

Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MARCH 10 - 16, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

As filing period ends, Chatham will see GOP primary for N.C. House 54 seat

Kinsey signs up to face former commissioner Walter Petty; winner faces Rep. Robert Reives II in November

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

The race for the N.C. House seat representing Chatham County will now feature a Republican primary, with former Chatham County Commissioner Walter Petty facing political newcomer Craig Kinsey, who signed up for the race on Friday's final day of filing.

The winner of the May 17 primary will face incumbent Rep. Robert Reives II for the Dist. 54 seat, which includes all of Chatham County and a small section of Durham County, in November.

Kinsey originally announced

his intention to seek a seat in Congress in the 4th Congressional District in 2021. But after several gerrymandering court cases in late 2021 and early 2022, Kinsey said he decided to file for the N.C. House instead.



Craig Kinsey

"I really feel you should live where you represent," he told the News + Record on Tuesday. "If you're a representative for a district you don't live in, how can you truly represent those people? So that's why I did not try to

run in other (congressional) districts."

Kinsey has held a couple of town hall events in Chatham County during his time as a congressional candidate. At one of these events in Pitts-



Walter Petty

boro, Kinsey talked about his platform, which focuses on education, limiting the powers of the government and election integrity.

"When a politician gets elected, it seems they forget about

RELATED

Supreme Court lets N.C. redistricting stand.

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the people who elected them, and that's not something I want to do," he said during the Pittsboro Town Hall event. "I want to be different, and that's why I want to listen to what people have to say."

This week, Kinsey said he felt compelled to run for the 54th district seat after looking at the bills Reives had voted for during his tenure.

"I started to look at Chatham and I have some disagreements with Mr. Reives, and I thought this may be a good fit because I can still help the future generations at the state level," he said.

Petty, a Republican and lifelong resident of Siler City who'd served as commissioner since 2010, made his announcement about the Dist. 54 race on Thanksgiving, stating his intent to file for the seat held since 2014 by Reives, who lives in Goldston.

"Serving as a county commissioner provided me the opportunity to see that many

See PRIMARY, page A3

A DAY in the LIFE of Chatham Hospital



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Andrew Hannapel, MD (left) and Laura Hester, MD, discuss the current status of patients in the the Emergency Department at Chatham Hospital. News + Record photographer Peyton Sickles spent a day at the hospital to get a behind-the-scenes look at life there; see the photos on pages A14-16.

As surge fades, vax demand is 'very low' across county

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

As the COVID-19's Omicron surge fades and mask mandates ease, Chatham's vaccination rates lag behind overall rates across North Carolina — and vaccine demand has trickled to "very low," according to county health officials.

North Carolina averaged more than 30,000 new coronavirus cases per day during a three-week period beginning the first week of January. On Monday, two months later — as most school districts across the state, including Chatham's, transitioned from mandates to optional masking — just 528 new cases were reported across the state. That was the lowest number since last July 7; also on Monday, for the fifth straight day, fewer than 5% of coronavirus tests results came back positive in N.C.

Across Chatham, 63% of the population — a total of 47,113 residents — have been vaccinated with at least one dose, according to data from the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Fifty-nine percent have received two doses (or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine), while 34%, or 25,381 people, have been vaccinated with one booster or additional dose.

North Carolina's percentages: 61% vaccinated with two doses, 65% with one, and 49% with two doses and a booster.

In the meantime, the death toll in Chatham

See VACCINE, page A3

'WE'RE JUST DOING WHAT WE KNOW WORKS'

With overdoses on the rise, groups step in to combat crisis

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

Second of two parts.

Substance use disorder has increased drastically across the country, but it's been particularly prevalent here: the Chatham County Sheriff's Department responded to 11 overdose calls in 2019 and another 21 in 2020, but to more than one per week last year — 58 calls altogether, a 176% year over year jump.

Law enforcement has been on the front lines of tackling the increased use of opioids, but locally, organizations such as Chatham Drug Free and

Chatham Recovery are leading a charge to help combat the rise and provide solutions to addiction and overdoses.

'Helping people not to go down that road'

Chatham Drug Free was established in the mid-1980s by several community members, including George Gregor-Holt, the current community outreach director for the organization.

It's an organization aiming to curb the use of opioids,

See OVERDOSE, page A8

'THEY NEED SUPPORT FROM EVERY LEVEL'

Local cafe to support Ukraine through 'Chicken Kyiv' special brunch

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Small B&B Cafe's "Brunch Around the World in 80 Days" has added a new stop: Ukraine.

Owners Lisa Verwoerd and her husband Christoffel have been working with their nephew, Chef R.L. Boyd, to create the global brunch tour at the cafe — located at 219 East St. in downtown Pittsboro — to allow customers to try new foods from a diverse menu.

But now, they're also using it to bring awareness to the

See CAFE, page A9



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

The Crew at Small B&B Cafe (from left): Jaxon Goldenberg of Pittsboro, Timothy Hall of Siler City, Chef R.L. Boyd, Abbie Barth (A.B.) of Siler City and Holly Prete of Pittsboro. The restaurant is offering a 'Chicken Kyiv' meal with portions of the proceeds to benefit Ukrainians under attack from Russia.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Events are subject to change based on closures related to the coronavirus pandemic. Verify with organizers prior to events.

ONGOING

Siler City's City Hall is currently under renovation. The 1st and 2nd floors are closed to the public. The Planning and Community Development Department is located in the basement and can be accessed through the far left door facing E. 3rd St. Parking available at the 100 block of E. 3rd St.

ON THE AGENDA

The Chatham County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 14, at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse.

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 21, at the Chatham County Historic Courthouse.

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

The Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP) is sponsoring a Regional Creek Week March 12th - 19th and Chatham County is proud to be a partner in that endeavor. The CWEP Regional Creek Week will celebrate the four rivers and numerous creeks that provide the water for our lives and the lives of the animals and plants that live here in Chatham County as well as the waterways in surrounding counties of the Piedmont. There are programs where you can visit the rivers, hike along creeks, explore the world of aquatic insects, learn about plants that are good for streams, and participate in river clean-ups. You can also participate in the Stormwater Runoff 5K and a regional Biothon during Creek Week. Programs will take place in person and some are available via Zoom, Strava or iNaturalist. To learn more about the programs being offered during Creek Week, or to register for those programs, visit: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/watershed-protection/regional-creek-week> or the CWEP website at <https://nc-cleanwater.com/2022-events/> and look for the

Chatham County Link to find out how you can get involved.

The Silk Hope Ruritan Club will host a blood drive from 2:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, March 25, at the Silk Hope Community Building, located at 4221 Silk Hope-Lindley Mill Road. Sign up to donate at redcross.org.

The Chatham Clover Creators 4-H Club is doing a collection for the Chatham County Animal Shelter. We are collecting Kong toys, Purina brand food for dogs, puppies, cats and kittens, laundry detergent and bleach. Donations can be dropped off at the collection box in The Chatham Rabbit Coffee Shop until the end of March.

Siler City Parks and Recreation announces Homeschool Recess! - Enjoy the Open Homeschool Recess Program 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 or www.silercity.org. Thursdays, 10-12 p.m. at Paul Braxton Gym, thru March, 115 South Third Avenue.

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. **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 regis-

tration fee of \$85 which covers the entire season. Multi-participant discounts available. To register, please visit 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 or contact the Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at (919) 742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit the Town Website at 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). 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). **Youth Baseball** is offered to participants ages 9-12 (age determined as of August 1). There are four ways interested participants can register. Registration is now available online on the Town of Siler City website at 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 (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. All volunteer coaches must submit an application for consideration. For more information, contact Siler City Parks and Recreation Department at 919-742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit the Town Website at 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://chatham-history.org>.

Second Bloom 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.

JMArts hosted a **JMACoronaConcert** via Twitter featuring performances submitted by JM students and faculty. Concerts can be viewed on its Twitter account @JMArts and by using the hashtags #JMACoronaConcert performances and #JMACoronaConcert program.

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

Alcoholics Anonymous — North Carolina District 33, call the Help Line at 866-640-0180 for the meeting schedule for this area.

Motorcycle Association — The Motorcycle Association for Chatham,

Western Wake, Lee, Orange and Alamance counties meets in Pittsboro and is open to all riders. For information, call 919-392-3939 or visit www.chathamCBA.com.

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

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

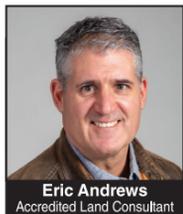
Scout News

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 for more information.

Pack 924 of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.

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

How did you LAND here?



HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?
94 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

LAND (Representing Sellers) 39 Units
 0 Lamont Norwood (96.37 Acres)
 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
 911 Golfers View (.586 Acres)
 00 Jim Gilliland Road (35.4 Acres)
 000 Jim Gilliland Road (18.598 Acres)
 1431 NC 42 Hwy (23.26 Acres)
 8457 Pike Road (22.43 Acres)
 3097 N NC 87 (2.845 Acres)
 0 Caviness Town Road (7.41 Acres)
 0 Pleasant Hill Church Road (90.788 Acres)
 69 Hazelwood (.62 Acres)
 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
 59 Colonial Trail (.476 Acres)
 0 Diane Street (9.21 Acres)
 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
 3095 N NC 87 (2.269 Acres)
 2453 Marthas Chapel Road (2.052 Acres)
 419 Hickory Pond Road (3.208 Acres)
 435 Hickory Pond Road (2.72 Acres)
 275 George Brooks Drive (184 Acres)
 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
 1447 Old US 1 (.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)
 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
 0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)
 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
 685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)
 0 Mays Chapel Road (365 Acres)
 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
 45 The Whites Way (5.61 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) 22 Units
 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
 570 Abeyance Road (Moncure)
 2221 Brisbayne Circle (F 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)
 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
 745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 7 Units
 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) 7 Units
 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)
 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)
 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)

RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 2 Units
 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)



Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week
<https://youtu.be/YFwelch5tY>

VIDEO TOPIC: 4 Reasons People Sell Land in NC & the 4 Ds of Real Estate



Email your questions to eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com
 For RWCP Property Management Call **Jennifer 919-545-9405**
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FISH DAY!
 It's Time To Stock Your Pond!
DELIVERY WILL BE:
 Saturday, March 19
 •Carthage 1:15-2:00 @ Carthage Farm Supply
 •Sanford 3:00-3:45 @ Carolina Town & Country
 Wednesday, March 23
 •Graham 11:30-12:15 @ Graham Feed
 •Chapel Hill 3:15-4:00 @ Piedmont Feed
 Thursday, March 24
 •Pittsboro 8:00-8:45 @ Pittsboro Feed
 •Siler City 9:15-10:00 @ Southern States
 •Asheboro 10:45-11:30 @ Southern States
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Animal Resources

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Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center
 725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312
 Phone: 919-542-7203 | [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)
 Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm, Closed Sun.

For a printable application, visit:
www.chathamsheriff.com

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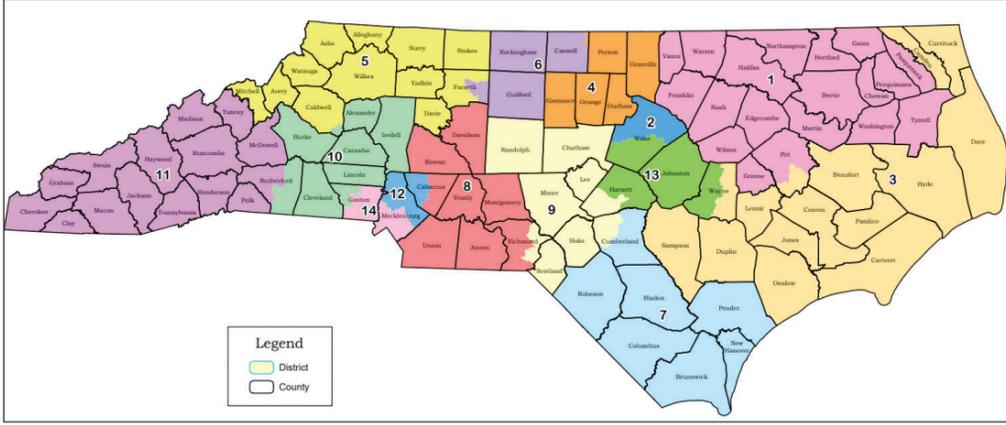
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U.S. Supreme Court lets N.C. redistricting stand

BY JORDAN WILKIE
Carolina Public Press



Courtesy of the N.C. State Board of Elections

The North Carolina congressional district map for the 2022 elections, which the state Supreme Court approved after finding that legislators created maps with unconstitutional gerrymandering.

North Carolinians know, finally, what political maps they will use to elect representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2022.

Monday evening, the U.S. Supreme Court denied a request from state Republican legislative leadership to stop an order from state courts from going into effect.

North Carolina will go forward with its primary elections on May 17, the candidate filing period that completed on Friday will stand and a map that a panel of trial court judges drew will be used to elect the state's 14 representatives to the U.S. House, but only for this year's election.

Three conservative justices, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas and Neil Gorsuch, dissented and wrote they would have stopped that map from being used, instead reverting back to the map the state Supreme Court declared an unconstitutional gerrymander and which would have all but guaranteed Republicans at least 10 of the state's seats in the U.S. House.

The congressional maps in use for 2022 are most likely to result in seven Republican seats, six Democratic seats and one toss-up seat, according to the data of how voters in

each district voted in previous elections.

"Today's move by the Court reinforces that legislatures do not have a 'free pass' to violate protections against partisan gerrymandering when drawing districts that undeniably hurt voters," said Hillary Harris Klein, a voting rights lawyer at the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which represents one of the plaintiffs, good-governance group Common Cause, in the lawsuit.

Not over yet, maybe

A fourth conservative justice, Brett Kavanaugh, agreed that state Republicans' arguments were strong, but said it

would be too disruptive for the federal courts to intervene this close to an election.

"The issue is almost certain to keep arising until the Court definitively resolves it," Kavanaugh wrote in his concurrence.

Republicans may still get that chance, just not as soon as they would have liked. Kavanaugh suggested the case, or one raising similar constitutional questions, should be taken up for consideration in the next judicial term, which will get underway in the fall.

In a press release Monday, North Carolina Senate President Pro Tempore Phil Berger suggested state Republican

leadership may do just that.

"While we're focusing on the 2022 elections, we will continue to evaluate this decision and next steps in this case," Berger said.

Berger, along with House Speaker Tim Moore and other Republicans responsible for drawing the state's political maps, were the defendants in the redistricting lawsuits.

Should the legislative Republicans request further review of the case, Kavanaugh along with the three dissenting justices have enough votes to put the case on the court's docket, per the U.S. Supreme Court's rules. To grant a stay, which is what Republican legislators

requested in this filing, they would have needed five votes in favor.

Two more conservative justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Amy Coney Barrett, voted with the majority this week. But Roberts has previously expressed interest in the legal theory that North Carolina's legislative Republicans used in this case.

Republican arguments rest on Article 1, Section 4 of the U.S. Constitution, which says the "Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof."

That should mean, North Carolina legislative Republicans argue, that state courts should not be able to put a check on the rules state legislatures make for federal elections. Only federal courts and Congress' could check state legislative power over making those rules.

The justices also denied a request for review coming out of Pennsylvania, which raised similar legal questions.

North Carolina's General Assembly will still get the chance to draw a new Congressional map for the 2024 election cycle that, should it withstand lawsuits, could hold for the rest of the decade until the 2030 Census triggers another round of redistricting.

PRIMARY

Continued from page A1

tunity to see that many of the challenges facing us can only be solved at the state level," Petty, 63, told the News + Record in November. "My intentions are to leverage the relationships I've built with House members and leadership to accomplish the goals I've had for the district since first getting elected in 2010."

Petty filed for the House seat on Feb. 24. He stepped down from his post as a Chatham County Commissioner in the middle of a four-year term back on April 15, 2019, citing the pressing time demands of his business — Atlantic Power Solutions, which sells and services generators for agricultural and industrial use — which was experiencing a period of rapid growth.

At the time, serving in the Dist. 5 seat since 2010, Petty was the lone Republican on the five-member board. His appointed replacement, Andy Wilkie, lost in the November 2020 election to Franklin Gomez Flores. In the

Here's a rundown of races on the May 17 primary ballot:

LOCAL CONTESTS

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 3
• Lewis Hendricks (Dem.)
• David Delaney (Dem.)

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Dist. 4
• Albert Reddick (Dem.)
• Katie Kenlan (Dem.)
• Travis Patterson (Dem.)

DELAYED MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Delayed municipal elections will be held on May 17 following the gerrymandering suits.

Town of Cary Town Council At-Large
• Ken George
• Ed Yerha
• Clarissa Johnson

Town of Siler City Mayor
• Chip Price
• Donald Matthews
• Nick Gallardo

Town of Siler City Town Commissioner At-Large
• Cindy Bray
• James Underwood
• Dean Picot

Town of Siler City Town Commissioner Dist. 1
• Albert Alston
• Sam Williams

Town of Siler City Town Commissioner Dist. 5
• Lewis Fadely
• Rayetta Fox
• Jared Picot

STATE CONTESTS

House District 54
• Walter Petty (Rep.)
• Craig Kinsey (Rep.)

N.C. Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 05
• April Wood (Rep.)
• Trey Allen (Rep.)
• Victoria E. Prince (Rep.)

N.C. Court of Appeals Judge - Seats 08, 09, 10, 11
• Seat 9: Beth Freshwater Smith (Rep.) and Donna Stroud (Rep.)
• Seat 11: Michael Standing (Rep.) and Charlton Allen (Rep.)

District Attorney District 18
• Kayley Taber (Dem.)
• Jeff Nieman (Dem.)

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. House of Representatives District 09
• Francisco Rios (Rep.)
• Richard Hudson Jr. (Rep.)
• Jen Bucardo (Rep.)
• Mike Andriani (Rep.)

process, Gomez Flores — who won by just 322 votes over Wilkie — became Chatham's first Latino commissioner. (Gomez Flores has filed for the Dist. 5 seat and will face Republican challenger Peyton Moody in Novem-

ber.) Petty told the News + Record his decade-long history of serving Chatham County made him an ideal candidate for the position in the General Assembly. "My message to

Republican voters is the same as my message to all voters in the district," he said. "Experience and results for the residents in the district are critically important. ... Talking points are good, but results are better. I

kept my promises to the citizens of Chatham and I will do the same for the district."

