followed by a nifty single-leg sweep for a takedown. Kuball escaped, but Thompson nailed a single leg/balance check to go up 5-1. Thompson got an escape and double-leg takedown in the third period, which closed out after Kuball hit a switch and broke free for an escape.

"I think he did good," Harris said. "That kid he wrestled was big. He had a tough match" — surprisingly giving up three takedowns, Harris said.

"He's usually good on his feet. I think that guy was just a little quicker. When he got in on the shot he didn't let go," he said. "So we're going to work with him this week on getting a little quicker on his feet, and sprawl back faster."

"Coming into this season I had high hopes for Ethan making it to states," Harris continued. "I'm not really surprised that he made it because he's a great wrestler, and because of the work he puts in."

Last year at this time, Kuball was wrestling in the state tournament in Wisconsin.

Middle school states, that is. He's just a freshman this year.

"I think I did pretty good," Kuball said. "Out of the best 16 wrestlers in the region, I took 4th. That's pretty good, right? I am in a tough weight class. There's a lot of juniors and seniors at 160."

As Yogi Berra once



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Northwood 113-pounder Sunday Oo surveys the crowd before a match in the NCHSAA 3A Mideast Wrestling Regionals at Union Pines High School last Saturday.

famously said, it was déjà vu all over again for Kimbrel in the consolation finals, getting pinned by Cameron Small of Southern Nash, who also decked him in the quarterfinals.

Small towered over Kimbrel, and had a wingspan that would make a condor jealous. But Kimbrel managed to hit a slide-by takedown in the first period for an early 2-0 lead. Small used his length to reach back and pop out on top for the reversal, sending the bout into the second period deadlocked at 2-2.

They started the second period in the neutral position, and Small hit a spin-behind takedown, wrapped Kimbrel up in a cradle and trapped a leg for extra measure to get the pin.

"Andrew did really good. He got caught in

a cradle," Harris said. "I expected him to go to states. In practice he's always pushing himself and giving 100% so I figured he would make it."

"I knew he was good on top, and I was trying to get out," Kimbrel said. "The whistle blew and I knew previously he had done that exact same cradle on me so I was trying to avoid that. In the second period he got the takedown and that same stinking cradle."

"At the end of the day, I can't complain. The team went to states this year, I went to states. It was a pretty awesome season and a lot of our guys did pretty well today, so I'm proud of our guys," he added, finishing the tournament at 4-2. "I'm proud of myself. I did the best I could do yesterday and today."

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# HONORED

Continued from page B3

events. She was just a huge supporter of Northwood. She taught a lot and coached a lot of our girls.”

“Play4Kay” events have been held to raise money for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. Yow was

the longtime coach of the N.C. State women’s basketball team. When Vernon learned of Heilman’s passing, he thought about holding a “Play4Karen” night, a local adaptation of “Play4Kay.” First he wanted to get the approval of her husband, Thomas “Newt” Heilman II.

“So I reached out to Newt, and Newt was all for it,” Vernon said. “We just wanted to give back in memory of her because she was such a huge supporter of all of our kids, at Chatham Central and at Northwood, and just Chatham County in general.” Vernon said there’s a reason these fundraisers

are successful. “Cancer has probably touched all of us in some form or fashion. We know somebody who’s had it, maybe a loved one who’s had it,” Vernon said.

“I think it’s just really important for those three (cancer survivors) that came out tonight (that) they know that we have their back, they’re in our prayers and we’re

thinking about them and all the other people out there,” he said. “Hopefully we can do more to support cancer research and hopefully get a cure for this disease.”

# FOOTBALL

Continued from page B1

from the Rams’ decision to throw the ball to Kupp for the game-winning TD on 2nd & GOAL from the 1-yard-line. (Was Sean McVay not old enough to see Pete Carroll and the Seahawks’ blunder in Super Bowl XLIX?)

However, the decision to keep running back Joe Mixon — a top-three rusher this season who averaged 4.8 yards per carry in the Super Bowl — on the sideline for the Bengals’ final plays, instead opting to run with Semaje Perine on 3rd-and-1 (who was stuffed) and use Perine as a potential pass-catcher on 4th-and-1 (a play that was wrecked by the Rams’ Aaron Donald) is the biggest head-scratcher I’ve seen in a long time. In situations like that, you have to use your best players. But Zac Taylor chose to do the opposite, running with a guy who had just 1 carry for 2 yards in the entire season before Sunday night.

What a boneheaded move.

**MAX:** Yep. The Rams defense struggled to contain Mixon all night. But on the Bengals’ final drive, Taylor didn’t use him. Whether he would have gotten the first down is unknown, but not using your best running back probably came as a relief to the Rams’ defense.

**VICTOR:** When Perine lined up in the backfield, you already know Donald was licking his chops.

## The Rams defense stepped up at the right moment

**MAX:** The Bengals came out firing on their first drive of the second half. After Tee Higgins burned (and definitely pushed off of) Jalen Ramsey for a 75-yard touchdown to give the Bengals their first lead of the game, the Rams’ defense locked in. They allowed just three more points the rest of the way and the Bengals’ wide receiver corps — which had been dominant all playoffs — was suddenly quieted.

With the game on the line, McVay said that Aaron Donald was going to make a play. And the best player at his position didn’t disappoint. He hit Burrow on fourth down to force an errant

pass that fell incomplete. Both Donald and Von Miller finished with two sacks apiece as the Rams defensive front got to Burrow seven times. The Rams’ secondary also wasn’t flagged throughout the entire game. So while a few clips of their struggles circulated online, they had a great day overall.

**VICTOR:** And had it not been for the missed Higgins’ facemask/push-off on the TD catch, the Rams’ secondary would’ve looked even better.

The Rams’ star-studded defensive line vs. the Bengals’ bottom-ranked offensive line was the matchup we were all waiting to see. And, as expected, the Rams’ dominated. What’s Burrow supposed to do when his O-line allows seven sacks?

## The officiating was questionable, but it seemed to go both ways

**MAX:** The Rams were certainly the beneficiary of a few calls. The referees missed a false start on third-and-goal late in the fourth quarter and the Bengals were flagged on that same play. But for the most part, the missed calls seemed to benefit both teams. Higgins pulled Ramsey’s facemask before escaping for a 75-yard touchdown. Although some plays had more of an impact than others late in the game, it’s really hard to say that the officials awarded one team a Lombardi Trophy.

**VICTOR:** Despite me picking the Bengals to win, I find it so absurd — and annoying at this point — that some people are suggesting the Rams won because of the officiating. The holding call on the Bengals’ Logan Wilson that gave Matthew Stafford and the Rams a fresh set of downs near the goal line wasn’t great, but it was a bang-bang play that I’m honestly not surprised the refs thought might have been holding. The bottom line is, the officials were a tad inconsistent, but there’s no reason to start an #NFLRigged campaign over it.

Let’s just be happy for Donald, Stafford, tackle Andrew Whitworth and a bunch of other veterans that finally got a ring and move on. (Unless you’re a Bengals fan, then I give you full permission to complain about this until the end of time. You’ve earned that right.)



# Chatham COA Events & Announcements

February 17th through February 23rd

## Thursday, February 17th

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

## Friday, February 18th

- [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 21st

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

## Tuesday, February 22nd

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

## Wednesday, February 23rd

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:00 AM
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 10:00 AM
- [Oral Health Discussion with UNC Dental School Students](#) at 10:30 AM

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



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

The COA has temporarily suspended in-person activities and classes through Monday, February 28. All listed programs will be available virtually via the Zoom platform. Registration is available through the Council on Aging’s website.

## The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at [chathamcoa.org](http://chathamcoa.org) or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

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

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

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# Chatham News + Record Local Service Directory

# EDC staff, board meet for orientation

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Economic Development Board of Directors and staff met last Thursday at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center for a board orientation meeting.

Debbie Andleton and Shannon Becker joined the EDC board in late 2021, and existing members Chreatha Alston and Dr. Jennifer Platt were reappointed for another term. The board received presentations from EDC President Michael Smith and Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne on the role of the EDC and the current status of county utilities, respectively.



Chatham Economic Development Corporation staff members (from left) are Sam Rauf, senior project manager; Noy Johnson, office administrator; Ann Fitts, communication specialist; and Michael Smith, president.

Courtesy of the Chatham EDC

# NC 211 continues to be essential service to Chatham residents

From the United Way of Chatham County

Day and night, the team at NC 211 talks to people who are experiencing hardship, feeling concerned about a family member, or simply need more information about resources in their area.

As North Carolinians continue to feel the impacts of the pandemic, NC 211 serves as a consistent resource offering hope, comfort and guidance. On Feb. 11, United Way of Chatham County joined NC 211 in celebrating National 211 Day.

In 2021, NC 211 answered more than 160,000 calls, offering information about housing, utility assistance, health care

and more. These calls were answered by real people who are trained to identify and address root causes of a client's problem. In Chatham, 53% of calls were for housing and shelter assistance, 20% were for utility assistance, and the remaining 27% of calls were related to COVID-19, employment or income assistance.

NC 211 is funded locally through a partnership with United Way of Chatham County and the Chatham County Health Department. Chatham County Public Health Director

Mike Zelek said he's proud to partner with UWCC and co-sponsor this service for Chatham County residents.

"NC 211 is a valuable resource to our community, and to our public and nonprofit agencies that serve Chatham County," Zelek said. "Providing information about health care resources, and services that address social determinants of health, helps us ensure better outcomes for those living in Chatham."

With COVID-19 still circulating around the globe, NC 211

continues to be an increasing necessity as providers shift service hours and availability, with some adjusting hours or closing indefinitely.

"NC 211 has helped the community remain connected," said Katie Childs, executive director of the United Way of Chatham County. "And now as we think about navigating life post-pandemic, we hope more individuals continue to use the tool as a direct connection to the services they need, and providers use it as a means to communicate program logistics and availability to clients."

"We are grateful for donors and corporate partners like Chatham County who help sustain NC 211 service in our

community."

NC 211 is also available online — visit [nc211.org](http://nc211.org) to search NC 211's database of nearly 13,000 verified resources. After entering a search term and location, the website will display information about local programs and services.

*About 211: NC 211 is an information and referral service provided by United Way of North Carolina and supported by local United Ways across the state. Accessible via an easy-to-remember, three-digit number, families and individuals can call to obtain free and confidential information on health and human services within their community.*



## VOTE '22

# Newcomer Kyle Parrish faces uphill battle to Congress

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

Kyle Parrish never thought he would be running for political office. Now the Cary resident faces an uphill battle to be the representative for N.C.'s 7th Congressional District — which, for the time being, includes Chatham County.

"It was never an aspiration of mine to get into the political world, and for me, right now, it's a lot less about me wanting to go somewhere than it is to make sure that a void is filled," Parrish said. "That void is a contrary narrative, especially in District 7."

Parrish, a registered Democrat, decided to seek the office to provide a new voice in the newly-drawn Republican-leaning district.

Under the current legislative map plan, District 7 includes seven other counties. Only four counties are in their entirety in the district, including Chatham, Alamance, Lee and Randolph. Sections of Davidson, Guilford, Harnett and Wake were also carved out to form the district. The map could change again after the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled the maps drawn and approved were unconstitutional, forcing the General Assembly to redraw them.

As it currently stands, Chatham is the only county completely in the district whose voters elected all Democratic candidates in the 2020 election, resulting in a more difficult campaign for Parrish.

"It's a tough, uphill battle," Parrish said. "I'm doing this as much to provide an alternative narrative as well as to see if we can get reasonable people back into a



Sourced from Twitter

Congressional candidate Kyle Parrish on the campaign trail with his 'campaign mascot.'

**I'm doing this as much to provide an alternative narrative as well as to see if we can get reasonable people back into a conversation.**

**KYLE PARRISH, Democratic candidate for North Carolina's 7th Congressional District**

conversation."

Parrish's perspective on seeking office changed after the 2020 presidential election and some of the misinformation surrounding its outcome. He became more open to a political career after a backpacking trip with his youngest son in western Virginia last year, where they met several people throughout the rural, mountain communities. During the course of the backpacking trip, Parrish and his son walked through small, mountain towns where support for former president Donald Trump was rampant and passionate.

"I began to talk to these people and some of them are the most charitable, kindest, nicest people you would ever meet, but they have a different view of the world than I have," Parrish said.

It was on that backpacking trip Parrish began to question why those people — many of whom experience several social and economic hardships — could follow someone who he believed to be against a "social safety net."

"There's a complete separation of what these people support and their politics — they don't understand that conservative ideology does not really permit much of a safety net, yet as you are walking through, these people are all about the social safety net," he said.

Parrish said he realized each of the people he talked to had one thing in common — fear and anxiety for their future. "These are really nice, good people who have gotten anxious and scared for their future, and they see the world

accelerating past them and they don't know what to do," he said.

When he came back home to Cary, Parrish started to pay attention to the various legal proceedings regarding congressional and state office redistricting. This was around the time several candidates announced their candidacy for several offices, including in his own district.

"What you see are in these rural counties, where these things I saw were, they are very red," Parrish said. "The candidates that are running there have banners that say '100% Trump.' I looked to see who was running against them, and the answer was nobody."

For Parrish, it's not just about providing a different voice in an otherwise homogeneous district. He wants to "build a bridge" between the two parties and return to a peaceful, unified legislative body.

"I wanted to enter this to see if there is a possibility to begin building bridges with independents and with moderate Republicans — a coalition so to speak — to eject the radicals out of our government and return us to conversations about policy and not conversations based on fear," he said. "I believe, as a country, we are at an inflection point where if we do not stop the Trump train, we are very dangerously close to losing our system of government."