Petty said the "common sense approach to governing" that made him effective as a county commissioner would also make him the better choice for Chatham County while serving at the state level.

"Although I was told it couldn't be done, under my leadership, we were able to increase funding for our schools, increase the local supplement for teachers, and funded a unique incentive plan to pay educators more," he said. "By streamlining our government, we were able to increase support for law enforcement and economic development without raising taxes. While doing all of this and more, we upgraded the county's bond rating to AAA, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in borrowing costs. I will take this same common-sense approach to Raleigh."

Petty said he'd attended some events with Kinsey, but didn't know him.

"I'm asking everyone who is eligible to vote in the Republican Primary to vote for me because I've proven I can get results," Petty said. "With my experience, voters know they are getting someone who can deliver results. There is no one that will work harder for the district."

When it comes to facing his opponent, Kinsey said he wants to learn more about Petty and his beliefs and see what they agree and disagree on.

"I'll have to learn more about Walter when we talk, have debates and things like that," Kinsey said. "But to me, it's all about the future generations and making sure they have the options and freedoms that we have today."

Voter registration for the statewide primary ends April 22. The one-stop, in-person early voting period begins April 28 and ends May 14. The deadline to submit an absentee ballot request form is May 10.

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

VACCINE

Continued from page A1

County since the start of the pandemic has climbed to 108, with

12,530 total cases reported. Still, vaccine demand has slowed down considerably in Chatham, according to Mike Zelek, the director of the county's Public Health

Department. "At our clinic, we typically administer a handful each day we offer them (two days per week)," Zelek said. "We are seeing this at other

sites as well, and with that the Optum vaccination site at the Old Ag Building in Pittsboro will have its last day March 19 (testing will continue)." Pharmacies around the county are still offering vaccines; options can be found at vaccines.gov.

As he watches case counts fall, Zelek repeats what's become a mantra for him and for other health care providers during the course of the pandemic: vaccines continue to offer strong protection against severe illness, hospitalization and death if you get the virus.

"Given the likelihood that COVID will remain with us long term, we should expect to get vaccinated again in the future," he said. "Also, with the recent studies showing lower vaccine effectiveness against infection for 5- to 11-year-olds compared to older children and adults, another dose could very well be coming for that age group given dosage was lower. But remember the vaccine continues to hold well against severe illness for children this age, which is why it remains important to get them vaccinated."

Zelek's staff has administered about 8,400 doses of the vaccine, and with demand soft, that means expiring unused vaccines get discarded — about 771 so far, according to Zachary Horner, the health department's communications specialist.

COVID-19 vaccine inventory has evolved over the course of the vaccination campaign, Zelek said.

"In the first three to four months of the campaign, we administered every dose we received," he said. "This was possible at that time, given the strong demand and internal efforts to have waiting lists for any doses leftover due to no-shows. It was something we took very seriously, understanding how important of a resource the vaccine was for our community. In April 2021, we began to see supply at mass vaccination events outpace demand. Vaccine providers, including us, are careful to plan to avoid discarding more doses than necessary."

That mean keeping vials frozen and unpunctured until they were needed, he said.

"So, if you have 400 appointments for a mass

vaccination event, you may start by drawing 200 doses, and then draw from additional vials as needed," Zelek said. "As demand slowed, given vials contain multiple doses, some vaccine left in the vials was inevitably discarded. This is something I imagine every vaccine provider has experienced and aligns with guidance from NC DHHS and the CDC to prioritize getting folks vaccinated. That said, our clinic worked hard scheduling appointments to avoid this as much as possible."

The health department transferred vaccines to other providers in the county, especially, Zelek said, in the early days when supply was limited.

"We understood the importance of getting them onboarded to expand options," he said. "Over time, this slowed as they had direct access to supply. We have never maintained a strong stockpile; rather, we have asked DHHS for what we anticipate needing for the next few weeks and reorder as needed. This has helped us to avoid needing to discard vaccine, though frozen vaccine has a decent shelf life."

Dynamic Speakers

Over the course of the last few weeks, the Rotary Club of Pittsboro has hosted some speakers such as Duke Energy Director of the East Region Government & Community Relations, Indra Everett; Northwood High School Athletic Director, Cameron Vernon; and former UNC basketball captain, Marcus Ginyard. They each presented valuable information & took the time to get to know our members, address questions, & enjoy a tasty lunch! As Rotarians, we strive to bring our best to the community, so join us Wednesdays at noon (Postal Fish)...you never know who you may meet!

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST EDITORIAL | NORTH CAROLINA'S SUNSHINE WEEK

Why is N.C. stuck at the bottom of 'right-to-know' states?

BY SANDY HURLEY & BILL MOSS
N.C. Press Association

For decades North Carolina has ranked near the bottom of all states in the country when it comes to the public's right to know what went wrong when a government employee is transferred, demoted or terminated for disciplinary reasons.

There have been efforts to change that, including a bill introduced 25 years ago by a young state senator named Roy Cooper, who now, of course, is North Carolina's governor.

So "Sunshine Week" March 13-19 is an appropriate time to examine where North Caroli-

na stands on the people's right to know.

Founded in 2005 by the American Society of News Editors, Sunshine Week is designed to heighten awareness about the importance of open government and freedom of information and advocate for change where change is needed. Change is needed badly here. The best hope for that openness and accountability is ready to be taken up now by the Legislature.

For the third time since Gov. Cooper's 1997 bill, the Legislature has a chance to make history by enacting legislation that opens public employee personnel files to

inspection when bosses or elected leaders take disciplinary action. Passed last year by a bipartisan majority in the N.C. Senate, the Government Transparency Act of 2021 would open personnel files in cases of misconduct by public school teachers and professors, city and county managers, and state and local law enforcement officers.

All North Carolinians should ask how the wall of secrecy around these disciplinary records was erected in the first place. One clue lies in a letter presented to the Senate Judiciary Committee last spring voicing full-throated opposition to the Government

Transparency Act by none other than the state's public school teachers lobby (NCAE), the North Carolina state employees association (SEANC), and the Teamsters Union. The opposition caused the bill to stall in the state House, though it remains alive in that chamber and can be taken up at the leadership's signal. The bill has the full support of the N.C. Association of Broadcasters, the N.C. Press Association, and the N.C. Sheriffs' Association, not to mention consistent and broad support in polling of taxpayers and voters.

This election year — when every seat in the General

Assembly is on the ballot — is a good time for those voters to remind candidates of their interest in knowing about the conduct of government employees they're paying.

A fix for North Carolina's legacy of personnel files locked in file cabinets sits on the goal line. Legislative leaders and the rank and file should be eager to punch it in.

Hurley is regional publisher for Mount Airy News Media Group and the president of the North Carolina Press Association. Bill Moss, publisher of the Hendersonville Lightning, is the NCPA's Legislative Committee chairperson.

Where have all the sunflowers gone?

There were to be weddings. There were to be bouquets of dazzling sunflowers. More golden flowers were to be woven into the hair of brides.



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

Now, tanks have trampled the fields and planted enemy soldiers in unending rows. Rockets roar, explosions shake the ground, civilians are targets. A burned-out building casts a dead gray shadow over the Pinocchio Kindergarten playground that had been scorched by missiles. There is neither life nor mercy in metal.

The psalmist's lament, which is a sentiment even older than the ancient script, rings desperately true: "How long, O Lord, how long?"

The Russian military caravan is 40 miles long. The capital of Kyiv is encircled like a noose. Anemic babies cry out from bunkers underneath the hospitals. Far away, a man who Madeleine Albright once called "reptilian" is unmoved by international economic pressure and pleas for mercy. If he is a genius, Putin is a diabolical one.

More ancient prayers of lament for our time and place: "Out of the depths, we have cried out to you, O Lord. Hear our voices."

Over one million refugees have fled into the teeth of monstrous traffic jams. A volunteer named Daniel took his place in a short line to receive instruction to fire an AK-47. He was a coffee roaster last week. He is just 21 years old.

This is an ancient land. Slavic peoples once worshiped the sun. Christians have prayed in the Monastery of the Caves for 1,000 years. The Orthodox Church popularized the sunflower by allowing the use of its oil during the fast of Lent. Eventually, Ukraine led the entire world in sunflower production, exporting oil, seeds and flowers far and wide. Ukrainians are a remarkable, resilient people.

Many people of good faith thought a new era of peace had taken root and would flourish. The blood of victims from previous wars cried out from the ground. Never again, we said. We believed in the promises of progress.

"My soul is in deep anguish. How long, O Lord, how long?"

A Ukrainian woman offered a Russian soldier a packet of sunflower seeds. "Put them in your pockets," she said. But he was cruel-eyed and foul-mouthed. He must be scared. He and his battalion are a long, long way from home. They are just barely old enough to shave, yet they hold life and death in their hands.

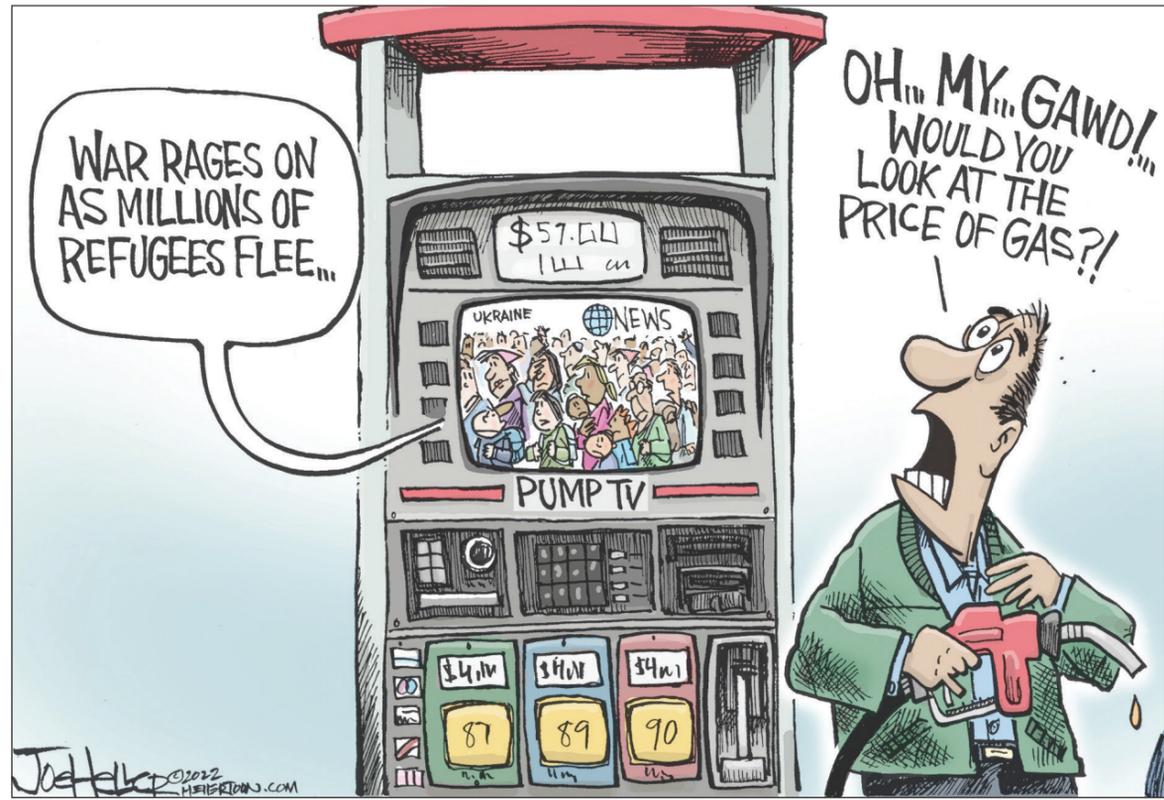
"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."

We are all capable of wielding terror and justifying brutality in the name of the Holy.

We are also created in magnificent grace and able to perform extraordinary acts of resistance that make the evil things quail. The Ukrainians removed road signs along the major highways in order to complicate navigation for the invading forces. They tied strips of cloth into camouflage netting. They have passed out plastic foam plates full of sliced bread and have also filled sandbags. They continue to pray in ancient holy sites of their homeland and in hastily erected tent villages in refugee camps. May we join them in heart and mind.

O Lord, our help in ages past, may we continue to give packets of seeds. May there again be weddings. May there again be fields of gold. "For though weeping may linger for the night, joy comes in the morning."

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."



Ol' Man Winter reserving right to make return visit

Long ago and far away the late American philosopher and humorist Will Rogers was known to say, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

That was, of course, his nod to the fact that the weather affects us all in varying degrees but there's not a thing we can do to cause it or change it; all we can do is respond to it and how we dress, work or play.

That's why, of course, when the TV weather geeks say "snow," we all run (or drive) to the grocery for milk and bread even if we've already got some, don't particularly like one or the other or rarely consume much of either. We've just got to have some on hand.

Usually the weather follows this pattern: it's too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry — too this or too that. Just like right now, for me it's been too dry; a little shower would do wonders for the chicken byproduct and commercial fertilizer some folks are spreading on their pastures after taking out a mortgage on their first-born to pay for the stuff. Just as an aside, I wonder when folk who can do something about runaway inflation will realize at the rate we're going that soon pork chops are going to be more costly than gold and the nickel candy bar will cost \$11.

I say all that to say the weather is a big deal — so big, in fact, that folks

down through the ages have written all sorts of proverbs and sayings about it, particularly this time of year and the month of March. Among them: "A dry March and a wet May fill barns and bays with corn and hay." There's also, "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers."

Also included is, "As it rains in March so it rains in June." That one isn't especially cute and certainly doesn't rhyme. And don't forget perhaps the most famous March weather saying, namely, "If March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb."

That, of course, is testimony to the reality that March can be the forerunner of spring or the dead of winter. It means if March comes in harsh (lion) it will end nicely (lamb). That old saying is often said in reverse, as well.

And the reality now of the weather this third month, as well as the immediate forecast for much of it, shows signs of both spring and summer. As I write this, it feels like spring — actually more like summer. And great kite-flying winds earlier this week. And somehow, the last few days of February and the first several of March are more like June or even July, just without the humidity.

But I remember — as do many local folks — March of 1960, not all that long ago for me but ancient history for this year's crop of 7th-graders. It was in that ancient time that Chatham County, as well as a good chunk of the Piedmont, had snow every Wednesday, at least the first

three, of the month. And I don't mean a dusting.

It snowed. Snow fell on top of snow. In some places there was ice on snow on ice on snow; it made for great sledding. Even if you didn't have a fancy store-bought sled, you got along very nicely, thank you, on a big round metal Coke sign or one side of a cardboard box that recently was a refrigerator shipping carton.

As I remember, we went to school about five days that month. We went on Saturdays. The state just simply forgave some days. It snowed so much we got tired of snow.

So, are we in for more of that or something similar, or is winter really over? Well, apparently only the Good Lord and the groundhog know. But don't be surprised if we don't pay for these last several days of 70-plus degrees with a big ol' honking blizzard about mid-March.

And, by the way, if you're looking for a good saying about a month, try this one. "Why is the calendar so tired on April 1? Because it just finished a march of 31 days."

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

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

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

VIEWPOINTS

THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE | ANALYSIS

Some clarity about the situation in Ukraine

Retired diplomat says Russia's 'erroneous evaluation of American attitudes' has surprised Putin

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has stunned the world despite clear warnings in advance. The Russian Army, inept and faltering in the early days, is improving. Bogged down in the north and east, Russian forces have advanced hundreds of miles in the south and southeast. In a recent call with French President Macron, Putin said that Russian forces intended to take the whole of Ukraine.



BOB PEARSON
Guest columnist

Putin also told German Chancellor Scholz that Ukraine was part of a "Greater Russia" and that Russia and Ukraine were "one people" separated tragically by history.

Initial disbelief that this war could happen in Europe is now turning into a brutally realistic comprehension of the invasion's total horror. As more than a million and a half Ukrainian women and children have fled west to safety, Russia cynically now may be blocking where possible family escape routes are — except to cross the Russian border.

The most powerful array of sanctions in history has struck Russia, and Russia will incur enormous financial losses far into the future. Moscow's leaders and Russian businesses are now denied access to global

banks, markets and investments. The country's second largest oil company, Lukoil, saw its shares on the London market fall by 99%. The Russian company Nord Stream 2, created to provide gas to Germany in a deal worth billions, has filed for bankruptcy and fired its entire work force. Sea combat around Ukraine, with tankers hit, has halted a regular export of Russian oil for now. Switzerland has shut down Russian access to its bank accounts. The Russian stock market is closed, and a ruble is worth less than a U.S. penny today.

I have no doubt that Putin has been very surprised by the American organized powerful, united coalition against Russia. On top of the financial dismemberment of the Russian economy, the NATO alliance, which saved Europe during the Cold War, has been rock solid in political and security opposition to Russia. Germany in the last 10 days has reversed a six-decades-long policy of trying to bridge between Europe and Russia. The EU has initiated a plan to minimize Russian gas imports over the next decade. Berlin has announced a plan for a major increase in defense spending and has now sent anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons to Ukraine. Finland and Sweden, not members of NATO, are strengthening their ties to the Alliance. The U.S. has sent troops to frontline NATO states to make clear the

determination of our country to defend our friends.

Putin's surprise may also have come from his erroneous evaluation of American attitudes over the past eight years. Our country was hesitant at first in Ukraine and Syria to challenge Russian threats, or we downplayed them. There was even an active American embrace of Putin from 2016 to 2020, a sentiment recently echoed once again by former U.S. president Donald Trump. Putin has looked at our deeply divided country, and he believed there was an opportunity to take advantage of the perceived weakness.

The next chapter for Ukraine is not written. The outcomes of wars are not easy to predict. With President Zelensky and the enormous courage and determination of millions of Ukrainians, there is a chance that this Russian campaign can be slowed — I won't say stopped because it is too early, and it might not be possible. But if the Ukrainians stay in the fight, Putin and Russia will pay a higher and higher price for their folly. If the Ukrainians are willing to bear this pain, then we should share it and do all we can to help them recover the whole of their country and their independent future however long that takes.