Parrish has other reasons for making his political debut at a national level — he said he wants to be an advocate for issues in communities like those in Chatham County. One of the big topics Parrish is interested in is education, which stems from his mother,

who was a teacher in the public school system.

Specifically, Parrish believes community colleges need to be invested in on a federal level, as they can benefit the local economies of the towns and cities they reside in.

"In Chatham County, you have the Chatham megasites trying to bring in all of these companies, but how do you create a workforce?" Parrish said. "The community college education system I believe is vital to bringing in a workforce. I believe in community colleges, and I believe in the strength they can provide."

Other issues on Parrish's platform involve criminal justice reform, healthcare expansion and environmental crises in the United States.

One of the topics Parrish discussed is water contamination, specifically involving pollutants such as PFAS, 1,4-Dioxane and other "forever chemicals." These chemical dumps into the Haw River affected communities in Parrish's district, including in Chatham County, and he said he believes companies responsible for the dumping of these substances into water supplies should be held responsible.

"Where have the environmental protection people been? Where is the accountability for the companies that are doing this? Where are the officials that should be calling them out and punishing them? Because currently, there is very little punitive risk from what I can gather," Parrish said. "Forever chemicals really don't care whether you're rich or poor. It's something that should not be a partisan issue whatsoever, we should have clean water

in the United States of America, full stop."

Part of campaigning is traveling to see potential voters and constituents, and Parrish said he is working on starting town halls throughout the district. However, the districts could change once again due to the redistricting legal proceedings in the coming weeks.

When it comes to Chatham County specifically, Parrish wants to reach out to all of its residents, whether they vote for Democratic candidates or not. He said he wants to be able to listen to all concerns, regardless of political affiliation.

"Whether I agree with them or not, if someone has a concern, it is a legitimate thing to express," he said. "Siler City's concerns are going to be very different than Pittsboro's, so for me, it's going to be about listening and hearing what are the things these people need."

Concerns may be different among different towns and cities, according to Parrish. He said some people may care more about tax rates, while others may care more about social policies.

Regardless of background, all Chatham County residents should voice what they believe the problems are to start the conversations towards potential solutions, Parrish said.

"I am going to go to all places with an open mind, ears turned on, to hear what they have to say," he said. "I may not have all the answers to all of the concerns, but I am going to do my best to try."

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

# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Feb. 7, Tony Elisha Sanders, 27, of 505 E. Alston Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for misdemeanor larceny. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 23.

On Feb. 7, Jacob Douglas Thorne, 24, of 1248 Jack Bennett Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of an open container. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 23.

On Feb. 7, Joseph William Griffin, 37, of 300 Currie Unit 102, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Jason Kane for

misdemeanor stalking. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Feb. 9, Jason Ray Woody, 39, homeless, was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for larceny of a motor vehicle, breaking and entering into motor vehicle and injury to personal property. He was issued a \$5,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Feb. 9, Brian Antonio Franco, 24, of 7 Beech Rd., Chapel Hill, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for Domestic Violence protection order violation and stalking. He received no bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Feb. 9, Erin Jo Moore, 40, of 1520 Campbell Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on Mar. 7.

On Feb. 11, Valeria Villanueva Perez, 25, of 3655 US Hwy 15-501 N, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Devin Smith for driving under the influence and driving while license revoked for impaired driving. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 9.

On Feb. 11, Justin Middleton Cooper, 35, of 103 Hearne Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for Domestic Violence protective order violation. He was issued no bond and

was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 16.

On Feb. 12, Cooper was arrested by Deputy Joseph Scott for conspiracy to sell/deliver a Schedule III controlled substance, conspiracy to sell/deliver a Schedule II controlled substance and felony conspiracy. He was issued a \$16,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 14.

On Feb. 12, Jessica Ann Forrester, 41, of 857 Bernard Purvis Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for two counts of failure to appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Feb. 23.

## A VALENTINE STORY

# Collecting love letters from our culture's past

BY SAMMY FERRIS  
UNC Media Hub

BURLINGTON — Jolene Sliwka was searching through a thrift store for vintage t-shirts and used records 35 years ago when she picked up a “scratch off and sniff” Valentine’s Day card and added it to her haul.

That little card set off a scavenger hunt that has now become a collection of several thousand vintage valentines, Sliwka has preserved on her Vintage Valentine Museum Facebook page. When she started, she had no idea that some of the cards she bought for a few dollars would sell for over \$1,000 or that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of other collectors who are on their own heartfelt hunt.

“The world is cruel; these little things are pretty,” Sliwka says.

Every weekend, Sliwka, her husband, and her collection can be found at Granddaddy’s Antique Mall in Burlington. Inside the warehouse, a scene that resembles a farmer’s market unfolds. But instead of fruits and vegetables, vendors sell and package the produce of the past.

Sliwka has always been a collector. Her home in Burlington is sheltered by thousands of records lining the walls and decorated with valentines, 365 days of the year. On her site, she posts her collection for her fellow collectors and historians. Some of her most special cards are framed, hanging like posters or are tucked away like private love tokens for her and her husband to enjoy.

The cliché ideas of Valentine’s Day — the roses, chocolates, and construction paper cards — are not what this collection is about. The history of Valentine’s cards is rich: they are the love letters of culture’s past.

Sliwka’s personal obsession led her to connection with others who share her same passion. The National Valentine Collectors Association is a community with over 900 active members. Its president, Nancy Rosin, is a collector of ephemera, specifically valentines and devotionals, and its Facebook group is a platform where members exchange ideas about valentines and post photos of their cards.

To Rosin, vintage valentines capture modern hearts because of their universal message of the desire to feel loved and their ability to display history.

“There is really nothing that was sacred that wasn’t captured in valentines,” Rosin said.

*You’ve heard the old woman*



UNC Media Hub photo by Carmen Chamblee

**Jolene Sliwka, an avid collector of Valentine’s Day cards, is a part of the National Valentine Collectors Association.**

*who lived in a shoe,  
Had so many children  
she*

*didn’t know what to do  
Till good old St. Valentine  
asked for a few  
So they could be bringing my  
greetings to you!*

The origins of Valentine’s Day are unclear. Tales of St. Valentine matchmaking soldiers and their wives in 200 A.D. or attempting to convert Roman Emperor Claudius to Christianity all end with his death as a Christian martyr. Some scholars believe that the Roman Feast of Lupercalia — a fertility festival from the 3rd century BCE — birthed the holiday.

The tradition of giving valentines started in the 1800s with better access to the printing press and quality paper, according to Associate Professor Elizabeth Nelson from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

In Massachusetts in 1847, Esther Howland’s father handed her a valentine from a business associate of his. While looking at its craft, Howland had a thought: I can do better than this.

Her father purchased supplies for her to begin creating valentines, and she convinced her brother to take them on a sale’s trip to sell them. Within a year, she had over 5,000 orders to fulfill, starting a business out of her parents’ home.

Howland, now referred to as the mother of American Valentines, propelled a revolution in the industry, says our expert Rosin. She combined craftsmanship with an assembly line of women, hand making and standardizing her craft. Before selling her business in 1879, she was making over \$100,000 a year.

“She’s the innovator of factory methods,” Sliwka said. “Long before Ford

was doing that.”

Today, Howland’s Valentines are some of the most expensive and coveted among collectors. The earliest vintage valentines Sliwka owns are Howland’s creations.

“One of the crazy things about this is, for a lot of us, the valentines we remember are the school ones that we exchange,” he said.

“And these are pretty inexpensive ones. Penny valentines. But some of these ones, the big Esther Howland’s, would cost \$50 back in 1870.”

*Pop! Goes the Question.  
Be My Valentine?*

On her museum website, Sliwka champions the work of female artists from the 1900s like Francis Brundage, Chloe Preston, and Ellen Clapsaddle. Her favorite style comes from Chloe’s work in the 1920s. She points to a 3D valentine illustrating a burning house as an example of the attention to detail the artists employed.

While her love for the art and romance is fierce, she acknowledges the darker sides of the tradition as well.

Several years ago, an infamous valentine surfaced on eBay, sparking a conversation about what collectors call Vinegar Valentines. This particular card showed a lynching: an example of a period in the 1900s, when some valentines became increasingly cartoonish and often cruel.

Blackface and racist portrayals were part of the mainstream valentine market in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, says Sliwka.

Vinegar Valentines grant unique access into personal lives of those who came before while creating the collective picture of the culture in which they lived.

“If we lose or ignore our history — good

things, heroes, warts, all of it — you don’t really know exactly where you are or even who you are. And that’s why, I would say, it’s important,” Sliwka says.

*To my Valentine,  
Whether Valentine’s  
Day  
is rosy or blue  
Depends entirely My  
Dear,  
on you.*

The market for vintage valentines is niche, but the buying and selling of them can be profitable for the collectors and those with whom they connect.

When Rosin spent several thousand dollars on valentines from England in the 1800s, her gut told her she needed to do something special with them. Whimsical scenes of knights with large feathers jousting for a woman’s love and the delicate shapes of ferns danced on the cards. Their cutouts earned these valentines the name “papercuts.”

In tribute to the love letters that survived nearly two hundred years, Rosin published a piece in the Ephemera Society of America’s Journal featuring the papercuts and mentioning the author, Elizabeth Cobbold, by name.

A few weeks later, she received a call from an unknown number.

“My name is Anthony Cobbold. My friend in Boston recently read your article in the Ephemera Society of America’s Journal and recognized my last name. I am Elizabeth’s great-great-great grandson. I live in England. You found her Valentines. I had to speak with you.”

Rosin eventually went to London, visiting the home of Elizabeth Cobbold and meeting her great-great-great grands. That set of valentines from hundreds of years



UNC Media Hub photo by Carmen Chamblee

**Sliwka opens a Valentine’s Day collection for assembling lace objects. ‘I always get a little afraid,’ she says. ‘I don’t want to damage these babies.’**



UNC Media Hub photo by Carmen Chamblee

**Sliwka showcases a Valentine’s Day piece from artists like Ester Howland and Frances Brundage. ‘One of the crazy things about this is the valentines we remember are the school ones we exchange,’ she said. ‘But some of these ones would cost \$50 back in 1870.’**

ago created a lifelong relationship across oceans. Thousands of miles away, in Burlington, valentines by artist Francis Brundage featured on the Vintage Valentine Museum spark controversy about racism. The thousands of collectors who preserve vintage valentines are all caretakers of history, says Sliwka — and the cards provide a window into the collective public

life of those who came before.

“Humans, we’re a mixed bag” Sliwka said. “We’re sometimes really awful. But we’re also sometimes really lovely people who make valentines.”

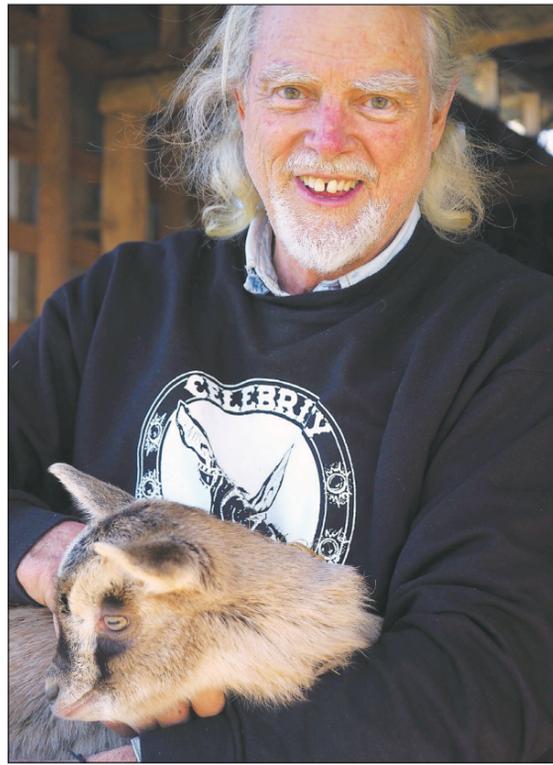
*I Thought That in the Theft Dear, You’d Never Take Part,  
But I Have to Arrest You for Stealing My Heart.*

# New kids on the block at Celebrity Dairy



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Paige Clark holds her favorite 'kid,' a goat she named Dark Chocolate. Paige lives on the property with her family and helps take care of the baby goats. Her duties include feeding the goats their evening meal and helping out on the farm on weekends.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Brit Pfann and his wife Fleming bought a 300-acre tract of land in 1987 to set up a working dairy farm. Here he's shown holding 1-year-old Rudy.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Marcey Clark, the innkeeper at the Inn at Celebrity Dairy, holds Marble. Marble eats a lot so her belly is like a marble — thus her name.



Sophy Gamber, the dairy's goat barn manager, does double duty feeding two kids at once.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Goats at Celebrity Dairy provide food and income in the form of award-winning goat cheese, delicious goat's milk gelato and Cud-Zu's Milk Soap. They also provide a lot of love, tenderness and happiness to those who get to know them.

## CHURCH NEWS

### HOLLAND CHAPEL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Holland Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church will host Prophetic Voices, Pulpit & Beyond, at 10 a.m. in the morning worship services of Feb. 20 and 27. The speaker for Feb. 20 will be Dr. Bryle Hatch and Feb. 27 will be Elder Reginald Hinton.

You may call the church for more information at 919-362-7831.

The church is located at 360 Burgess Road, Apex.