Beyond Ukraine, we are in for a generation-long confrontation with Russia and its attempts to recolonize eastern Europe and undermine Euro-

pean security. Putin's further strategic aim is to weaken the European-American NATO pact that protects the continent. He will continue to use threats, inducements and political demands to try to divide the allies. With the sending of troops to Belarus and the invasion of Ukraine, Russian armies will be hundreds of miles farther west. Those armies will directly threaten all of NATO's frontline states — in the long arc from the Baltics in the far northeast all the way west and southwest to Romania and to non-NATO pro-western Moldova.

We and the Europeans have key decisions facing us. An immediate issue is whether NATO will announce a no-fly zone that would have Russian and NATO planes flying against each other. That does not seem to be likely. If the inspirational Ukrainian patriots keep fighting, if the Russians occupy the whole country, how can we help them? How will we support a Ukrainian government in exile as the country's legitimate government? How will we and the Europeans deal with Europe's energy needs as Europeans decrease dependence on Russian gas — now running as high as 40% of annual requirements for some countries such as Germany and Italy? Will the U.S. cut off entirely the 5% of oil that we ourselves import from Russia? Will Saudi Arabia and the UAE step up production to meet

Europe's needs? What happens if the war and rising inflation produce an economic recession in Europe or even here? What do we do about China, which certainly is unhappy to see the West unite so quickly to defend its friends and freedoms?

Now we and the rest of the democratic world have shown what we can do. Our task is to continue to do what is necessary to save democracy. In my diplomatic career, wherever I was, ordinary citizens knew what it meant to have freedom — to enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Their leaders often opposed and feared democracy — they still do.

We have our work cut out for us.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *W. Robert Pearson was an innovative diplomat, leader and crisis manager at the top levels of the U.S. government. He was U.S. ambassador to Turkey and completed a 30-year career in 2006 with the Department of State as director general of the Foreign Service. He is a frequent writer and speaker on diplomacy, foreign policy, Turkey, NGOs and development, and served under six presidents (four Republican and two Democratic) and 11 secretaries of state. He lives in Fearrington Village with his wife, Maggie, who also worked as a diplomat and served as a senior foreign service public diplomacy officer from 2000 to 2006 period.*

GUEST COLUMN | MARY HARRIS & VICKIE ATKINSON

Coming together: How we all can win?

"Why can't we have nice things?" asks Heather McGhee at the beginning of "The Sum of Us," the book at the center of the recent panel discussion, hosted by the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham (CRC-C). The consensus of participants in the discussion was an affirmative answer. Yes, we, as a people and a country, can have nice things if we come together across race, culture and class.

The wealthy and the powerful use race to divide us in a so-called "zero sum game." The idea that if "they" get something "we" lose divides us and prevents us from solving problems together. But racism doesn't just hurt people of color, it costs white people, too. Coming together in solidarity to seek solutions will enable us all to have quality health care, excellent schools, a sustainable environment and many other "dividends" on our investment in multiracial coalitions.

McGhee traveled across the U.S. in search of answers to our most vexing problems of vast inequality, schools that are not meeting children's needs, crumbling infrastructure, and planetary destruction. In her book, "The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together," she gives detailed examples of the price we all pay for racism when we let powerful interests divide us. For example, McGhee discovered that prior to World War II, the U.S. had built 2,000 beautiful, public swimming pools across the nation. Some of these were resort-style pools that were so big they could hold thousands of swimmers at a time. But racism drained the pools. In the 1950s, communities closed pools rather than welcome everyone to swim together.

McGhee also describes successful examples or how people have come together across race and class to solve problems and create new opportunities that benefit everyone. The city of Lewiston, Maine, was losing population and unable to attract new employers. But Lewiston welcomed refugees who moved into empty apartment buildings, created businesses and filled service jobs. Now these "new Mainers" are adding to the tax base, enticing investment and increasing real estate values for everyone.

We, in Chatham County, are rich with people and organizations that are working together across race and class to build relations, identify problems, find opportunities for collaboration and solve problems. The CRC-C panel discussion brought together people from the Chatham County school system, the business community, CORE (Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity), NAACP and more. All across our county, people of all races and income levels are collaborating — working together to build a more prosperous future for us all.

We invite you to learn more about creating opportunities for Chatham County to prosper together by joining one of the organizations mentioned above, reading "The Sum of Us: How We Can Prosper Together," or by watching the recording of the book discussion at www.crc-c.org.

Mary Harris of Siler City and Vickie Atkinson of Chapel Hill are part of the leadership of the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham.



Ukraine invasion claims voter attention

Over the past couple of weeks, North Carolina politicians have



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

focused intently on the outcome of the state's latest redistricting saga. After the GOP-majority General Assembly saw its original set of electoral districts thrown out by the courts, lawmakers tried again. Their new legislative maps were accepted. A three-judge panel rejected the Republicans' newly crafted congressional districts, however, and enacted a "remedial" map for the 2022 cycle.

As all this was going on, however, average North Carolinians were paying closer attention to events unfolding thousands of miles away.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a tragedy, an outrage and a wake-up call about the continued threat to liberty and order posed by dictators pursuing 19th-century aims with 21st-century arms. Here in North Carolina, it also represents a potential inflection point in our midterm elections.

This became clear on Feb. 26 when three Republican candidates — former Gov. Pat McCrory, former U.S. Rep. Mark Walker, and Marjorie Eastman, an Army veteran and businesswoman — faced off in the first televised debate of the U.S. Senate primary. Held at the John Locke Foundation's Carolina Liberty Conference in Raleigh, the debate made statewide headlines not only because of what the participants said but also because of the identity of

their frequent target, U.S. Rep. Ted Budd.

He wasn't there. He declined the invitation, saying he wouldn't agree even to discuss a GOP debate until the candidate-filing period closed. Event organizers put a lectern on the stage to underline his absence.

With the Russian invasion occurring in real time, Budd's decision not to participate proved costly. The congressman is vulnerable on the issue. In the past, he sometimes voted against bills to sanction Russia for its conduct in Ukraine. More recently, Budd was in the audience when former President Donald Trump, who endorsed Budd, called Vladimir Putin "pretty smart" for launching his current invasion of Russia's southern neighbor.

The day before the Senate debate, McCrory formally filed for the office and told reporters that Budd had been "defending Russia and defending Putin when it's indefensible." During the debate, McCrory and the other participants doubled down on the subject. Eastman called the dictator a "thug" and his invasion "unprovoked and unjustified." Walker argued that the U.S. and its allies ought to "go after Putin directly."

Asked later to respond, Budd told CBS-17 that Putin was "evil" and "an international thug" but also that he was "intelligent," so "we have to treat him as such." Not surprisingly, both the McCrory campaign and the Democratic Party spent the next 24 hours making hay of Budd's foolish choice of words. He'd been better off showing up for the debate and defending his record, which is ac-

tually more mixed on Russia than his critics suggest.

The Senate primary isn't the only race where the issue is likely to bite. Last week, GOP congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene spoke to a white-nationalist organization in Orlando where the organizer asked the audience to "give a round of applause for Russia" and got chants of "Putin! Putin!" in response. Greene tried to pretend later she didn't know what she'd gotten herself into, but no one believed her. Some GOP candidates here in North Carolina have sought her endorsement or been on stage with her. You're going to hear a lot more about that in the coming weeks.

On the Democratic side, President Biden's disastrous first year in office has set up his party for a disastrous midterm election. Now Democrats are hoping his efforts to organize an anti-Putin coalition will not only get results in Ukraine but also bring voters around to the Democratic ticket.

North Carolinians do care. In a pre-invasion High Point University poll, 47% said Russia's military build-up on the Ukraine border was a "major threat" to U.S. interests, with another 27% calling it a "minor threat."

Most voters don't favor direct American military invention, of course, which isn't in the cards anyway. They do favor tough talk and tougher sanctions. And they're right.

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 (MountainFolkBook.com).

VIEWPOINTS

Lessons from blindness

Going blind. Is there any way it could be a good thing?



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Frank Bruni asks this question in his new book, "The Beauty of Dusk."

Bruni, one of the great writers to move to North Carolina recently, is an opinion writer for The New York Times, author of bestselling books, and is now a professor of public policy at Duke University.

One day in 2017, Bruni woke up to find something wrong with an eye. He could barely see anything in that eye. Reading and driving became problematic. Doctors told him a stroke had destroyed the nerves that connected the eye and the brain.

The damage was permanent, and there was a 40% chance something similar would happen to the other eye. If it did, he would be, for all practical

purposes, totally blind.

How Bruni dealt with life afterwards, is the story of his book.

He sought out people who have been similarly handicapped: blind, deaf, injured limbs, crippling diseases. He found that many have learned to live with their situations and have refused to be defeated.

As he told me recently, "I decided to put on my journalist hat and interviewed to try to learn from people who had been confronted with serious physical and medical challenges" and learn "how they navigated those, and what they learned from them."

He wanted to avail himself of that wisdom. So, he said, "That's the story of the book."

The stories he collected are impressive and inspirational.

He wrote about an English travel writer, James Holman, who notwithstanding his blindness, Bruni told me, "was perhaps the most famous travel writer of his day."

"When he wrote about the places, to the extent that he

Bruni writes about David Tatel, a blind U.S. Court of Appeals judge who, rather than focusing on all the negatives of his blindness, celebrates his luck at having gone blind 'at a point in human progress when technology was so sophisticated and could come to the rescue in many situations.'

described them visually, it was through other people's accounts.

"But, there was still so much available to him, the smells of a place, the sounds of a place, the legends of a place. And it's a really interesting lesson in how much is still available to us when a portion of our lives is taken away. There are still many portions of our lives, many, many perspectives and aspects left."

Bruni writes about David Tatel, a blind U.S. Court of Appeals judge who, rather than focusing on all the negatives of his blindness, celebrates his luck at having gone blind "at a point in human progress when technology was so sophisticated and could come to the rescue in many situations."

When Bruni told the judge that he was impressed with him and "our species' unfathomable nimbleness," the judge "smiled and with his whole face, then said something that echoed in my thoughts for the rest of that evening and echoes there still. 'Starfish can regrow limbs,' he said. 'But that's nothing compared to what human beings can do.'"

Bruni was inspired by others, such as a blind dancer, a blind painter, a blind gallerist, a blind architect, all showing the powerful ability of humans to adapt even better than the starfish.

From these many other people facing up to lost physical abilities, Bruni learned that there were upsides to these downsides and the struggles

that go with them.

Instead of asking, "Why me?" Bruni asks, "Why not me?"

"Why should any of us be spared struggle, when struggle is a condition more universal than comfort, than satiation, than peace, maybe than love? Should we even be calling or thinking of it as struggle, which connotes an exertion beyond the usual, a deviation from the norm?"

He told me that we are dealt a set of cards in this life. Some are really good, some not. "You have no control over what that hand of cards is going to be, but you have enormous control over how you play them. That's a lesson that was really hammered home to me as I dealt with vision loss."

That lesson, Bruni thinks, is one all of us should learn.

D.G. Martin hosted "North Carolina Bookwatch," for more than 20 years.

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

Do we have the energy?

Since 2015 North Carolina has netted more than 110,000 new



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

residents per year, one of the fastest growing of all the states. These newcomers are making increased demands on our roads, our schools, our recreational areas, health care facilities and utilities.

Let's focus this discussion on electric utilities. For much of our modern history, we depended heavily on coal to generate electricity for our state. It was cheap fuel to purchase, therefore less expensive energy to customers. But coal-fueled plants spewed harmful emissions — like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen — into the air and contaminated our air quality. In 2014, we learned from the Dan River containment pond burst that coal ash residue also contaminates our rivers and streams.

Last year N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper signed a milestone energy bill into law that aims to sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% below 2005 levels and reach carbon neutrality by 2050. To achieve these goals, we must close coal generation plants and focus on other sources.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that as of 2021, 33% of North Carolina's power was generated from natural gas, 31% from nuclear plants, 21% from coal and 15% from renewable sources.

So how does a fast-growing state meet its energy demands for both the short and long-term future?

While many advocate a full-court press to increase renewable energy, for the foreseeable future we will require a mix of natural gas, nuclear and renewable energy to ensure we don't suffer "brown outs" or electrical shutdowns. Additionally, an urgent priority will be to secure our power grid from cyberattacks.

North Carolina is already a leader in solar power generation, although solar has two major drawbacks. There is currently no way to store generated power, and solar goes offline at night.

Wind turbines appear promising for new power generation. Currently, North Carolina has one land-based turbine farm in Pasquotank and Hertford counties. The "Desert Wind" project, in operation since 2016, has 104 turbines generating power for Amazon distribution facilities largely in Virginia.

At least three other regional projects are in various stages of development. Dominion Energy has the "Coastal Virginia Off-shore Wind" project that hopes

A Stanford research project said that if we completely shifted to renewable energy in North Carolina by 2050, we would stabilize our electrical grid 100% of the time.

to begin generating electricity in 2026 from a turbine farm 27 miles off Virginia Beach. Currently the largest wind project in America, it will provide power for 660,000 homes in Virginia. Project "Kitty Hawk," to be built by Avangrid Renewables, will be approximately 27 miles off Corolla and is scheduled to begin generation in 2030, providing power for 700,000 homes, with distribution lines running to Virginia. "Wilmington East" could bring wind turbines to Southeastern Carolina. Located 17 miles off Bald Head Island, it is projected to provide power for 500,000 homes and will begin leasing mid-year.

Environmentalists and tourism advocates have raised objections to the new wind farms, but a visualization demonstration in January quelled the opposition of many, who agreed the turbines are little more than tiny specks on the horizon. "I don't think, personally, that it would affect our tourism," said Caswell Beach Town Commissioner Dan O'Neill. The federal Energy Information Administration says the turbines create fewer effects on the environment than many other sources.

We cannot rule out increasing nuclear power generation, especially since it is carbon-free. New technologies, including SMR, the small modular reactor, are less expensive to build and operate. And it will many years before we are no longer dependent on natural gas, even though it is a fossil fuel product and has emission issues.

A Stanford research project said that if we completely shifted to renewable energy in North Carolina by 2050, we would stabilize our electrical grid 100% of the time. Such a move would create some 200,000 full-time jobs more than lost, save 1,600 lives from air pollution, and reduce annual energy costs by 52%. Most agree it is a desirable goal but a long time before materialization.

The bottom line is that we need to emphasize wind, water and the sun to have the energy we need for the future. Do we have the energy to produce the energy we need?

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.



LETTERS

How history might remember Putin

TO THE EDITOR:

To push or not to push the button?

The world is living in fear of this question due to one evil man's menopause. Andropause can affect men as early as 40 years of age.

The majority of men going through testosterone deficiency just quietly open their wallets and make drug companies a little richer with the purchase of little blue pills. Some men reflect on their lives to review their self-worth. One gentleman started selling fried chicken and made a fortune.

Beautiful artwork and famous poetry have enriched our lives because of men making a last effort to defeat time and the inevitable. It seems as if every certain amount of years there are evil men who realize they are starting to fade, and these men are willing to murder and cause destruction because they want the world to remember them as a strong man with lots of

power.

Vladimir Putin, through my eyes, you are just an evil excuse for a man who is in desperate need of a blue pill, and I hope that is how history will remember you.

Carol Gene Good
Conover

Don't forget about climate policies

TO THE EDITOR:

The Russians are coming!

Responding to last week's news of the Russian-Ukraine war and the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) urgent updated report (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>), where does natural gas fit in climate policy and our national security?

In a nutshell: Natural gas is substantially less emissions intensive than coal, but only if methane leakage is substantially reduced. While transitioning our economy to the necessary timeline of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 (and if we are to

avert increasing lives lost, detrimental public health issues, societal economic costs of ever-increasing extreme climate events, loss of biodiversity, environmental justice), our U.S. national security will best improve with renewable clean energy independence to address future global climate migration and food insecurity.

How? A predictable scheduled rising carbon pricing is the most effective, efficient way to answer the question of what role natural gas will play in that transition. With carbon fee and dividend legislation, such as EICDA (Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act) free-market principles will move us toward innovations in renewable energy and U.S. energy independence.

Call Senators Burr and Tillis and your Member of Congress to support EICDA as important to our national security and independent energy policy.

Minta Phillips
Julian

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; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

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CCCC's BioWork: a pathway to good jobs and a better life

BY TERI SAYLOR
News + Record
Correspondent

BioWork, a program at Central Carolina Community College, is changing lives and filling the workforce pipeline with skilled technicians ready to work in the growing life sciences industry sector in central North Carolina.

Launched in May 2020 at CCCC, BioWork is a short-term certificate program that gives students the foundational skills they need to begin a career in biotechnology or pharmaceutical or chemical manufacturing.

The program is offered every semester and has the capacity to serve about 50 students per semester, said Lisa Smelser, biotechnology program director at CCCC.

Staggered start times make the program convenient for students from all walks of life to take the classes and earn a BioWork certificate without waiting until the start of a new semester.

"My goal is to ensure that whenever someone wants to explore ways of getting jobs in the biotechnology and life sciences industry, we can offer this program right away," Smelser said. "Two classes started in January, and two more are starting this month, with the next one launching on March 14."

The program offers both daytime and evening lab classes for students with full-time jobs.

"BioWork is ideal for recent high school graduates, transitioning military, or anyone seeking a new career opportunity," she said.

Starting salaries and a robust job market make BioWork an attractive program, according to Smelser.

"We tell students that with their BioWork certificate and a high school diploma

BioWork is ideal for recent high school graduates, transitioning military, or anyone seeking a new career opportunity.

LISA SMELSER, *biotechnology program director, CCCC*

or GED, salaries start out at \$17 to \$23 an hour, given the current economic job market," she said, "and I think numbers higher than that are not uncommon."

The BioWork certificate program prepares individuals for jobs as entry-level process technicians in forensic laboratories, pharmaceutical manufacturing companies, and research and development organizations. Process technicians are responsible for the creation of chemical and pharmaceutical products.

BioWork is administered through the N.C. State Community College System, which develops the curriculum and administers the certificate program. CCCC is one of 10 community colleges statewide offering the program.

In addition to salary levels that can support their families, BioWork graduates go on to jobs that enable them to have a hands-on role in developing therapeutic treatments that make a positive difference in peoples' lives, said Lisa Rowley, vice president of economic development with the N.C. Biotechnology Center in Durham.

"Not every job gives employees an opportunity to have a direct role in keeping people from getting sick or helping someone that's sick get better," Rowley said. "Because we're all impacted by our health and the health of our loved ones, this work can be really rewarding

What is BioWork?

The BioWork certificate program will teach you the foundational skills you need to begin a career as a process technician for a biotechnology, pharmaceutical, or chemical manufacturing company.

What does a process technician do?

Process technicians are responsible for the production and manufacturing of chemical and pharmaceutical products.

How do you access the BioWork program?

Ten community colleges across North Carolina offer the program.

What are the enrollment qualifications?

Have a high school diploma or equivalent, attend an information session, and complete reading and math placement tests.

How can I get more information?

Visit <https://www.cccc.edu/biowork/>

and lead to an exciting career path."

As the Biotechnology Center continues to advance its mission to help make North Carolina a global leader in life sciences, Rowley and her team work closely with the state's community colleges "because whenever a company is thinking about where it wants to locate or grow, one of the first things they will consider is where they will find a ready workforce to help them grow and thrive."

"As a subsector of the life sciences industry, biomanufacturing in North Carolina is particularly strong," Rowley added, "and we're seeing a huge amount of growth in our life sciences industry overall."

As home to more than 700 life science companies, North Carolina currently ranks third in the nation for biotechnology, according to CCCC.

All this is music to Michael Smith's ears. As president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, Smith oversees industry recruitment and product development.

Before coming to Chatham County, Smith held a similar position in neighboring Lee County. He has worked closely with the recruiting efforts making central North Carolina a top destination for major pharmaceutical and life sciences companies, and Moncure's Triangle Innovation Point is growing into a hub of activity.

"One of the remarkable things that has happened in the last 12 months is the myriad of announcements from new industries locating here, from Holly Springs, straight down U.S. 1," Smith said. "We continue to see interest from life science corporations that want to be in this region because of all the assets that are already here."

The major players currently forming the U.S. 1 biotechnology and life sciences corridor include FujiFilm Diosynth Technologies, Amgen and Seqirus in Holly Springs, and Pfizer, Audentes Gene Therapy and Abzena in Sanford.

"We are trying to do a better job of getting the word out about how many great jobs our local residents can find here in this region without

having to go very far," Smith said. "It's amazing the number of fantastic employers we have."

In addition to educating the biotechnology technicians and professionals of the future, BioWork offers career fairs throughout the year, and they are paying off for both employers and people seeking jobs, Smelser said.

"Over the four virtual career fairs we have data for, we had 65 students who registered, 36 students who had post-career fair interviews, and we had 27 confirmed job offers," she said. "I think that is amazing and super exciting."

This spring, according to Smelser, CCCC is taking its program a step further by creating a business and industry leadership team tasked with evaluating curriculum to make sure it continues to align with real world needs.

"We are preparing to take a really deep dive into the knowledge, skills and abilities that industries require," she said. "Then we will kick that back to my department to ensure we are meeting expectations, finding out what we need to address, making necessary changes, and reporting back to industry the actions we are taking."

By helping attract jobs to central North Carolina, the BioWork program at CCCC and other community colleges is helping local residents build better lives.

"I want to make sure we are helping people find a pathway to those jobs, because I think they hear that there are new jobs offering better pay, but it's not always clear how they can connect to them or get from point A to point B," Smelser said. "Our hope is that we can be the entire connector for students and make these jobs their reality."



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CSSE's Philipps awarded prestigious Park Scholarship

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — Chatham School for Science and Engineering student Dylan Philipps has been offered a Park Scholarship to North Carolina State University.



Philipps

The Park Scholarships program — one of the most prestigious scholarship programs in the nation — brings exceptional students to N.C. State based on outstanding accomplishments and potential in scholarship, leadership, service, and character, and prepares them to make lifelong contributions to communities throughout the world, according to the university.

"I am so proud of Dylan and delighted that she has gotten the recognition she deserves for her scholarship and leadership," said CSSE Principal Bobby Dixon. "She is one of the most conscientious and ambitious students I know who always puts forth 100% in all that she does. She is a wonderful young lady who works hard to achieve her goals. I hope N.C. State knows how lucky they are to have her; she will represent NCSU and herself well."

About 42 Park Scholars will comprise the Class of 2026. They were chosen from among 2,260 candidates from across North Carolina and around the globe. The Selection Committee based its decisions on the candidates' demonstrated accomplishments and potential

"Park Scholars do an exemplary job of carrying out N.C. State's mission of creating economic, social and intellectual prosperity,

RANDY WOODSON,
N.C. State Chancellor

in scholarship, leadership, service, and character, as evidenced by their performance in interviews and assessments conducted by N.C. State faculty members and alumni.

The four-year scholarship that Dylan received is valued at \$116,000, covering tuition, fees, and room and board at N.C. State. As a Park Scholar, Dylan will also receive a generous stipend toward personal expenses and the purchase of a new computer. Park Scholars have access to enrichment grants to pursue research, service or creative projects, and have access to alumni-funded travel grants for study abroad. In addition to these benefits, Park Scholars participate in retreats, field learning experiences, and civic engagement initiatives, as well as mentorships with some of N.C. State's world-class faculty members.

"Park Scholars do an exemplary job of carrying out N.C. State's mission of creating economic, social and intellectual prosperity," N.C. State Chancellor Randy Woodson said. "Our job is to give them the tools that they need to make the difference that they seek to make in the world."

NEW BRIEF

Dozens of miles of Chatham, Lee county roads to be improved

RALEIGH — Contracts recently awarded by the state Transportation Department will improve dozens of miles of roadways and some road shoulders in Chatham and Lee counties.

Work on the following projects can begin as early as July and is

expected to be complete by summer 2023.

- Under a nearly \$6 million contract, Fred Smith Company of Raleigh will mill and resurface lanes and reconstruct shoulders along 29 miles of roadway in Chatham County, including a section of U.S. Hwy. 64, three sections of N.C. Hwy. 42 and seven sections of secondary roads.
- Under a \$4.4 million contract, S.T. Wooten

Corporation of Wilson will mill and resurface nearly 23 miles of roadway in Lee County, including a section each of U.S. 421 Business, U.S. 1 Business, N.C. Hwy. 87 and N.C. Hwy. 78 and 11 sections of secondary roads.

Drivers should expect lane closures and be aware of crews working close to the travel lanes in the areas where the work is taking place.

— CN+R staff reports

Essay contest focuses on the topic of racial justice

Chatham's Community Remembrance Coalition (CRC-C) formed two years ago to "seek the whole truth of Black history of Chatham County, justice based on that truth, and reconciliation to move forward with better race relations in the County to the benefit of all." Now, the organization is sponsoring an essay contest for local high school students on the subject of racial justice.

This week, we speak with the CRC-C's Mary Harris about the contest. A semi-retired educator with more than 30 years of experience in the field, Harris has served Chatham County Schools as a teacher and as Central Services Coordinator of Employment and Human Relations, among other positions. A certified Diversity Trainer and Certified Teacher Mentor, Harris is also a member of the West Chatham NAACP and is the vice president of the Chatham High School Alumni Association.

Her role in the CRC-C is to assist in planning, organizing and meeting with key members in the community, churches and the educational community to develop plans of action to mobilize people to make change for the betterment of the county and country for all people.

Tell us about the contest ...

The Racial Justice Essay Contest is presented by the CRC-C and Chatham NAACP branches 5377 and 5378 in partnership with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery, Alabama.

The topic of the essay contest is telling the truth about our nation's history of racial injustice. Prizes will total \$5,000, divided among the winners. Essay length is between 800 and 1,000 words. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12 attending public high schools in Chatham County.

The contest is open now and entries are due by April 20, 2022. Representatives from EJI will read, evaluate and choose essay winners.

The education committee of CRC-C has been working closely with staff from Chatham County Schools to develop the contest and communicate with students and teachers. Interested students should go to the CRC-C.org website to see instructions for the interest form and the address to submit the form. The form is to be signed by parents or guardians. Essays will be submitted through a process identified by the school leaders (principal or designee).

How did the idea for the essay

contest come about?

The mission of Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham is to improve race relations and to enhance comity, empathy and understanding across and within Chatham County's races, faiths and communities. CRC-C has been working closely with EJI to promote a new era of truth and justice that starts with confronting our history of racial injustice. This essay contest was born from a conversation between staff at EJI and members of CRC-C. EJI has sponsored similar contests in other cities and states.

The topic is "racial justice." How was that topic chosen, and how do you envision participating students tackling that subject?

The dehumanizing myth of a racial hierarchy endures today because we don't talk about it. Students are asked to examine the history of a topic of racial injustice and to discuss its legacy today. Essays should explain the chosen topic using a specific historical event(s), explore how the injustice persists, and imagine solutions for a future free from racial injustice. Students are encouraged to reflect on how the topic impacts their own lives and communities.

How will you compel students to get interested in entering?

Central Services of Chatham County is assisting CRC-C in identifying social studies, English, history and other teachers and teams to circulate information about the essay competition to their students. They have worked closely with CRC-C Chatham to create guidelines and requirements for the contest.

We at CRC-C will offer tutorials, help with identifying resources and offer support as needed. Students are seekers of "greater truths" about social concerns. Most students will have heard of "divides" such as black/white, rich/poor and the social injustices of people of color as they have navigated through their schools and communities. The compelling topic and substantial prize money should generate interest on the part of students.

What will you be looking for in the submitted entries, and how will judging take place?

Judging will take place as outlined in the essay announcement. EJI notes that winning essays usually include the following features:

- A compelling, creative introduction

- Supportive paragraphs that use clear examples and various sources

- Personal reflections that relate to the topics and reveal how past and current-day issues relate to racial injustice in America

- A strong conclusion that ties together the main ideas and introduces a meaningful idea or call to action

- Properly gives credit to source materials to avoid plagiarism

- Has been carefully edited for spelling and grammar

Students who are selected as winners will be asked to read or share their stories at a public recognition event with the Chatham County Board of Education or the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham at a date to be announced later.

Do you envision this as an annual contest?

We will assess participation and level of interest to determine if the contest is a one-time or an annual event. This essay contest is an attempt to give students a platform for expressing their thoughts, feelings and conscience on the topic of "racial justice."

OVERDOSE

Continued from page A1

marijuana, alcohol and other substances among Chatham County's younger population, and is a part of a "prevention coalition" working with local law enforcement agencies, the county school system and more, including promoting "the safe storage and disposal of medications."

Chatham Drug Free provides community resources locally, including medication drop-off places at police stations and at several events throughout the county, hosting educational programs and initiatives — including the Safe Homes Pledge, teaching people about the Good Samaritan 911 law and more.

It focuses on reaching school-aged children, and Gregor-Holt is especially concerned with the increasing numbers of high school-aged children getting their hands on counterfeit pills — often laced with fentanyl, an opioid 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

"They're being sold over the internet, coming from Mexico and China, places overseas, not domestic," Gregor-Holt told the News + Record. "Unfortunately, we may start to hear about more young people, high school-aged people, who get involved in those kinds of overdose situations."

While Gregor-Holt hasn't witnessed an excess number of youngsters in Chatham using drugs, he and the others involved with Chatham Drug Free want to give high school students a space to hang out with friends, without exposure to marijuana, opioids, alcohol or other substances. To that end, the organization hosts a plethora of events for this age group, including Project Graduation, which gives high school seniors a drug- and alcohol-free party to celebrate graduating with their peers.

"Its goal is to keep young people off the street on graduation night because that's a high-risk night," Gregor-Holt said.

Chatham Drug Free's focus is also on preventing substance use disorder before addiction can begin.

"What our message is, it's a lot easier not to start than to start and quit," Gregor-Holt said. "I tell young people this all the time — it's one of the only diseases that, if left untreated, always



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Danielle Minges is the director of Chatham Recovery, an opioid use disorder treatment facility.

100% results in death. It's a pretty serious illness, and the more we can do to stop people from going down that path, the better success we'll have in outcomes and people getting better and having productive lives."

Chatham Recovery and their opioid addiction treatments

Another organizations working to address substance use disorder and its stigmas — particularly with opioids — is Chatham Recovery, located in Siler City. Chatham Recovery serves as an opioid treatment program providing medication-assisted therapy to help combat symptoms such as drug withdrawal and cravings.

Director Danielle Minges said her clinic uses two weaker opioids — methadone and buprenorphine — to alleviate the symptoms of quitting harsher, more dangerous drugs such as heroin or addictive pain-killers.

"I think what makes medication-assisted treatment different is that it has decades worth of evidence-based treatment and statistics on its efficacy," Minges said. "The problem with our treatment is that there's a lot of stigma around being on medication to treat opioid use disorders."

The clinic provides methadone and buprenorphine to patients, under supervision, from its offices on East 11th

Street. Methadone and buprenorphine work by activating the same receptors in the brain as stronger opioids, but it doesn't create the same euphoric high. This results in a significant reduction of withdrawal symptoms, which can lead to cravings for more dangerous substances, according to Minges.

"We try to liken it to somebody who's diabetic, and who needs to take insulin to sort of regulate and function normally," she said. "They don't feel differently — they feel like their normal selves, and this allows them to get back on their feet, keep their jobs, keep their families, keep their mental health and just allow them to function. It has a similar — not the same — effect as the opioid that they are taking illicitly but allows them to be involved in treatment and appropriate care with a provider."

Because it uses weaker opioids to treat opioid addiction, some may think Chatham Recovery is enabling addiction. Minges said that's simply not the case.

"People look at us like we're our drug dealers, and we're giving them what they think is cross-addicting them by just giving them a crutch," she said. "You could look at it that way, but we are oversought by so many regulatory bodies. We're just doing what we know works for our people."



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chatham Recovery is an opioid addiction treatment facility. It uses medicinal intervention to treat patients.

Chatham Recovery also offers counseling and therapy services to help address the mental health aspects behind opioid use disorder, ranging from individual sessions to support groups.

Minges said throughout Chatham Recovery's existence, none of its patients have ever overdosed or died from an overdose — a testament, she said, to the effectiveness of the treatment they offer.

But the medication is pricy; methadone treatments cost \$80 a week, while buprenorphine costs \$100 a week.

"Our doors are open, there's no one who can't be in treatment for the most part, but it is not

affordable," Minges said.

While she and her staff work to negotiate with the pharmaceutical suppliers to get lower prices, Minges blames lack of funding and lack of Medicaid and Medicare expansion from the state for the high cost. Chatham Recovery's programs are covered by Medicaid and Medicare insurance plans, but Minges says not enough people can access those options N.C.

"More affordability would come from our state legislators and expanding Medicaid so that more people who should be on Medicaid would be approved for Medicaid," she said.

Minges also said North Carolina legislators

allocated \$30 million last year to combat opioid use disorder. Her organization only received about \$115,000 to help provide treatment to the Siler City and Chatham County community.

"Some other organizations in our area get \$2 million to \$3 million a year," Minges said. "We do have some state funds, but that's limited to a certain number of people who come into our program, so we're full for that."

Minges wants the community to understand substance use disorder isn't something people willingly choose. Rather, it is a disease, and the treatment Chatham Recovery offers has been proven to work.

"Substance use disorders are now — and have been since [the] Obama [administration] — medical illnesses," she said. "Our treatment has generally worked for our population in keeping them alive and hopefully on the path to being able to be socially functioning adults in our community."

You can learn more about Chatham Drug Free by going to their website, <https://www.chatham-drugfree.org/>. You can learn more about Chatham Recovery's clinic and treatment options by going to their website, <https://www.morseclinics.com/locations/chatham-recovery>.

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



The Farm at Piper Hill Summer Camp 2022

Our farm offers a boutique and intimate setting. We take pride in creating an atmosphere that makes our campers all feel like family. Our weeklong overnight camps will create memories to last a lifetime!

Camp weeks begin June 12th
Last day is August 5th

To register or for more information visit www.thefarmatpiperhill.com



CWEP sponsors 'Creek Week'

The Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP) is sponsoring a Regional Creek Week March 12-19, and Chatham County is proud to be a partner in that endeavor.

The CWEP Regional Creek Week will celebrate the four rivers and numerous creeks that provide the water for

our lives and the lives of the animals and plants that live here in Chatham County as well as the waterways in surrounding counties of the Piedmont.

Creek Week offers the opportunity for the public to interact with the waters of our County through a variety

of river-oriented activities. There are programs where you can visit the rivers, hike along creeks, explore the world of aquatic insects, learn about plants that are good for streams, and participate in river clean-ups. You can also participate in the Stormwater Runoff 5K and a regional

Biothon during Creek Week. Programs will take place in person, and some are available via Zoom, Strava or iNaturalist.

To learn more about the programs being offered during Creek Week, or to register for those programs, visit:
• <https://www.chatham-countync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/watershed-protection/regional-creek-week> or
• or the CWEP website at <https://nc-cleanwater.com/2022-events/> and look for the Chatham County link to find out how you can get involved.

CAFE

Continued from page A1

humanitarian crisis arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as well as provide Chatham residents a way to support the Ukrainian people from afar.

Small B&B Cafe will offer a special dish during its weekly Wednesday brunch they're calling "Chicken Kyiv," and 10% of the profits from the special will go to Direct Relief, a charity providing humanitarian and disaster relief (<https://www.directrelief.org>) which has given more than \$33 million dollars of relief to Ukrainians so far.

The global brunch concept came from the Small B&B Cafe's head chef, Boyd, who had experience cooking various cultural dishes from around the world. The chef, Lisa and Christoffel wanted to create a place where Pittsboro and Chatham residents could have the unique experience of traveling the world through exposure to new food.

"Part of what he (Boyd) really wanted to do was share cultural dishes with people that you otherwise couldn't get anywhere," Lisa said. "Our vision is to offer people things that they can't easily get anywhere else, be more globally minded, and have more global food."