### Council on Aging extends in-person gathering pause through end of February

PITTSBORO — Despite an encouraging trend with COVID-19 case numbers, the Chatham County Council on Aging will extend the suspension of all in-person activities at the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City through at least Monday, Feb. 28 as case rates remain high.

Council leaders will continue to assess the situation and announce further guidance on or before this date.

The suspension covers all in-person activities, including congregational meals, activities and fitness classes. Some fitness and activity offerings remain available via transition to a virtual format during the pause.

The Council's home-delivered meal service (Meals on Wheels) continues uninterrupted, as well as its frozen meal program.

"We are optimistic that we will soon be able to reopen our Western Center to fully vaccinated participants," COA Inter-

im Director Lacey Monte said. "However, for the moment, it is best to stay our current course and allow a further decline in cases before welcoming seniors back to the building."

The Omicron variant, currently the chief strain of COVID-19 circulating through Chatham County, is easily transmissible even among fully vaccinated persons. Factors that increase the risk of transmission include indoor settings, close proximity to others and the inconsistency of mask wearing.

In Chatham County, cases rates remain very high and roughly one in five COVID-19 tests are returning positive.

Across the state, hospitalizations with COVID-19 have begun to decline since their peak in late January but remain high as well.

"We want nothing more than to have our seniors back with us and enjoying our offerings in person," Monte added. "We are on the right track, but caution remains key at this time."

For more information on the Council on Aging, phone 919-542-4512 or 919-742-3975 or visit the Council's website at [www.chathamcoa.org](http://www.chathamcoa.org).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### CCCC 8-week classes begin March 8

SANFORD — Whether you are looking for flexible course choices to meet your personal schedule or starting a new program of study, Central Carolina Community College's 8-week term allows you to find courses that fit your academic and career goals.

The next 8-week classes begin March 8.

To register for courses, contact your advisor or the Admissions office at 919-545-8025 (Chatham Main Campus). You can also connect with an Advisor virtually by visiting [www.cccc.edu/admissions/contacts](http://www.cccc.edu/admissions/contacts) or visit us in person at any Main Campus.

See [www.cccc.edu/12and8](http://www.cccc.edu/12and8) for a list of classes.

### CAM site readiness spring litter Sweep set for April 9

SILER CITY — Community involvement is a key element as the area continues to work to attract and retain residents,

visitors, businesses, and industry. It is time to prepare for the spring litter sweep in Siler City. This year, the Siler City Development Organization (SCDO) and the Town of Siler City Police Department invites you to participate by:

- Volunteering as a coordinator or team member for one of the identified streets;
- Identifying a new street and volunteering as the project coordinator; and/or
- Sharing this effort with family, friends, neighbors, churches, schools, civic groups, businesses, local industry, etc.

The proposed spring litter sweep date is April 9. This litter sweep date is consistent with the NCDOT spring litter sweep. The Town of Siler City and NCDOT provide safety vests, gloves, and trash bags during this period. Previous cleanups have been facilitated by SCDO annually since 2014.

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this community service opportunity. If you have questions, contact Dalton York at 919-742-2323 or [dyork@silercity.org](mailto:dyork@silercity.org).

—CN+R staff reports

## CARD OF THANKS

The family of William Curtis Bowden would like to thank everyone for all of their acts of kindness at the recent passing of our loved one. May God bless you all!  
The Family of William Curtis Bowden

# Best-selling author of 'Lincoln Highway' talks story development, his writing process — and why book promoting is 'like a rock and roll tour without the glamour'

Author Amor Towles' most recent novel, "The Lincoln Highway," was named the number one book on Amazon.com's list of "books of the year" for 2021, with Amazon editors describing it as "a compassionate, hopeful, and compulsively readable tale that's full of wonderfully fond characters, trying to do the right things, and in all the wrong ways."

Towles' previous books are "Rules of Civility," published in 2011, and "A Gentleman in Moscow," which was published in 2016 and was a New York Times bestseller for 104 weeks. Those two books combined to sell more than four million copies and have been translated into more than 30 languages.

"The Lincoln Highway" was published last October to great acclaim. It was named a New York Times "Notable Book" and chosen as "best book of the year" by Time, NPR, The Washington Post and Oprah Daily.

This week, we feature a transcript from a portion of an interview with Towles by CN+R Publisher and Editor Bill Horner III. The full interview can be seen on the News + Record's Facebook page. This excerpt has been edited for clarity and brevity.

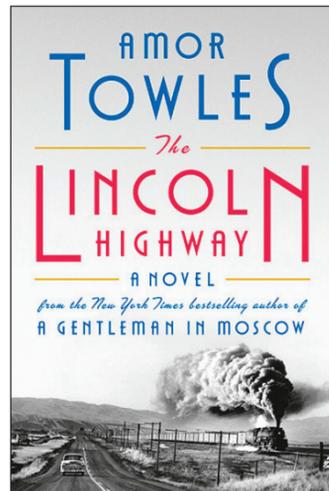
**People not familiar with your story may not know you spent 20 years working in the investment world before your first book, "Rules of Civility," became an international best-seller. Can you walk us through the story of that transition from the role of finance to becoming a novelist?**

I wrote fiction as a kid, I wrote it in high school and college, and in graduate school. So to my old friends, the surprising thing was that I ended up in the investment business for 20 years. That was the digression, as it were.

During my career I wrote on the side, in my spare time. But I had periods where I didn't have time to write because we were busy. Eventually I wrote a book I didn't like and set it aside, and then I wrote another book — and that was "Rules of Civility." And when that became a best-seller, I then retired from the firm and dedicated myself to writing full time. So it was a long time coming, but a relatively seamless transition, all things considered.

**I don't want to give away the stories of your books, because they really have to be savored and enjoyed. But can you share a little bit about the development of "The Lincoln Highway," and about how all your books develop within your mind?**

I have ideas for stories — long stories, short stories, narratives of different kinds — all the time. And what will



**'The Lincoln Highway,' Amor Towles' latest book, topped Amazon.com's list as #1 book of the year in the U.S.**

happen is a notion will generally present itself to me very quickly, because I see something, or it's out of the blue. And it often comes in the form of a sentence — you know, "a guy gets trapped in a hotel for a long period of time." That's really where "A Gentleman in Moscow" began. Then there's certain things I'll start to see in that story. So in the case of "A Gentleman in Moscow," I immediately thought, "I'll set it in Russia. And it'll be about an aristocrat born in the 19th century who gets into house arrest near the Kremlin ... and he's going to spend 30 years in the hotel" — I knew all that within minutes. Then it's a multi-year process of actually creating the work that you read.

With "Lincoln Highway," it was the same kind of thing in that I had this notion of — "Wouldn't it be interesting if a kid who's done time on a juvenile work farm is being driven home by the warden, ready to start fresh, and it turns out that two other kids from the juvenile work facility have hidden in the trunk of the warden's car?"