The weekly brunch special has been well received, according to Lisa, and the restaurant continues to offer the global special each Wednesday



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Small B&B Cafe in Pittsboro will offer a spin on a Ukrainian dish during its Brunch Around the World on Wednesdays.

from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

After Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Boyd decided he wanted to use the global brunch as a platform to support the Ukrainian people at a local level.

He texted his aunt to say he wanted to do something more impactful with the brunch to support the Ukrainians during the unprovoked attacks.

"This week, we need to do it with a humanitarian purpose," Boyd wrote in the text. "Let's feature Ukraine this week, help the Ukrainian people by donating the proceeds to a Ukrainian charity."

From there, Chicken Kyiv was created. The trio decided they wanted to change the spelling of

the standard name of the dish — Chicken Kiev — because it reflected the Russian spelling of the Ukrainian capital.

The dish traditionally is made with a chicken fillet pounded and rolled around garlic parsley butter, then coated with egg and seasoned bread crumbs, and either fried or baked. But Boyd is planning to put his own special twist on the dish, according to Lisa — but she does not want to reveal the chef's secrets until the Ukrainian brunch in the coming week or so.

The restaurant will also no longer feature Russia on its global brunch menu, according to Lisa.

"We just all feel so

touched by their (the Ukrainians') strength — they're just standing up for themselves, and they're fighting alongside their soldiers," Lisa said. "We just really felt like any way that we can support them, that we should do it. Whenever he (Boyd) came up with this idea, that was our way of just trying to support the Ukrainians against the Russians."

The conflict in Ukraine troubles the Verwoerds, especially Christoffel. For him, it hits close to home.

Originally from the Netherlands, Christoffel said his father and grandfather always spoke of the German occupation during World War II. He said when he heard the news of Russia's invasion, Christoffel could not help but remember his father's and grandfather's stories, leading him to draw similarities between Russia and Nazi Germany.

"Germany just sent in a bunch of paratroopers, it was basically over in five days, and then they stayed in our country for five years," Christoffel said. "Horrible things happened during those five years, and the same thing is possibly going to happen here. They've gone to pick people out, and it's not a good thing."

Christoffel still has family in the Netherlands, and he said they have been having to navigate the new political climate brought on by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He said many European countries — including the Netherlands — rely on Russia to supply them certain resources, especially with natural gas or oil.



Staff Photo by Kim Hawks

The crew at Small B&B Cafe. Owners Lisa and Christoffel Verwoerd (bottom left and top left) offer a global brunch on Wednesdays.

With new sanctions coming from NATO countries, Christoffel wonders what will happen to the supply chain back home.

"Mr. Putin can just close it up and all of Europe is freezing basically," he said. "It's a very strange feeling."

With all of these working pieces in mind, Lisa, Christoffel and the chef were ready to have "Chicken Kyiv" as their weekly special this past week. Then, a crisis closer to home: Chef R.L. fell ill and had to be hospitalized.

But by Sunday, the chef was discharged from the hospital and will hopefully return to the kitchen in the coming week to cook up the Ukrainian chicken for the cafe regulars, also called "Smaller."

If the dish is well received, Lisa said the restaurant will consider adding Chicken Kyiv to its permanent menu as a part of a new global food list, which will be completed by the end of the 80 weeks of their brunch specials.

"We are seeing what people like here, and we're getting lots of positive feedback about it," she said. "Whether Chicken Kyiv is on there, I don't know, but if we get a really great response from it, then there's a strong possibility it will be."

The Verwoerds hope to use their cafe in the future to help support other global causes. For Christoffel, he said supporting Ukraine is the first possible fundraiser

of many. "If there is something going on in a foreign country that is bad, or people need help, then we can make our tour stop in that country," Christoffel said. "People eat the local food in Pittsboro here, and then we'll donate money, so I think that makes our small cafe pretty unique."

While Pittsboro is a small community, Christoffel and Lisa said it was important as a local business to support these international causes and bring awareness at the local level. For them, it's an obligation they must fulfill.

"They need support from every level — from a local level, from a business standpoint, from other countries and from our country," Lisa said. "The best way is to try and rally our local businesses and our community to come out. This is a way that they can also support Ukraine through us, giving to a charity."

"We're supporting the people of Ukraine," Christoffel said. "We'll do our little share that we can do in Pittsboro, and we are hoping that this is coming to an end soon, peacefully."

Direct Relief says it is working directly with Ukraine's Ministry of Health and other partners in the region to provide requested medical aid, from oxygen concentrators to critical care medicines — while preparing to offer longer-term medical aid to people displaced or affected by the conflict. According to the organization's website, its focus now is on treating injuries and other trauma caused by the violence and to work with other partners to source the medical aid that will be needed in the coming weeks and months.

Small B&B Cafe is open from Wednesday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chicken Kyiv will be served once the chef has fully recovered, and you can see updates on the Small B&B Cafe menu on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SmallBBCafe>.

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1288

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of Application of Duke Energy Progress, LLC, for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct Approximately 1.3 Miles of New 230 kV Transmission Line in Chatham County, North Carolina

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 7, 2022, Duke Energy Progress, LLC (DEP or Applicant) filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for a certificate of environmental compatibility and public convenience and necessity to construct approximately 1.3 miles of new 230 kV transmission line in Chatham County, North Carolina.

The preferred route's southern endpoint is a proposed tap of DEP's existing Harris Plant – Siler City 230 kV transmission line, approximately 200 feet southeast of the Bynum Tap 230 kV transmission line. From the southern endpoint, the line is proposed to travel north, paralleling DEP's existing Bynum Tap 230 kV transmission line for approximately 1.1 miles. The proposed line then continues northeast for approximately 0.25 miles into the northern endpoint, the planned substation site, south of Hanks Chapel Road.

Anyone wishing to view DEP's application and the detailed maps concerning this project may do so on the Commission's web site, www.ncuc.net (search for Docket No. E-2 Sub 1288). These materials may also be reviewed at the following DEP location: 410 S. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, by contacting Michael Sykes at 919-546-6848 prior to the visit.

The Commission has scheduled the application for a public witness hearing at 7:00 p.m., on June 7, 2022, at the Historic Chatham County Courthouse, 9 Hillsboro Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina. This hearing may be canceled if no significant protests are received on or before May 18, 2022.

Persons desiring to intervene as formal parties of record should file a verified petition under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-103(b) and Commission Rules R1-5, R1-19, and R8-62(i) no later than Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Such a petition should be filed with the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. Intervenors shall also file the direct testimony and exhibits of expert witnesses with the Commission on or before May 18, 2022.

Persons desiring to send written statements to inform the Commission of their position in the matter should address their statements to the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300 and reference Docket No. E-2, Sub 1288. Such written statements will be included in the Commission's official files. If the public hearing is not canceled, however, such written statements cannot be considered competent evidence unless those persons submitting statements appear at a public witness hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

The Public Staff of the Utilities Commission, through its Executive Director, is authorized by statute to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Executive Director should be addressed to: Mr. Chris Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff – North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized to represent the using and consuming public in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to: The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General of North Carolina, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements may be emailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 21st day of February, 2022.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Erica N. Green Deputy Clerk

F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

Household Hazardous Waste Events 2022

FIRST EVENT: Saturday, March 19

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

28 County Services Road

(6 miles west of Pittsboro, off Hwy 64)

Chatham County residents can bring household hazardous items such as

- chemicals • cleaners • solvents • paint
- pesticides • gasoline • antifreeze • electronics

For a complete list of items visit
www.chathamcountync.gov/hhw

Future HHW events will be held the third Saturday of each month, through November.

- No trash or empty containers.**
- No business waste.**
- No decal required.**
- Must show proof of address.**



Questions? Call (919) 542-5516

OBITUARIES

BETTY JEAN JONES GINGRAS



On Tuesday, January 25, 2022, Betty Jean Jones Gingras, age 89 of Huntsville, Alabama, passed away with family by her side. She was born in Bear Creek, on August 21, 1932, the daughter of James Worth Jones and Leta Oldham Jones.

Betty married Herbert Leo Gingras in 1957, and as an Army family, they traveled the country and the world. Betty enjoyed reading, college sports, gardening, and was a member of the Huntsville Garden

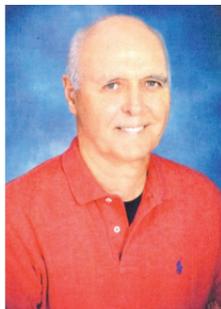
Club for many years. Her absolute joy was her children and grandchildren, and she spent many years traveling to visit them as they are scattered across the country.

Her three children survive her: Ms. September Gingras Blain of Memphis, TN.; Lt. Col. (retired) Jeffrey Lee Gingras and his wife Tina of Tucson, AZ; Mrs. Jean Gingras Denton and her husband Donald of Washington, DC; four grandchildren, Capt. Alexa Marie Gingras of Travis AFB, CA, Mr. Jacob Lee Gingras and his wife Tianah of Tuscaloosa, AL., Mr. Zachary Worth Denton of Pittsburgh, PA; and Ms. Shelby Gingras Denton of New York City, NY. Betty is preceded in death by her husband of fifty-two years, Herbert Gingras.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery on a date later in 2022. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Huntsville Botanical Garden (<https://hsvbg.org>), 4747 Bob Wallace Ave. SW, Huntsville, AL 35805.

<https://obits.al.com/us/obituaries/huntsville/name/betty-gingrasobituary?id=32504477>

HARRY LEE GOODWIN



Harry Lee Goodwin, 78, of Apex, passed away Saturday, March 5, 2022.

He was born to the late Clarence and Margaret Arthurs Goodwin and raised in eastern Chatham County, where he was a lifelong member of Bells Baptist Church.

A graduate of Pittsboro High School in 1962, he received his BS from Campbell University in 1966. A beloved educator and coach of 30 years, he taught science, health, and physical education at Pittsboro High

School, as well as Horton Middle School. During his retirement years, he could be found working in his vegetable garden, golfing, and often traveling with his late wife, Joy Clifton Goodwin. He was an avid lover of all sports, but specifically enjoyed following the UNC Tar Heels, and attending Carolina Hurricanes games. He was a loving father, grandfather, and friend, who will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

Harry is survived by his daughter, Leigh Goodwin of Cary; his son, Steve Goodwin of Clayton; his grandchildren, Anna Grace Johnson, Claire Goodwin, Isabelle Goodwin; and his sister, Donna Cole of Greensboro.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Bells Baptist Church in Apex. A reception will follow at the church.

Online condolences may be sent to www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

SANDRA OWENS BUTLER



Sandra Owens Butler passed away on Monday, February 21st, 2022, at the age of 76, surrounded by her loving family.

Sandy was born on September 3rd, 1945, in Wilson, N.C., the daughter of Bertha Marie Owens and Albert Elmo Owens. She lived most of her adult life in Pittsboro, N.C., a community she deeply cherished. She spent the majority of her career working for the Environmental Protection Agency as a computer

programmer and graphic designer. In her retirement she went on to work as a CNA in the Chatham area.

Sandy will be remembered by those who knew her for her love of animals, traditional southern home cooking, sense of humor, passion for gardening, dramatic storytelling, caring friendship, ability to overcome medical obstacles, and love for her family. Sandy is preceded in death by her parents and two sisters.

She is survived by her two children, her daughter Jennifer Mullins of South Carolina and her son Michael Mullins of Kansas, his wife Rebecca Mullins; and her grandchildren Sophia and Von. She also leaves behind Lulu, her devoted dog companion.

A celebration of life will be held in Pittsboro, N.C., in her honor at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Chatham Animal Rescue and Education (CARE) in Sandy's name.

BARBARA HAYES TESH

Barbara Hayes Tesh, 65, of Robbins, passed away on Monday, February 28, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at Pleasant Grove Christian Church with Pastor Neal Kight officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Ms. Tesh was born in Chatham County on August 3, 1956, the daughter of Ralph Thomas and Wilma Phillips Hayes. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her son, Danny Joe Speight, brothers, Henry Carlton Hayes, Lacey Earl Hayes, Ralph Jr. Hayes, Hobert Harrison Hayes, Norman Lewis Hayes, Jerry Wayne Hayes, Raeford Thomas Hayes, and sister, Wilma May Hayes.

She is survived by her son, Bruce Allen Speight of Asheville; brother, John Henry Hayes of Robbins; and sisters, Irene Lois Atkins and Shirley Jean DeBord of Siler City.

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

MARVIN E. GASTER

Marvin E. Gaster, 87, passed away at his home in Sanford on March 4, 2022.

The funeral service was conducted Monday, March 7, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Center United Methodist Church with Rev. Jarrod Davis officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born December 21, 1934, in Sanford, the son of Gaton and Virginia Gaster. Marvin taught school in Moore County for 30 years before retiring. He was a renowned musician on the banjo and fiddle. Marvin was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Catherine.

Survivors include his four children, Mike Gaster, Charlotte Gaster, Jeff Gaster, all of Sanford and Marie Gaster of Greensboro; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Please consider memorial donations to Center United Methodist Church, 4141 S. Plank Rd., Sanford, NC 27330.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JUNE CAROL JOHNSON EASTER



June Carol Johnson Easter went to her heavenly home on March 5, 2022.

Mrs. Easter was born in Chatham County on January 3, 1951, the daughter of Eulas and Lillie Elmore Johnson. June was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She worked at Roses as a teenager, and other department stores later on, as well as in the office of Kellwood Hosiery. After marriage she later spent time as an American Greeting Merchandiser. She worked for Glendale Hosiery for a number of years, also working for Walmart for several years before becoming unable to work. The family attended Franklinville Pentecostal Holiness Church, where she helped with the Nursing Home Ministries. June was a Licensed Mission Worker/Local Minister through the Cornerstone Conference of the Pentecostal Holiness Church. June also worked with her husband as an Assistant Conference Food Service Coordinator with Royal Rangers of the Cornerstone Conference. She was presently attending the West Asheboro Church of God. She loved to send greeting cards, such as Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Cheer, etc. to all of her family, friends, and church family. In addition to her parents, June is preceded in death by her brothers, Rexford, Paul, Herman and Herbert Johnson, and sisters, Ruby Abee and Magdalene Gaines.

June is survived by her husband of 51 1/2 years, Larry R. Easter of Siler City; son, Stephen Easter of the home; daughter, Angela Easter Weeks and husband, Rev. Shelton Weeks, Jr. of Elizabeth City; son, Kevin Easter and friend Robin Lawrence of Sanford; grandchildren, Caleb Weeks, Noah Easter and Silas Easter; brother, Roland Johnson and wife Bunny of North Wilkesboro; sisters, Doris Tallent and husband Rev. James Tallent of Yadkinville, and Margaret Hough of Siler City.

Memorials may be made to the Hospice House of Randolph County, <https://www.hospiceofrandolph.org/donate/>

The family received friends on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 2 p.m. at the Smith & Buckner Chapel with Rev. James Tallent officiating. Burial followed at Oakwood Cemetery.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Easter Family.

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

JUNIOR PHILLIPS

Junior Phillips, 77, of Siler City, went to his heavenly home on Monday, February 28, 2022, at UNC Hospital.

A Celebration of Life was held at 12 p.m. on Friday, March 4, 2022, at Life Springs Church, 3215 Keller Andrews Rd., Sanford with Pastor Shane Wilson officiating.

Mr. Phillips was born in Chatham County on October 30, 1944, the son of William C. Phillips Sr. and Lydia Thomas Phillips.

William was a proud U.S. Army Veteran. He was a member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church, and attended Life Springs Church in Sanford. He spent his working years as a self-employed carpenter. William loved being outside, hunting, fishing and spending time in his garden. He was a beloved family man, and cherished his grandchildren.

William spent years coaching baseball. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his son, Keith Phillips, and sister, Janet K. Bennett.

He is survived by his sons, Chris Phillips and wife Amanda, Daren Phillips and wife Heather, all of Siler City, and Lynn Wood and wife Ashley of West End; daughter, Lauren Baker and husband Jay of Sanford; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, www.cff.org

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Phillips family.

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

EVELYN RENEE WEBSTER PISCULLI

Evelyn Renee Webster Pisculli, 66, of Cameron, passed away on Monday, February 28, 2022, at Duke Raleigh Hospital.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 12 p.m. in the chapel of Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. Burial followed in Cumberland Memorial Gardens.

She was born November 22, 1955, to the late Walter Cecil and Evelyn Louise Shephard Webster. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Michael S. Diaz and three brothers, William Lee Webster, Walter David Webster and John Anthony Webster. She was a troop leader with the Boy Scouts.

She leaves behind a son, Patric David Pisculli of Cameron; brothers, Timothy Jay Webster of Hope Mills, Alan Wayne Webster of Georgia and Wendell Scott Webster of Cameron.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

JASON EDWARD ROBINSON

Jason Edward Robinson, 44, passed away February 9, 2022, in Georgia.

He is from Chatham County, N.C. He was preceded in death by his mother, Leanne Gunter Robinson.

Survivors include his father, Joseph Robinson; sisters, Misty Batten, Penny Coker, all of Siler City; brother, Jamie Robinson of Pennsylvania; son, Cody Robinson; daughters, Keely, Emma, and Abbie Robinson.

BERTHA MAE TURMAN

Ms. Bertha Mae Turman, 84 of Goldston passed away on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital in Sanford.

Graveside service was held Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. at Roberts Chapel Church.

JAZZ SILER

Jazz Siler, 85, of Siler City, passed away at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill, on Friday, March 4, 2022.

Arrangements are by Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

THELMA JEAN MINTER

Thelma Jean Minter, 59, of Sanford passed away on Monday, February 28, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

CEOLA (HEADEN) MARTIN

Ceola Martin, 92, of Siler City, passed away on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at Chatham Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

PHILLIP EARL CHECKETTS

Phillip Earl Checketts, 57, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at UNC Hospital.

A celebration of life will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Cameron United Methodist Church with Rev. William Altman officiating.

He was born in Canoga Park, California, on January 16, 1965, to Darrell Allen and Nancy Sanders Checketts. He worked as an insurance broker and was an active member of Cameron United Methodist Church.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife of 33 years, Jacki; sons, Darrell and Dylan; daughter, Montanna; brothers, Robert, Glenn and Paul; sisters, Linda and Barbara.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

PERCY WEBSTER HORTON

Percy Webster Horton, 88, of Durham, passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at UNC Memorial Hospital.

The memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2022, at Mount Pisgah Baptist Church with the Rev. Tim Williford and the Rev. Randy Umberger, officiating. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial with Masonic rites will follow in the church cemetery.

He was born in Wake County on July 20, 1933, son of Ambrose Coley Horton and Myrtle Darius Yates Horton. He was preceded in death by his parents and wife Nancy Carolyn Byrd Horton. He was a farmer. He retired from the UNC Power Plant.

He is survived by his daughters, Cindy A. Horton of the home, Wanda Horton and Pamela "Pam" Powell, both of Durham; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that memorial donations can be made to a charity of your choice, or to your favorite church.

Online condolences can be made to www.smithfuneralhomeoncure.com.

STEPHANIE LYNETTE ALSTON

Stephanie Lynette Alston, 44, of Liberty passed away Monday, February 28, 2022, in Raleigh.

Graveside funeral was held Saturday, March 5, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Oakwood Cemetery in Siler City.

Stephanie was born January 10, 1978, in Chapel Hill to Kenneth Coy Lee and Cindy Jo Alston. She was preceded in death by her grandmothers, Esther Lee and Eula Mae Alston; grandfathers, Colon Alston Sr. and Haywood Lee.

Survivors include her sons, Devante Gray, Demetri Greaux, Quentin Morgan; her parents, Cindy Jo Alston and Kenneth Coy Lee; sister, Sandra Alston; and brothers, Kenneth Alston and David Williams.

ROBERT CRAIG

Robert Craig, 81, of Chapel Hill, passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at Carver Living Center in Durham.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

MAVIS ARZALLIA (BROWER) FLEMING

Mavis Arzallia Fleming, 95 of Cameron, passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at her residence.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

ISIAH MARSH

Mr. Isiah Marsh, 89, of Bear Creek, passed away at his home on Thursday, March 03, 2022.

Services are being provided by Knotts and Son, Siler City.

See **OBITUARIES**, page A11

CHATHAM MONUMENT CO.

Charles Campbell



Greg Campbell

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Over 50 years experience designing, lettering and erecting monuments in Siler City and surrounding area.
Opposite Smith & Buckner Funeral Home

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A10

SHIRLEY CAGLE SMITH

Shirley Jean Cagle Smith, 71, of Sanford, passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022, at Sanford Health and Rehab.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

She was born in Richmond County, on April 15, 1950, daughter of the late Hugh Cagle and Bertie Mae Collins Cagle. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Glenn Smith.

Surviving are her daughters, Cheryl Baker of Cameron, and Kelli Homesley of Mebane; sister, Barbara Ann Bradley of Cheraw, S.C.; brother, Eddie Cagle of Rockingham; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smith-funeralhomebroadway.com.

Arrangements are by the Smith Funeral Home of Broadway.

BRENDA LYNN WALTERS

Brenda Lynn Walters, 42, passed away on Sunday, February 27, 2022, at her residence in Lillington.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

DARRYL PRESCOTT RUFFIN III

Darryl Prescott Ruffin III, 18, of Siler City, passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2022.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Early bloomer

The stellata star magnolia one of the first magnolias to bloom in early spring.

Siler City announces interim manager, ends mask mandate in town facilities

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — In a short Monday meeting, commissioners unanimously approved a contract for an interim town manager following manager Roy Lynch's resignation in January.

William "Bill" A. Zell of Aberdeen will come to Siler City to fill in as the town manager until the town hires a full-time manager. Zell worked as the town manager for Aberdeen, according to his LinkedIn page.

The contract states Zell will work for \$50 per hour and no more than 30 hours per week; he won't be paid benefits.

Zell will work for Siler City starting on March 21, where he will shadow Lynch for a week before Lynch takes a new position with Chatham County.

Lynch also announced an end to the mask mandate in Siler City town facilities. This comes after Gov. Roy Cooper urged for municipal governments and schools to lift mandates as a shift

toward a post-pandemic world.

"We do still recommend that those who want to wear them to continue to do that, but we have lifted that policy," Lynch told the board.

Other business

Lynch also alerted the board about the town's cemetery and the status of available plots.

"Last week, we did sell the final cemetery plot that was available, so the town no longer has any available," he said.

Because of this, the town will not include revenue from cemetery land sales into its 2022 budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Chip Price said Siler City needs to communicate that to churches in the area who utilize the town's burial grounds.

"We need to let churches know that there are none available, and I think that may solve a few problems going forward," Price said.

Council on Aging to join in month-long March for Meals celebration

From the Chatham Council on Aging

The Chatham County Council on Aging will participate in a special March for Meals celebration honoring the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Program, the federal legislation that helps to fund community-based programs like Meals on Wheels.

Throughout the month of March, the COA will join the national Meals on Wheels

network to raise awareness and rally support for this vital public-private partnership that has helped provide the seniors in Chatham County with an essential service needed to remain healthy and independent at home.

"Our Meals on Wheels program is one of our most vital services at the Council on Aging," COA Interim Director Lacey Monte said. "We are proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act Nu-

trition Program by giving the public multiple ways to show its support for this important effort."

The annual March for Meals celebration commemorates the historic day in March of 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. This year, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country are joining forces for the awareness campaign to celebrate 50 years of success and garner the support needed to ensure these critical programs can continue to address food insecurity and malnutrition, combat social isolation,

enable independence, and improve health for years to come.

"The Older Americans Act Nutrition Program is the only federally supported program designed to be an antidote for both senior hunger and isolation," said Ellie Hollander, president and CEO of Meals on Wheels America. "Despite decades of proven success and bipartisan support, funding for this program has failed to keep pace with the rapidly growing need for its services. With the nation's senior population increasing dramatically, now is the time to support local Meals on Wheels programs — through volunteering, donating and speaking out — to ensure we are able to deliver for

another 50 years."

Through the month of March, the Council's celebration will include local and state leaders taking part in Meals on Wheels delivery routes within Chatham County. Individuals and businesses can sponsor a delivery day of their choice in March by contacting the Council at 919-542-4512 for more information and may donate any amount of their choice online at <https://givebuter.com/COAMarch>

All monies donated will go to the Council's Meals on Wheels program.

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.

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\$33.99
Welding Helmet
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30-Pack AAA
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-Blake Hogg,
General Manager

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NEWS BRIEF

Western Intake Partnership announces Phase 1 of water treatment

PITTSBORO — The Western Intake Partnership announces the start of Phase 1 of the Jordan Lake Water Supply Project. The Western Intake Partnership, made up of Chatham County, the City of Durham, and the Town of Pittsboro, was formed in 2014 to focus on securing a long-term regional water supply together for the communities they serve. In 2020, following extensive study, the Partnership decided to move forward with a plan to withdraw and treat water from Jordan Lake and deliver it to partner water systems.

Jordan Lake is a vital regional resource. It is a popular place for recre-

ation, supplies water to surrounding communities, controls flooding and water quality, and helps conserve fish and wildlife habitats. Now the lake will provide the growing communities of the Western Intake Partnership with a reliable source of clean drinking water, while protecting the reservoir's other uses.

During Phase 1 of the Jordan Lake Water Supply Project, the Partnership will identify and investigate facility location and pipeline route alternatives, determine the capacities required, evaluate treatment process alternatives, evaluate and select the governance model for the Partnership, and conduct an environmental review process. This process is expected to continue through 2024. In future phases, the project is expected to begin

construction in 2027 and be completed by 2031. The project includes:

- A new water treatment facility, intake facility, and pump station on Jordan Lake near the Vista Point recreation area, and finished water transmission pipelines/booster pumping
- A water supply pipeline to deliver water from the intake facility to a new water treatment facility
- A water treatment facility on currently owned property near Jordan Lake

Drinking water transmission pipelines to deliver water to Partner distribution systems.

Consultants associated with the project have begun work on a site being considered for the proposed water treatment facility. Their work will include a field survey, preliminary geotechnical investigations, and environmental resource surveys, such as wetland and stream delineations. The site being considered is owned by Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) in the vicinity of Jordan Lake.

OWASA is engaged with the Western Intake Partnership but is not a member. OWASA is currently working to finalize a decision on how to meet its long-term water supply needs.

Information about the project can be found at www.WesternIntakePartnership.com. Questions may be emailed to contact@westernintakepartnership.com or phoned in to a project hotline at 919-379-5774.

—CN+R staff reports

Happy Birthday

to my Dear Friend-
You are Fabulous!!!



We know the Haw is in bad shape. So what can we do?

Pollutants in the Haw River have made headlines across the state in the past year, but nowhere is the impact of those pollutants greater than in Chatham County.

This week, we bring the second of a two-part interview with two of the leading voices fighting for a cleaner Haw River — Emily Sutton of the Haw River Assembly and Katie Bryant of Clean Haw River. The discussion below is a follow-up to a recent edition of The Chatcast, the podcast of the News + Record, which can be heard at this link:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/707235/10023234>.

Sutton joined the staff of Haw River Assembly in 2016, managing citizen science projects to watchdog against sediment pollution and monitor the tributaries and main stem of the Haw River. As Riverkeeper, she is now leading the fight against pollution in the Haw River on many fronts, including emerging contaminants, Jordan Lake nutrients, and sediment pollution.

Bryant moved to Pittsboro in the summer of 2011. She is a microbiologist and clean water activist dedicated to combating America's water crisis.

Her background includes biomedical research and development, and pharmaceutical and personal care quality assurance. She and her family live just outside Pittsboro.

What does the law and existing regulations say about PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane discharges in rivers, and what leverage does it give the town of Pittsboro and water users?

SUTTON: The Clean Water Act mandates that any discharge into waters must be disclosed in a discharge permit. That federal law is clear, even though our state regulatory agencies have failed to require disclosure on permits. However, the process for regulating how much of something can be discharged is painfully slow. Chemical manufacturers are not required to disclose what their compounds contain, what it is used in, where it is discharged, or what the health risks are of that chemical compound. They are given an "innocent until proven guilty" status.

Once a contaminant is discovered and identified through sampling and analysis, the process for regulating it takes years of health studies and scientific research before it will be considered on the EPA's "Contaminant Candidate List," which may or may not lead to regulatory limits in the subsequent years. Meanwhile, communities are being exposed to these toxins every day.

For PFAS, two compounds within that class of 10,000+ have regulatory limits. PFOS and PFOA levels can not exceed 70ug/L, which has been widely criticized for being far too high. Other states are beginning to regulate PFAS with a class approach. This prevents the regulatory "whack-a-mole" for chemical companies; one compound gets regulated and another with a slightly changed chemical composition is put in its place.

For 1,4-Dioxane, we have a numeric limit of 0.35ug/L in water supply watersheds. This regulatory limit needs to be

strongly enforced by our state agencies in order to have meaningful protection for communities downstream.

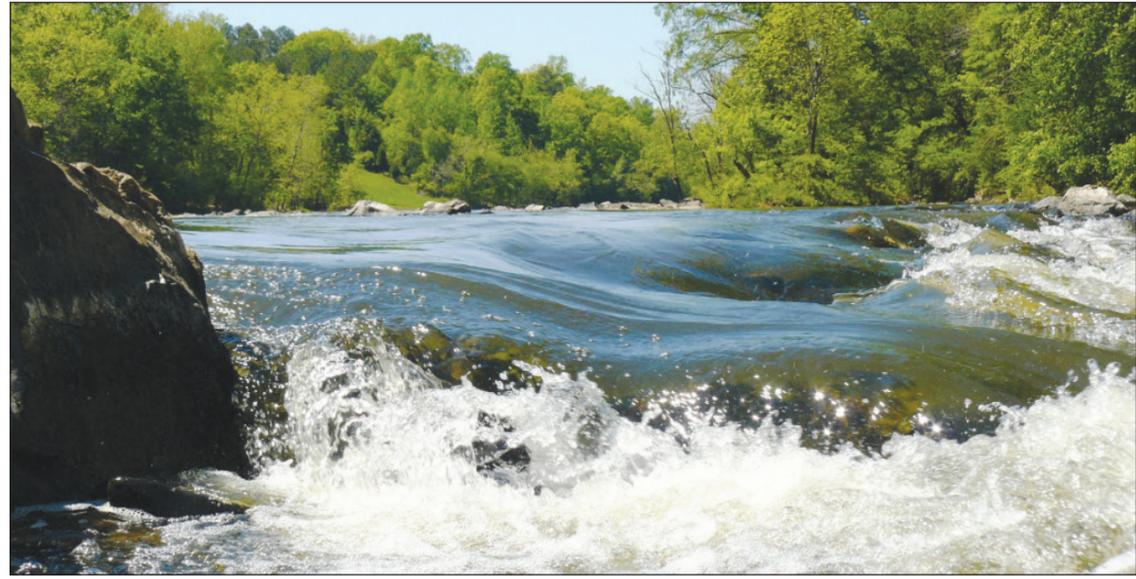
BRYANT: Regarding PFAS, as Emily said, we currently have an EPA health advisory limit of 70 ppt for PFOS and PFOA (only two of the nearly 8000 versions of PFAS). However, that limit is useless since PFOS and PFOA have been phased out of manufacturing. We now have shorter chain PFAS coming downstream to Pittsboro that are showing to pose an even bigger risk to human health.

The EPA has had enough data to make changes in these health advisory limits — and experts agree the limits should reflect the class of compounds, not one or two. For instance, some states are trying to pass a standard of 10 ppt to include all PFAS collectively which is a more reasonable demand considering these compounds are still being used daily in manufacturing. Experts, however, are also arguing 1 ppt collectively should be the max when considering the bioaccumulation — but this is nearly impossible to be adopted into regulation.

We need more protection in Pittsboro. Our water has been used as positive controls in studies here in the state — this is not OK. I am confident as research continues to reveal the impact these compounds are having on towns like Pittsboro; the water users will be able to move forward with legal action. I've already started putting my energy into this and hoping to make progress this year.

Both of your organizations have worked diligently on these issues for some time now. Can you share what your focus has been lately, and where your Haw focus is right now?

BRYANT: Clean Haw River is now focusing on creating more conversations between Pittsboro and upstream polluting municipalities. We spoke in December at



A view of the Haw River, Pittsboro's drinking water source.

Courtesy of Haw River Assembly

We need more protection in Pittsboro. Our water has been used as positive controls in studies here in the state — this is not OK.

KATIE BRYANT, Clean Haw River

the Greensboro board of commissioners' meeting in hopes of creating a relationship and regular communication. Based on the most recent 2021 dumps of 1,4-Dioxane into the Haw River and the lack of enforcement of the Special Order of Consent, we thought it would be beneficial for the BOC members to see the faces of their neighbors they are sending toxic water to. We plan to keep this momentum and will be speaking soon to Reidsville and Burlington as well.

SUTTON: We are continuing our investigation with the City of Burlington to identify the industrial facilities responsible within that system for the PFAS discharges in order to eliminate that contamination. We are also working to ensure Greensboro meets the monitoring requirements agreed to in our challenge of the Special Order by Consent.

I am working with Riverkeepers across the state to identify potential sources of PFAS: land-



Courtesy of Haw River Assembly

Emily Sutton is the Haw Riverkeeper for the Haw River Assembly.

fills, airports, military bases, wastewater treatment plants, and industrial dischargers. We are pushing N.C.'s Department of Environmental Quality to uphold the federal laws laid out in the Clean Water Act and require disclosure, but move beyond that bare minimum requirement to use the analysis done nationwide to move towards a regulatory limit on PFAS as a class.

When it comes to water — and we're talking the Haw and beyond — what else should be on our radar in terms of future water quality and environmental concerns in Chatham County?

SUTTON: In the next 10 years, we are going to see exponential growth in this county. This will lead to increases in water use, water discharges, and pollution from development. The proposed water allocation transfer from Sanford poses the same risks of

contamination that we see now — the levels of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane in Sanford have been even higher than our levels in the Haw. Increasing the quantity of our intake from the Haw could leave the river below adequate flow levels in times of droughts. The expansion to use Jordan Lake as a reservoir is a much safer alternative.

The risks of unchecked development are a major concern for us. Clearing 6,000 acres of forest to build out Chatham Park will result in a significant loss of trees and buffers along streams and the Haw River. Those trees filter out pollutants, slow velocity of runoff and hold in the soil to prevent sedimentation and erosion. We have been monitoring development associated with Chatham Park and have already seen significant sedimentation issues in every major rain event. We have a citizen science program to help us identify sedimentation issues and

report them to county officials. I urge community members to take part and help us to keep an eye on development and prevent sedimentation from polluting our streams.

BRYANT: The water will be a concern for some time. This isn't going away anytime soon. Because these contaminants persist and bioaccumulate, cleaning up and tracking down the contamination will last long after laws and regulations are passed. In addition to identifying our industry polluters we need to be aware of the following:

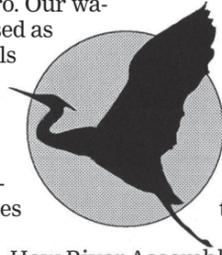
1. North Carolina has unlined landfills leaching into waterways (potentially into groundwater) that desperately needs to be addressed.

2. Sludge (biosolids from wastewater treatment) applied to land is running off into the river during rainy seasons and needs to be screened before being land applied.

3. The urban water cycle holds these contaminants within the cycle and are found in the soil, air, and locally grown foods. These too will need to be screened to ensure our safety by the FDA.

4. Improved infrastructure and more advanced treatment technology will be required as new chemicals are used in manufacturing processes — this will be imperative to get ahead of the chemical industry.

For more information:
• <https://www.facebook.com/cleanhawriver/>
• <https://hawriver.org>



CHATHAM IS BOLD!



Northwood FFA student gets scholarship to attend summer leadership conference

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Northwood High School junior Matthew Sullivan received a scholarship last week through the North Carolina Future Farmers of America Association to attend a national leadership conference this summer in Washington, D.C.