And that's kind of where I started. Again, that came very quickly with some instincts: "Oh, it's gonna be great. The two kids are from New York. And [the main character] he's from a farm in Nebraska, and the farm is in an in foreclosure and his dad has died. And it's going to be set in the 1950s. And it's going to take place over just 10 days" — all that, right away, that's where I started.

Now, as I say, I have ideas like this all the time. And they have something of a little bit of shape to them, like I've just described. But occasionally I'll just keep dwelling on one over a period of years, just keep imagining another layer of the story, another element of story, going deeper into a setting, deeper into the life of a character, deeper into a series of events until I get to the point where I can kind of visualize the whole thing, or a great deal of it. And at that point I start to outline it. And only when that's done do I actually sit down to write it.

So with "The Lincoln Highway," I had the original

idea more than 15 years ago. I began filling notebooks of content of the story, dating back to, maybe, 2013, 2014, and then eventually outlined it and wrote it — so it's a long process of evolution.

**I'm curious about a "snapshot" of where you are right now, because "The Lincoln Highway" was just published on the heels of two other phenomenal bestsellers you wrote. And you've done a little bit of a book tour, but you're getting ready to start another stretch of a book tour. So you're in this little "in between," where you're finishing promoting the book, but maybe haven't quite shifted your focus to your next work. What's that period like for you?**

That's a good description, Bill, because you're right, I don't like to be writing a new novel while I'm still on the road and still talking about the last novel. It's very hard to do those things at the same time.

So I will use this time to write shorter works, short stories. The design process that I'm talking about for my new book has been going on for years, but I'm moving closer to the culmination of that. So I'm in the process of outlining that next book. I'm in the process of making sure that I'm going to be ready to start writing chapter one, when the light turns green, which will be maybe around July 1 or something like that. So I'm in the process of getting all my ducks in a row before I launch the actual process of writing the book, page by page.

**You've talked a lot in previous interviews about your writing process, this five-year process that you follow when you write a book. Is there any part of that process that you particularly love, or any part of the process that you particularly dread or don't like?**

You know, I like all the elements. So you know, there's an imaginative process that's really fun, because the stakes are low. And you know, you can't make mistakes — you're just inventing. That's, of course, a lot of fun.

But I also like the process of beginning to drill down a little bit more carefully. Where is that going to be? And what does it look like? And who's in the room? And what are they talking about? You know, sort of a more granular part of the imagined process ...

I also like the process of launching the book, where you say, "OK, I'm ready."

I often think it's a little bit like training for a boxing match. I'm not a boxer, but I'm a fan of Muhammad Ali. And you go through this incredible training to prepare yourself for the ring. And I'm sure that when Ali was doing that, he gets to a point where he wants to fight tomorrow — a point where he can't wait to get in the ring, because you feel like you are ready. And so that, for me ... I enjoy getting ready.

And then actually stepping in and beginning to tackle the chapters one at a time ...

Editing is a whole other process, and that is very painstaking. It's very laborious. But experience has shown me that that's the place where you can dramatically improve work that you've already done. By making subtle changes by removing parts, by introducing new elements. You can take something that is, you know, ideally, something that's a "B+" and turn it into "A" work. But I like that too, even though it's can be a painstaking process.

**Writing a novel is a complex process. You've got a story arc, you have characters, you have the structure of the presentation — and what you're giving to the reader, of course, are the words on the page. You certainly excel in each of those four areas, but I want to ask you about the words that are on the page. How much of that comes naturally to you? And how much of that requires a lot of sweat and effort and hard work? And how much of that comes as a result of your editing?**

It's a combination. I'm an outliner, and so by the time I write chapter one, I know all the chapters — what's going to happen, the settings, the characters, what the events are. I know a great deal. And the reason I want to be an outliner is because it allows me to free up my subconscious, or the poetic, imaginative aspect of my craft. It maximizes that when I'm writing a chapter. Because if I'm sitting down to write chapter seven, and I don't know what's going to happen in the book — I don't know where the character is going, what the setting is, or what the events are; who's going to come in the room or what their background is — you imagine all the energy your mind is putting into making decisions about that ... and trying to figure it out and craft it all in the moment.

The more I know about that in advance, what it really is, the more I don't have to worry about that.

I can let my imagination take over and say, "What's the most interesting way to describe this? What's the most refreshing? Or surprising?" Or, you know, "What is the nuance of what this person is feeling? What is underneath the surface between these two people as they're talking?"

... I use the outlining to create an environment where my subconscious can really start to express itself. And ideally from that, you're infusing some of the poetry, some of the energy, some of the emotion, and maybe a little bit of mysticism, into the set, the scene, into the paragraph, or whatever.

And then we shift, and now we're into the editing mode. The problem with the beautiful poetic mindset that I was describing is that it's not

well-controlled, it's not perfectly modulated. If it's coming in a rush, you're trying to write it down as quickly as possible ... you got a lot of sentences you're not even bothering to finish, you know, because you kind of know that you just want to get through and you know you can go back and fix it later.

Then there's this job of saying, "OK, how can I take this energy and start to make sure that from the reader's standpoint, as they're moving through it, it is fluid, it is sharp, it is concise, it hits the right tone, and the right note, and the right word ...

So you're kind of at a very fine level pursuing what's the right word for each individual space ...

As I said, there's a big imaginary process that is underlying, I think, the unleashing of paragraphs that are worth reading. But then there's a lot of editing that goes into making sure those paragraphs live up to their full potential.

**What do you like about the book tour experience, and particularly interacting with the readers?**

It's like a like a rock and roll tour without the glamour of the money or the crowds. You get up and have breakfast at a hotel and you go to the airport. And you arrive and you have an hour for yourself in another hotel and then you go and you speak for an hour or longer, and then you go have dinner by yourself and go to bed and get up and do it again — meaning you go back to the next airport.

So it's not a very glamorous thing to do. But it is a luxury. I don't mean in the financial sense, but it's a luxury as an author to have a book reach its audiences in such a way that they would like to come and hear what you have to say. It's a great luxury, as an author, to be in a position where you could fly into Greensboro and have somebody show up who wants to talk about the book and hear about the book and get their book signed. And because it's a luxury to be able to go out and interact with those people, I feel very lucky to do it. But then I do have to get back and start the next book as soon as I can.

**I'd love to get a peek at your notebooks and maybe give some insight and some of the things you've been thinking about. Can you share anything about what's next?**

All I can tell you is it's going to be different — just in the same way that "Lincoln Highway" was different from "A Gentleman in Moscow," the next book will be different from "The Lincoln Highway." That's all I can tell you.