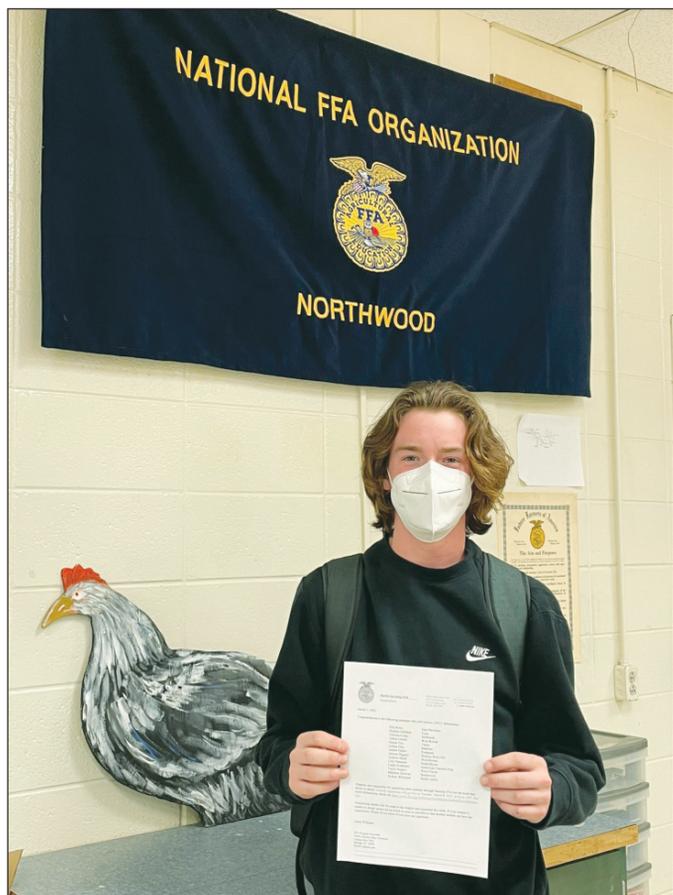
An officer of Northwood's FFA chapter, Sullivan was one of 15 scholarship recipients statewide — and the only from Chatham County — according to club advisor Lindsay Davis. Sullivan originally applied in early February, and after an interview two weeks ago, he received word that he'd been awarded the scholarship last Tuesday.

"I'm just really excited for the conference and to get to attend and have this opportunity," Sullivan, 16, told the News + Record.

First created in 1969, the National FFA Organization's Washington Leadership Conference brings together FFA members from all over the country for five days to develop their leadership abilities and create service plans designed to make a difference in their communities. Any high school-aged FFA member may attend the conference.

"WLC inspires FFA members to become changemakers in their communities," the National FFA wrote about the conference on its website. "Each day of the conference focuses on a different principle taught through the context of our nation's capital; those pillars being Explore, Encourage, Advocate and Serve."

The conference also builds in time for students to tour some of the capital's most significant historical sites and landmarks, plus a few hours to meet their congressional representatives and senators



Courtesy of Northwood FFA's Twitter account

Matthew Sullivan, a Northwood junior and FFA member, received a scholarship to attend a national leadership conference in Washington, D.C., this summer. He's been involved in Northwood's FFA chapter since his first year of high school.

— something in which Sullivan said he's particularly interested.

"I definitely want to make the most out of the opportunity, and as an individual, I'm very interested in learning more about, like, my political leaders, so I can do a better job of staying active and kind of knowing what's happening locally and on a state level and nationally," he said. "So I think being able to meet with a senator would be a great opportunity for me, and also just for being able to meet

new people and to have that experience."

This summer's conference will offer seven five-day sessions to students beginning Tuesday, June 7, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel and ending Saturday, July 30. It's the first conference the National FFA Organization has held since 2019, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It's also Sullivan's first time attending the conference — as well as one of the few in-person FFA events he'll participate in since joining the organization

in his first year of high school.

"Because the pandemic started whenever I was a freshman, a lot of the events that took place were virtual for me," he said, "and so, this is definitely the biggest event that I'm going to be attending in person, which is really exciting."

According to the conference's fee structure, student participation usually costs just over \$1,000 — a sum Sullivan's scholarship will cover in full.

"Getting the scholarship makes it a lot easier to go because I don't have to fund-raise through the chapter for the event," he said, adding, "It covers pretty much everything except for transportation to and from the event, and as of right now, I think my advisor and I are both planning on going."

Since registration just opened this week, he's not yet sure which session he'll attend, but he said he and his FFA advisor are probably leaning toward sometime in June.

"It'll be a great experience for me to be able to go but also to be able to bring back what I learned because I think by the end of the conference, from my understanding, is that you develop a plan for what you can implement at your local chapter," Sullivan added. "And so, it'll be a great way that I can have a plan for next year of what we're going to accomplish and what we can do to be more involved in the community."

Sullivan originally joined Northwood's FFA chapter in his first year of high school to learn more about different career paths and agriculture more broadly.

"I signed up for agriscience and horticulture my freshman year," he said, "and then I just kind of kept on doing more

things to be involved."

During Sullivan's junior year, Northwood FFA members built duck boxes to be placed along Jordan Lake, according to Davis, and organized numerous breakfasts honoring farmers, teachers and school staff. They've also created a program called "Hero Helpers" to thank local heroes, including veterans, front-line workers and first responders, for their service by deep-cleaning their yards. A crew of 20 students, including Sullivan, cleaned two such homes over Thanksgiving break last year and plan to clean several more over Spring Break next month.

Beyond his FFA membership, Sullivan's also involved in Boy Scouts, his church's youth group, the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club and various other extracurriculars and athletics at Northwood.

"Matthew is a wonderful student academically, and he is an outstanding leader in our FFA Chapter," Davis told the News + Record. "He comes up with new and innovative ideas and is very passionate about giving back to the community."

While he's looking forward to developing a community service plan, touring D.C. and meeting his congressional representatives, Sullivan said he's most excited about meeting other students and FFA members from around the country.

"I think that'll be a really cool opportunity to be able to meet with people that I would never have had the opportunity to meet before and also just to be able to have a new experience," he said. "I'm going to go into it with, like, an open mind and just hoping to have the best experience possible."

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

Estate plans let you control your legacy

When you hear "estate planning," what do you think of? For many people, these words evoke images of immense wealth. But estate planning isn't just for the wealthy — it's for everyone. And it's about more than preserving wealth — it's about putting you in control of your own legacy. But how can you achieve this worthy goal?

You can start by identifying your estate planning objectives. Here are some of the most common ones:

- Controlling movement of assets to beneficiaries — During and after your lifetime, you will want to ensure your loved ones receive what you want them to have, and when. Through documents such as a will and a living trust, and techniques involving life insurance and using proper beneficiary designations, you — not the courts — will control the movement of your assets to the desired recipients.

- Naming someone to make decisions for you if you become incapacitated — Naturally, you hope to stay in good physical and mental shape throughout your life and remain capable of making your own financial and health care decisions. But the future is not ours to see, so, to protect your interests and those of your loved ones, you may want to consider creating arrangements such as a power of attorney, health care directive and a living will. In this way, you'll still be able to control the key choices that may lie ahead.

- Providing for minor children or dependents — If you have young children or other dependents, you'll want to be sure they'll be looked after if you aren't around. In your estate plans, you can name a guardian for them. You can also use various estate planning tools, such as life insurance, beneficiary designations and the establishment of a trust to provide

the necessary financial resources for your loved ones.

- Supporting charitable organizations — Leaving something behind for your family is obviously an enormous part of your legacy — but it may also be important to you to provide support for charitable groups whose work you've admired. Of course, you can contribute to these organizations while you're alive, but through strategies such as donor-advised funds and charitable remainder trusts, you can include these groups in your estate plans.

- Managing taxes efficiently — If you're likely to have a large estate, your heirs may need to be concerned with income and estate taxes. To help control these taxes, you can take a number of steps, such as making outright gifts to your family during your lifetime, establishing an irrevocable life insurance trust, creating a family limited partnership and making charitable donations.

All the estate-planning strategies and techniques mentioned here can be complex — so, to implement them, you'll need to work with an estate planning attorney and a tax professional. You may also want to include your financial advisor, who can help ensure your estate planning objectives align with your important financial goals, such as living comfortably in retirement and providing for your children's or grandchildren's education.

By identifying your objectives and working with your professional team, you can create an effective estate plan — and help yourself maintain control of your legacy.

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

CCCC hosts spring job fairs

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College will host three spring job fairs during March, including one in Chatham County.

A variety of career opportunities will be represented during the events, with jobs available in distribution/logistics, manufacturing, robotics and engineering, insurance and financial services, electrical distribution/sales, health care, retail, nonprofits, and government agencies.

The Chatham County job fair will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro.

Companies and agencies that will be represented include A.D. Tubi USA Inc., ADUSA Distribution, Arauco North America, ATI Industrial Automation, BuildSense, Carolina Living and Learning Center, Caterpillar Inc., Central Carolina Community College, Clayton Animal Hospital, D&H RV and Marine, Fitch Creations Inc. (dba Fearrington Village), Gildan/Frontier Yarns, Humane Homes NC LLC, Keston Care, Liberty Commons of Lee County, Liberty Healthcare Management, Mountaire Farms Inc., PalletOne, Piedmont Health Services Inc., Protolabs, PSSI, Randstad USA, Sanford Contractors, and Wilson Brothers Trucking.

The Lee County job fair will be held Thursday, March 17, also from 1 to 4 p.m., at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center, 1801 Nash St., Sanford. Companies and agencies that will be represented include Abzena, ADUSA Distribution, All Ways Caring HomeCare, Arauco North America, Arden Co., ATI Industrial Automation, Avian & Exotic Animal Care, Caterpillar Inc., Central Carolina Community College, Clay Hamilton State Farm, Clayton Animal Hospital, Consolidated Electrical Distributors, D&H RV and Marine, Dorman Products, Frontier Yarns/Gildan, Gould & Goodrich, Ingram Family YMCA, Liberty Commons of Lee County, Liberty Healthcare Management, Mertek Solutions Inc., Moen, Mountaire Farms, PalletOne, Partnership for Children and Families, Pentair, Piedmont Health Services Inc., Pinehurst Medical

In addition, virtual job-ready boot camps will be available from 9 a.m. to noon before the start of the job fairs. The virtual seminars are led by knowledgeable career counselors and career coaches.

Clinic, PSSI, Randstad USA, RoviSys, Sanford Contractors, Small Animal Emergency Services, STI Polymer, The Shed Depot of NC LLC, Tractor Supply Company, and Wilson Brothers Trucking.

The Harnett County job fair will be held Wednesday, March 30, at the Dunn Community Center, 205 Jackson Road, Dunn, beginning at 1 p.m. Companies and agencies that will be represented include Abzena, ADUSA Distribution, Arauco North America, Bulldog Hose Company, Caterpillar Inc., Central Carolina Community College, Clay Hamilton State Farm, Clayton Animal Hospital, Gould & Goodrich, Gray Flex Systems Inc., Harnett Health, Harnett Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Johnston County Industries, Liberty Commons of Lee County, Morgan Advanced Materials, NC Department of Public Safety, Overland Contracting Inc., Randstad USA, Sanford Contractors, and Seniors Helpers.

Pre-registration for the job fairs is recommended at cccc-springjobfair.eventbrite.com. For more information on the job fairs, call 919-718-7065 or email to careercenter@cccc.edu.

In addition, virtual job-ready boot camps will be available from 9 a.m. to noon before the start of the job fairs. The virtual seminars are led by knowledgeable career counselors and career coaches. Topics will include Perfecting Your Resume, Networking and Interview Skills, and Charting an Education and/or Career Path. Participants will have access to free one-on-one counseling.

For more information on the Virtual Boot Camp, call 919-718-7073 or email to careercenter@cccc.edu.

For more information on Central Carolina Community College, which is dedicated to providing pathways to achievable dreams, visit www.cccc.edu.

A DAY in the LIFE of Chatham Hospital

Chatham Hospital has been serving the Siler City and Chatham County community for almost 100 years. It has evolved from operating out of a physician's home in the 1930s to a dedicated facility on West Third Street in the 1950s, to its current location on Progress Boulevard in 2008.

Through the decades, Chatham Hospital has served thousands upon thousands of people from Siler City, from Chatham County, from North Carolina, and from across the nation.

Today, it's a part of UNC Health — a not-for-profit integrated health care system owned by the state of North Carolina and based in Chapel Hill. Siler City's 25-bed hospital serves more than 20,000 patients per year with acute care, maternity care, emergency

care, and a host of other clinical services — including cardiac rehabilitation, physical therapy, imaging, and respiratory therapy, to name a few.

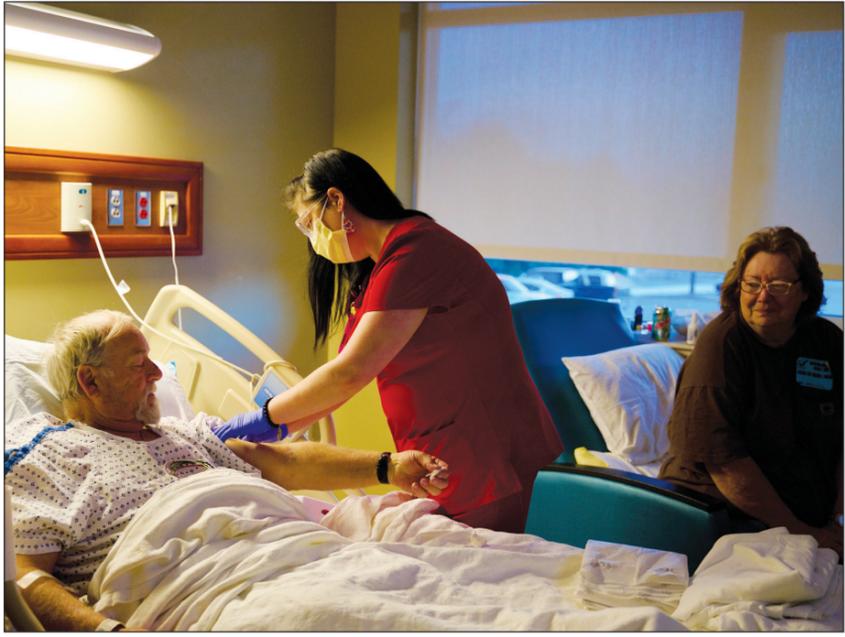
When one thinks of such services, our minds naturally thinks of doctors and nurses. But a hospital needs so much more. A hospital needs environmental services to ensure a clean space, nutritional services to feed patients, mechanical services to ensure critical equipment stays in working order, and administrative services to support the entire operation. These photos, taken during a few hours in the life of Chatham Hospital on a single day back in February, reflect the many facets of the hospital and help highlight the amazing people who serve this great community day in and day out.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
Donna Sessoms, MSN, RNFA, CNOR, CAPA, CPAN, Chatham Hospital's Surgical Services Nursing Director, reviews a patient's chart before surgery.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
A patient and his wife in one of Chatham Hospital's 25 rooms.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
Phlebotomist Alysa Barnett draws blood from a patient.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
Medical Technologist Michelle Hamrick runs blood tests at the hospital.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
Medical Technologist Nikki Taylor runs blood tests at the hospital.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
Michelle Hamrick is a Medical Technologist II at the hospital.

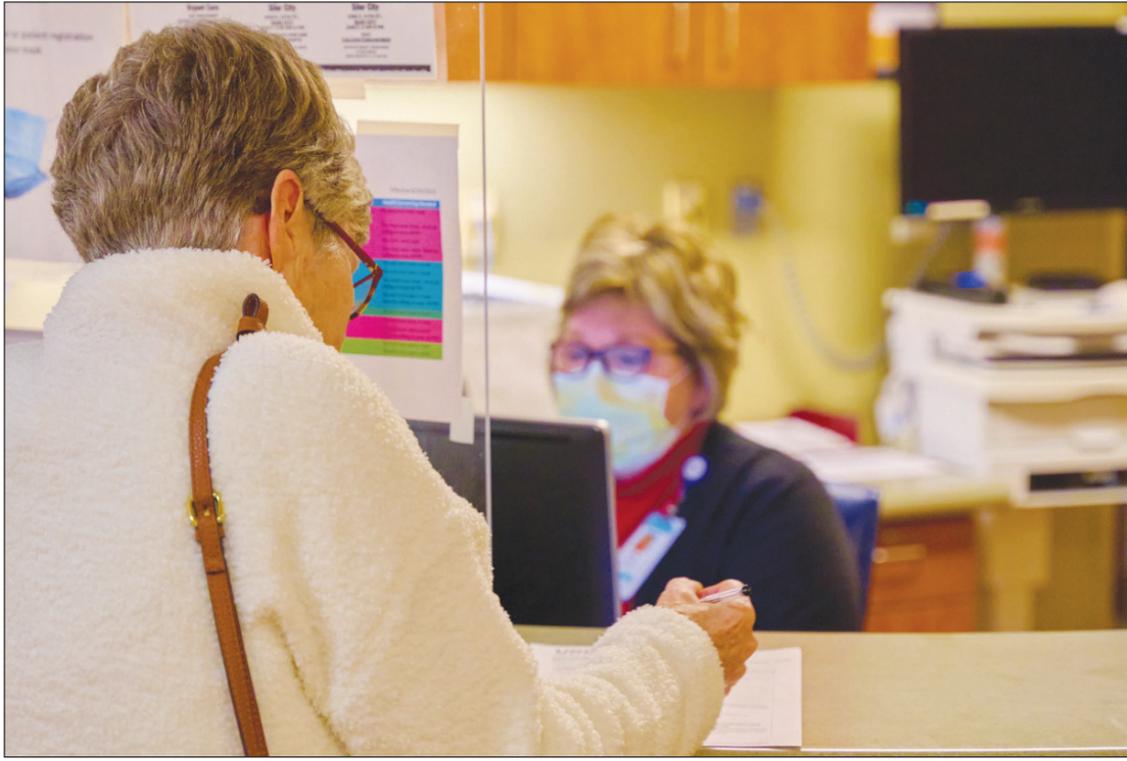


Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
Nikki Taylor is one of Chatham Hospital's Medical Technologists.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles
This laboratory machine is used to run tests on blood in one of the hospital's labs.