*For more information, go to [amortowles.com](http://amortowles.com). Towles will appear May 19 at the Greensboro Bound Literary Festival.*

## NEWS BRIEF

### Chatham Schools seeks participation in focus groups

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools is planning a series of focus groups during the month of 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 Innova-

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

The remaining opportunities to participate:

- Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6:30 to 8 p.m., St. Julia Catholic Church (210 Harold Hart Road, Siler City, 27344). Topics: Curriculum 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-envision education in Chatham County and how we can best meet the needs and desires of our students and their families," said Superintendent Dr. An-

thony 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 for-

mulating 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/3ol0LWI>. —CN+R staff report

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**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

HOWDY NEIGHBOR! WE JUST MOVED IN TO THE FARM NEXT DOOR TO YOU.

WE'VE GOT CHICKENS, PIGS, GOATS AND PLAN ON GETTING COWS!

THE WIFE AND I RETIRED AND DECIDED WE WANTED TO START A HOBBY FARM.

AFTER DOING THIS FOR 25 YEARS, I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHETHER TO LAUGH OR CRY.

**Out on a Limb** by Gary Kopervas

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, TOUGH GUY?

VESTIES

**R.F.D.** by Mike Marland

SO! ARE WE ON FOR OUR USUAL VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER?

OH, YOU BET 'CHA, SWEETIE!

YOU FEED 'EM THE HAY, I'LL DO THE GRAIN.

**The Spats** by Jeff Pickering

I DON'T TRUST OUR TREES.

WHY NOT?

THEY SEEM A LITTLE SHADY.

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

BY MY CALCULATIONS YOUR CHORES FOR ME WILL TAKE 5 HOURS. 3 FOR ME TO DO THEM AND 2 MORE FOR YOU TO DO THEM OVER AGAIN.

**LAFF - A - DAY**

"Why is it every time we discuss something, you have to put in your two cents' worth?"

**PREMIER CROSSWORD/** By Frank A. Longo

**CALCULATING CHARACTERS**

ACROSS

- 1 Pet doc
- 4 "Come again?"
- 8 Treats maliciously
- 14 Tennis player Borg
- 19 Narcissist's problem
- 21 Actress Address
- 22 Ate, as prey
- 23 Football Hall of Famer Bronko
- 24 Arrive on wheels
- 25 Frankie or Cleo of song
- 26 Start of a riddle
- 29 Noise in a comic book gunfight
- 30 Exotic singer Sumac
- 31 "The Human Stain" novelist Philip
- 32 Cure-all
- 37 Race of people in an H.G. Wells novella
- 39 Some sorority letters
- 40 Donations to the destitute
- 44 Riddle, part 2
- 48 Like much greasy food
- 49 See
- 83-Across Corp. leader
- 51 Skip over, as a vowel
- 52 World War II film, when tripled
- 53 Charged bit
- 55 Place — (be active on eBay, say)
- 57 Cheap cigar
- 58 Riddle, part 3
- 63 Smile middle
- 66 Chaney of film
- 67 Song-belted Merman
- 68 On a pension, maybe: Abbr.
- 69 Military draft gp.
- 70 Riddle, part 4
- 75 ZZ Top album whose name is Spanish for "The Crazy One"
- 76 Hamm and Farrow
- 77 Neither's partner
- 78 Tingly feeling
- 82 Totally tired
- 83 With 49-Across, touter of green eggs and ham
- 84 "Yes" vote
- 86 Early arcade giant
- 87 End of the riddle
- 93 —Flush (bathroom brand)
- 94 Architect I.M. —
- 95 Made angry
- 96 Florida fruits
- 97 R&B great Marvin
- 99 Not at all new
- 100 Golf club
- 102 Riddle's answer
- 111 Stalin-era labor camp
- 112 Polecat's kin
- 113 Urge against
- 114 Muscat native
- 115 Do over
- 116 Office squawker
- 117 Fender dings
- 118 Mimics a mad mutt
- 119 Helper of Frankenstein
- 120 Inventor Whitney
- DOWN
- 1 "—, vidi, vici"
- 2 "The Keep" novelist Jennifer
- 3 Forum wear
- 4 Angel's instrument
- 5 Drunk
- 6 Writer Gogol
- 7 Third-largest city in Israel
- 8 Ride a wave
- 9 Eighth-brightest star in the sky
- 10 Like a hajji's religion
- 11 Second-largest city in Oklahoma
- 12 Charles Lamb's alias
- 13 Bay Area California city
- 14 Equivalent of A sharp
- 15 Lee Tracy's "Bombshell" co-star
- 16 Like praiseful poetry
- 17 Gossipy Barrett
- 18 Bakersfield-to-Boise dir.
- 20 Letters before 39-Across
- 27 Swiss watch brand
- 28 Clueless
- 32 Fizzle sound
- 33 Sleek, informally
- 34 Hair removal brand
- 35 Top squad
- 36 Moe's mouthful
- 38 On the — (fleeing)
- 39 "— say more?"
- 41 Acres Vivien and Janet
- 42 In — res (mid-plot)
- 43 Clay pigeons to be shot, informally
- 45 Three x three
- 46 Frozen spear
- 47 Eats away at
- 53 "Were — it all over again ..."
- 54 "It can't be!"
- 55 One of the Three Musketeers
- 56 Nickname for singer Justin, with "the"
- 57 Derisive smile
- 59 One of the three Furies
- 60 R&R alone
- 61 "— boy!"
- 62 Pisa's river
- 63 Nuclear trials, for short
- 64 Class of antimicrobial drugs, in the British spelling
- 65 Actress Sorkin who once hosted "America's Funniest People"
- 71 Like animals that don't roam
- 72 So-called "fifth taste"
- 73 Apartment near the super's, perhaps
- 74 Mesh well
- 79 Piquancy
- 80 Ontario tribe
- 81 Cat's warning
- 83 Pittsburgh footballers
- 84 "Chances —"
- 85 "Catch my drift, bro?"
- 86 Pie-mode link
- 88 1974 CIA parody film
- 89 More lacteal
- 90 Not cardinal, as a number
- 91 Plundering
- 92 Writer Sabato
- 98 Patronage
- 99 "— Loompa"
- 101 Half-diameters
- 102 Journalist Brit
- 103 Zing
- 104 Lucy Liu's "Kill Bill" role
- 105 Insect traps
- 106 Exploiter
- 107 Mongrel mutt
- 108 Frilly material
- 109 Shrine figure
- 110 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- 111 Shrine figure

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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

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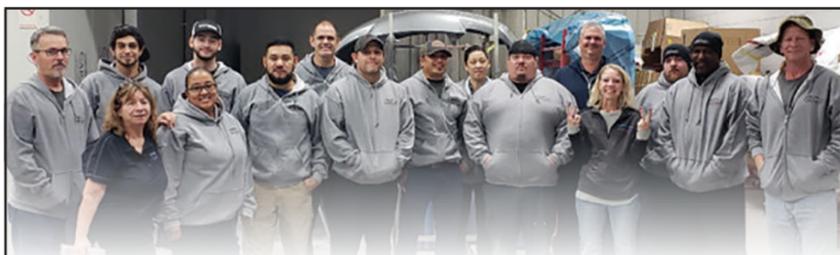
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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		2	3	7			9	
3					9			1
	4			8		2		
2	6				7			8
		8	6				4	
	9			5		3		
	5				2	9		
7			5				8	3
		1		9				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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## MAGIC MAZE ● CIVIL-RIGHTS LEADERS

Y J F B Y U R Z O K H D A X U  
Q N K H E B Y V E S P M J H E  
B Y V T Q O S R E V E L I G D  
B Y W T R P M S K N A I F D B  
Y W U I (TUBMAN) T H O N Y  
S Q O E H M K D O L S I C F D  
B Z B O N D E T X K G W U S Q  
O W I L K I N S R N L U J H F  
D C U L R A A A Y W T O V T  
S A M F T Q P P G P N U L D K  
P I H S I O B U D F E T C B Z

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

- |          |         |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Anthony  | Du Bois | MLK     | Tubman  |
| Bond     | Evers   | Paine   | Tutu    |
| Chavez   | Friedan | Paul    | Wilkins |
| Douglass | Gandhi  | Stanton |         |

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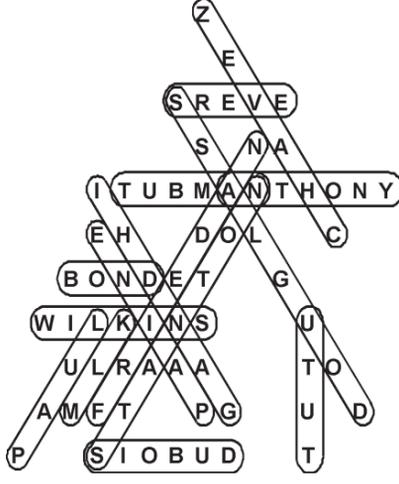
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2	6	4	9	3	7	5	1	8
5	3	8	6	2	1	7	4	9
1	9	7	4	5	8	3	2	6
6	5	3	8	1	2	9	7	4
7	2	9	5	6	4	1	8	3
4	8	1	7	9	3	6	5	2



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Mushroom gravy meatloaf — to go!

## Turnabout is meatloaf

For people who've never eaten at my mother's bounteous table, I have an extremely important piece of advice: when offered seconds, if you want a lot more, say you want a little more. If you want a little more, say you don't want any more.

If you actually don't want any more, you have to get up from the table and run for your life.

But even so, she'll meet you at the front door with neatly packaged leftovers — enough leftovers for a hungry wres-

tling team.

First of all, the woman never learned to cook for approximately the correct numbers of diners. She'll call me concerned that she hasn't made enough meatballs and sausages for the six coming for dinner.

"I've got 18 meatballs, 15 sausages, and I'm making 10 pounds of potato salad. Do you think I should pick up another dozen sausages and make two pounds of macaroni salad ... just in case?"

(I am not exaggerating, Gentle Reader, these are literally the amounts of food she makes. The Kid and I joke about it.)

And she's never explained what the "just in case" is. Just in case the entire nation of Italy unexpectedly shows up at dinner time? Just in case there

is never any more food ever and this spread has to last until the rapture?

So when The Kid and I hosted my parents for Sunday dinner at my new place for the first time, we had a plan: we'd feed them until they were two bites from popping, and send them home with enough leftovers for at least two meals.

They really like my meatloaf, so we made that, along with buttermilk mashed potatoes, and glazed carrots. But we made twice the amount we needed for a hearty dinner. And we sent them home with about 2½ pounds of food. But we also had enough so that each of us had plenty for a big, fat, meatloaf sandwich.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at [dm@bullcity.mom](mailto:dm@bullcity.mom).

### Mushroom Gravy Meatloaf

#### Mushroom Gravy:

- |                                                          |                                                                          |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 pounds button or cremini mushrooms, cleaned and sliced | canola oil                                                               | 1 teaspoon honey                                                  |
| 1 small onion, diced                                     | 1 1/2 teaspoons dried thyme                                              | 1 teaspoon grated horseradish                                     |
| 4 cloves garlic, chopped                                 | 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, or 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh rosemary | 1/2 cup sherry                                                    |
| 1 1/2 tablespoons butter                                 | 1 bay leaf                                                               | 1 quart beef stock salt and pepper to taste (so taste it, please) |
| 1 1/2 tablespoons                                        | 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce                                        | <b>For roux:</b>                                                  |
|                                                          |                                                                          | 1 stick butter                                                    |
|                                                          |                                                                          | 1/2 -3/4 cup all-purpose flour                                    |

Melt butter and stir in flour. Cook on low until it has browned to the color of peanut butter. Set aside.

#### For gravy:

Into the hot fat, put mushrooms, and cook until the liquid is cooked out, and they begin to brown. Add onions, and cook until they soften and start to lightly brown. Add garlic, and when you can smell it, pour in sherry and let it reduce until it almost dries. Pour in beef stock and the herbs and flavorings. When it comes to a boil, slowly stir in roux, a bit at a time until the thickness is to your liking.

Put about 1 1/2 cup of gravy into a small vessel and let cool. Refrigerate the rest for dinner; this is a basic gravy that can be used for many other dishes.

#### Panade (The goo that will flavor the meat and keep it moist):

- |                   |                                                           |                  |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Reserved gravy    | (try making your own from ground, leftover bread, they're | much less sandy) |
| 2 eggs            |                                                           |                  |
| 1 cup breadcrumbs |                                                           |                  |

In a large bowl put about 3/4 cup of cooled gravy, eggs, and breadcrumbs. Stir it all together until it is completely mixed. It should be the consistency of loose, wet oatmeal.

You're now ready to make meat loaf.

#### Meat Loaf

- |                            |                     |                |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 2 pounds 80/20 ground beef | 1 teaspoon salt     | reserved gravy |
| panade                     | 1/2 teaspoon pepper |                |

In the bowl of panade, break the meat into smallish pieces. Gently mix hamburger and panade. You don't want to mix it too much, or it will get rubbery while baking. You should still see bits of meat and goo in the final mixture.

Firmly press the mixture down into the bowl bottom; this will keep it together, while not overworking it.

Turn out into baking dish and shape into a meat loaf shape. Cover the top with the reserved gravy, and place into oven heated to 350°. Bake for one hour and 20 minutes.

While it finishes cooking, reheat the gravy on gentle heat on the stove top.

Slice and serve, topped with a little of the gravy.

\*And for the very best meatloaf sandwich, refrigerate the leftovers overnight, then slice into 1-inch slices. Place into a hot skillet and brown on both sides. Cover each slice with a piece of cheese, cover skillet and allow to melt.

Place on thick, hearty bread with a schmear of horseradish mayo or a combo of barbecue sauce and mayo. Top with some crisp salad greens and enjoy.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



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