A DAY in the LIFE of Chatham Hospital



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Carolyn Hussey, a Patient Access Intake Specialist at Chatham Hospital, checks in a patient with a family member.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Joy Stingl is a Cardiovascular Sonographer II at Chatham Hospital.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Angela Buie, one of Chatham Hospital's Environmental Health Technicians.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Angela Buie, an Environmental Health Technician, cleans the CT Room in preparation for the next patient scan.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

(Maria) Leticia DeGaetano, an Interpreter/Translator at the hospital, reviews a patient's chart before offering interpreter services.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Security Officer Dean Johnson, Police Lieutenant David Green, and Security Officer Tim Varebrook (from left) are part of Chatham Hospital's Security Team.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Lessie McNeill, Chatham Hospital's Supply Chain Services Supervisor, inventories a supply closet.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Alyssa Tsoumbos, RN, Biridiana Balderas, Nursing Assistant, Amanda Merriman, Nursing Assistant, Samantha Talton, RN, and Brittany Thompson, RN (from left) discuss care needs of patients in the Emergency Department at Chatham Hospital.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Dr. Laura Hester, Registered Nurse Allyssa Tsoumbos, RN Paula Barrows, and Dr. George Restrepo (from left) discuss patient care needs during an Emergency Department Safety Huddle.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Registered Nurse Samantha Talton, Dr. George Restrepo, Dr. Laura Hester, RN Brittany Thompson, and RN Victoria Friedline (from left) discuss patient care needs during an Emergency Department Safety Huddle.

A DAY in the LIFE of Chatham Hospital



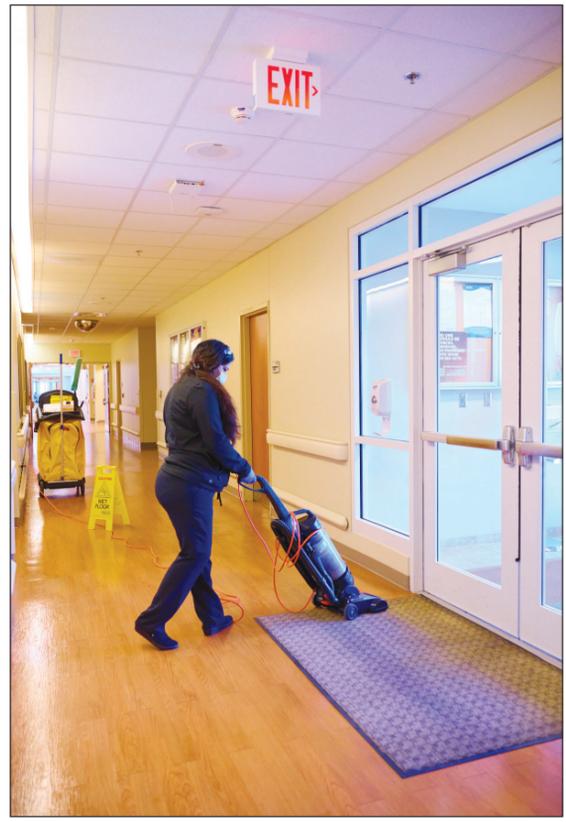
Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Kim Sniffen, a Certified Nurse Midwife, visits with a patient for an assessment.



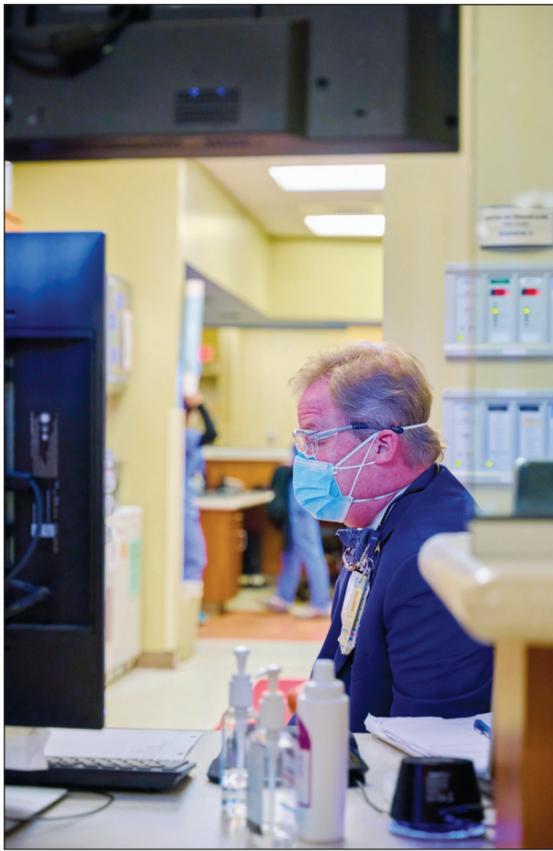
Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Chad Hall, PharmD, MBA, is Chatham Hospital's Pharmacy Coordinator.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Alex Melendez, one of the hospital's Environmental Health Technicians, cleans the employee entrance.



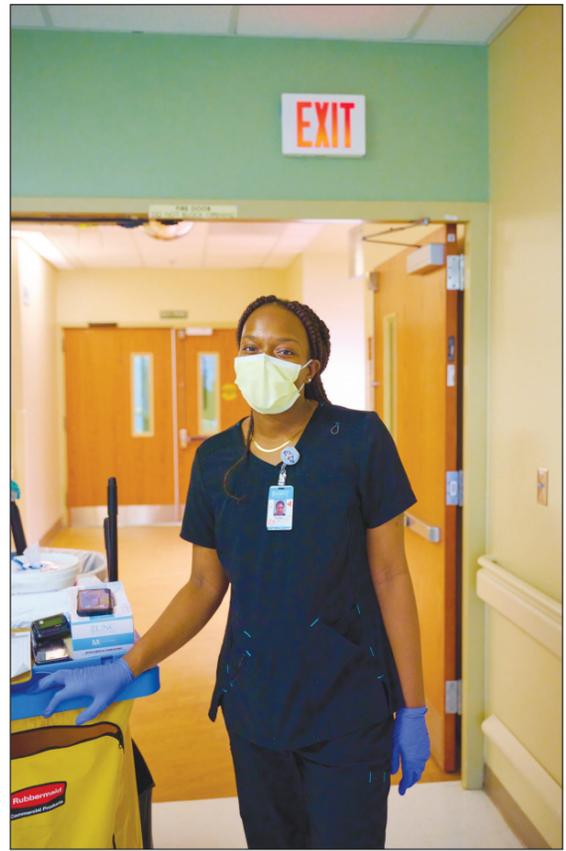
Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Andrew Hannapel, MD, FAAFP, is Chatham Hospital's Chief Medical Officer.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jessie Cetino, the hospital's Medicaid Eligibility Specialist.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Kiona Buie, an Environmental Health Technician, making rounds.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Carolina Air Care helicopter takes off from Chatham Hospital.



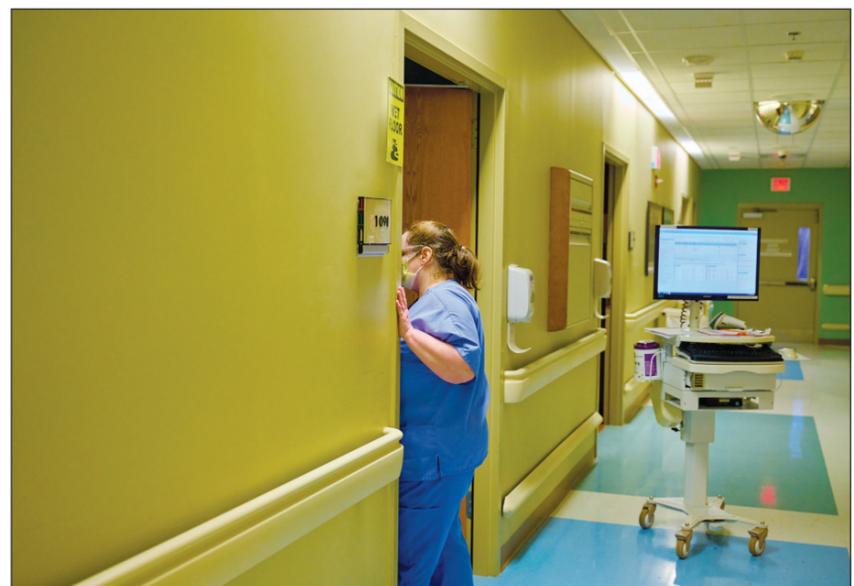
Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

One of the hospital's clean supply rooms.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

A patient and family member arrive at the hospital for a procedure.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

RN Tammy Lindsay of the hospital's Medical Surgical Unit discusses what the patient may need before entering the room.

REDEMPTION

Chargers knock off undefeated Bulldogs to make title game, avenge last year's Final Four defeat

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record
Correspondent

SANFORD — In a bone-jarring contest filled with heart-stopping drama, the Northwood women's basketball team weathered the greatest challenge in their state playoff run thus far and ascended to a pinnacle no other Charger team has reached.

They're heading to their first state championship game in program history.

The No. 2 seed Chargers (30-1) streamed onto the court in a jubilant celebration after dumping the undefeated No. 1 seed Terry Sanford Bulldogs (30-1), 51-50, in a see-saw 3A Final Four battle Saturday at

Southern Lee High School.

It was a bruising game from start to finish, with the electrifying aura of two heavyweight prizefighters going toe-to-toe, giving as good as they got, with victory decided by who touched the ball last.

Northwood, the NCHSAA 3A Eastern Regional champs, will face Enka, the No. 19 seed Western Regional winners, on Saturday, March 12, at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh for the 3A crown.

"This is the first time in our program history that we've made it" to the championship game, said a smiling Northwood coach Kerri Snipes, who led the Chargers to the feat in her first season as head coach.

It was the grail the Chargers

doggedly chased all season after a loss in the Final Four last year that continued to haunt them.

Senior guard Natalie Bell, who popped in 11 points, said she was reveling in the moment.

"But it will kick in tomorrow," she said.

Senior teammate Olivia Porter, who moved back to the area before the school year and became an instant fixture on the team, scored a game-high 16 points against a high-octane Terry Sanford defense. The historic accomplishment has a special meaning for her.

"When I first moved here, I had a meeting with Coach

See **FINAL**, page B5



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Northwood women's basketball team poses for photos with the NCHSAA 3A East Regional Championship trophy after upsetting the previously unbeaten Terry Sanford Bulldogs, 51-50, on Saturday at Southern Lee High School to advance to the 3A state title game in Raleigh. This will be the Chargers' first-ever appearance in the state championship game.

2021-22 NCHSAA BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Preview: Looking ahead to Chatham Charter, Northwood in 1st state title game appearances

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — Chatham County is taking over Reynolds Coliseum this Saturday.

And the schools representing it are making history in the process.

The Chatham Charter men (1A) and Northwood women (3A) will take the N.C. State-themed floor this weekend to compete for their respective crown in the 2021-22 NCHSAA Basketball State Championships, hosted at fabled Reynolds Coliseum on N.C. State's campus.

Both the Knights and the Chargers — coming off of electric, defense-focused Final Four wins this past weekend — are making their first-ever appearances in the state title game after being on the precipice of the big game in recent seasons.

With the season finale just a few days away, the News + Record is previewing each team's match-up by recapping their season so far, analyzing their biggest strengths and taking a glance at their opponent standing in the way of a state title.

Chatham Charter Knights

Conference: Central Tar Heel 1A (champions)

Record: 33-1 (10-0 in Central Tar Heel 1A)

Seed: No. 1, Men's 1A East

Opponent: Hayesville Yellow Jackets

Postseason Recap:

• **First round:** vs. (32) Gates County, 63-40

• **Second round:** win vs. (17) Northwest Halifax, 60-56

• **Third round:** vs. (8) Neuse Charter, 68-36

• **Elite Eight:** vs. (12) KIPP Pride, 57-49

See **STATE**, page B5



Photo by Sheldon Vick

Chatham Charter juniors Aamir Mapp (24) and Adam Harvey (20) attempt to block a shot from Wilson Prep sophomore David Ellis during the Knights' 59-42 Final Four win over the Tigers last Saturday.

Coach K's final home game was nothing short of beautiful

I wasn't on Franklin Street last Saturday night.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

But I'll bet it was glorious.

I'll be one of the first ones to admit that UNC men's basketball just hasn't been the same in recent years.

Early tournament exits, unexpected skids — most notably the hellacious and laughably forgettable 14-19 season in 2019-20 — and, of course, the retirement of coaching legend Roy Williams, have impacted the way I, and plenty of others, feel about the Tar Heels.

I've spoken to plenty of people who mention they just don't watch the games as frequently as they used to, they just feel like they're in a slump when it comes to their UNC fandom.

And, since we're being honest here, I'm right there with them.

My time spent watching the Heels has grown less and less over the last few seasons.

I may have the games on in the background or stay up-to-date on the score if I'm busy covering games elsewhere, but I don't carve out time to watch the team like I used to.

If Carolina's playing and I have plans, I'll typically go ahead with those plans. I'll catch the highlights later.

After spending so many years pouring my heart and soul into the team, from the time I was a kid wearing a miniature Tyler Hansbrough jersey to just a few years ago, when I celebrated the 2017 national title win on Franklin Street as a bright-eyed UNC freshman, I think I've just gotten ... burned out.

But Saturday's game was enough to bring out the fire in even the most docile Tar Heels.

In case you live under a rock and missed it, Saturday marked Mike "Coach K" Krzyzewski's final game at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

It was the final home game of a head coaching career that's spanned 42 years in Durham, racking up over 1,100 wins and five national titles.

So it was only fitting that Coach K's home finale come against the Tar Heels, his bitter rival that his Blue Devils had just clobbered on Feb. 5, 87-67, on the road.

How perfect would it have been for Coach K

See **COACH**, page B2

What the Calvin Ridley suspension might mean for the Dolphins

What Calvin Ridley did was unacceptable.



MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

Betting on games where you have inside knowledge on a team should be prohibited. And while a full season suspension is a hefty price to pay (specifically his \$11 million annual salary), it's a fair punishment.

Last season was supposed to be Ridley's chance to be a No. 1 receiver. After the Atlanta Falcons traded away Julio Jones, Ridley seemed like a sure bet to receive a long-term offer to be the top option. But the

season didn't go that way.

Ridley stepped away from the team in October last year to focus on his mental health. He played in just five games, recording 31 catches for 281 yards and two touchdowns.

He then bet on games — including on his own team, to win — in a set of parlays while he was away from the team. Ridley tweeted that he bet \$1,500 and that he does not have a gambling problem.

While this suspension will cost him lots of money, hopefully it can help him focus on his mental health and come back stronger.

It's ironic that Ridley is held to a tougher standard than politicians who can buy stocks and have influence and

inside knowledge on their success. Either way, both are wrong, so I'll digress from that specific issue.

But there's another issue at play here that doesn't sit right with me. Earlier this year, former Dolphins coach Brian Flores sued the NFL for racism in its hiring practices. The lawsuit also alleges that the Dolphins owner offered him money to "tank" or lose games on purpose. Tanking has been a concept that has often been used because leagues use a team's win-loss record for their draft position.

Thus far, there's been little news on the NFL's findings.

If the NFL is willing to suspend Ridley for an entire year, it better take these allegations seriously. Ridley's

actions are a potential consequence of a league suddenly embracing gambling and fantasy sports. But what owner Stephen Ross did goes deeper than that. Suggesting a coach lose games on purpose is incredibly worse and Flores' shocking firing adds another layer to this puzzle. Flores has a direct impact on the games he coaches, while Ridley did not.

Hopefully, the punishment of Ridley is positive news for the seriousness that the NFL takes Flores' allegations. But if we've learned anything about how the league protects its owners, it might be a long shot.

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CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This week, we've got two local basketball teams heading to Raleigh for the state championship games in their respective brackets — the Chatham Charter men in 1A and Northwood women in 3A — on Saturday. (For more coverage, check out our 2021-22 State Championship Preview in this week's edition.) We've also got the continuation of a boatload of spring sports, such as baseball, lacrosse, men's golf, men's tennis, softball and track & field, all of which have multiple local teams that are off to fantastic starts this season. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 9

Baseball: Seaforth men at River Mill (at Swepsonville Park in Graham), 4 p.m.
 Soccer: Chatham Charter women vs. Clover Garden, 4:30 p.m.
 Tennis: Jordan-Matthews men vs. North Moore, 4:30 p.m.
 Tennis: Seaforth men vs. Chatham Central, 4:30 p.m.
 Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews vs. Mid-Carolina 1A/2A opponents, 4:30 p.m.
 Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. Carrboro, 5 p.m.
 Soccer: Woods Charter women vs. River Mill, 6 p.m.
 Softball: Chatham Central at Eastern Randolph, 6 p.m.
 Softball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Providence Grove, 6 p.m.
 Tennis: Chatham Charter men at Southern Wake, 6 p.m.
 Baseball: Chatham Central at Providence Grove, 7 p.m.
 Lacrosse: Northwood men vs. Carrboro, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 10

Tennis: Chatham Charter men vs. Chatham Central, 4 p.m.
 Tennis: Northwood men vs. Apex, 4 p.m.
 Track & Field: Northwood at Cedar Ridge (Western Alamance also participating), 4 p.m.
 Soccer: Northwood women vs. Panther Creek, 5 p.m.
 Softball: Northwood at Apex, 5 p.m.
 Soccer: Seaforth women at Jordan, 6 p.m.
 Softball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Providence Grove, 6 p.m.
 Baseball: Northwood vs. Apex, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 4

Softball: Chatham Charter vs. Clover Garden, 4:30 p.m.
 Tennis: Seaforth men at Southern Wake, 4:30 p.m.
 Baseball: Chatham Charter vs. Clover Garden, 6 p.m.
 Baseball: Seaforth vs. Chatham Central, 6 p.m.
 Lacrosse: Northwood men vs. Cedar Ridge, 6 p.m.
 Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women at Southern Lee, 6 p.m.
 Softball: Jordan-Matthews at Union Pines, 6 p.m.
 Softball: Northwood vs. Orange, 6 p.m.
 Soccer: Northwood women vs. Orange, 6:45 p.m.

Baseball: Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 5

Basketball: (1) Chatham Charter men vs. (1) Hayesville (NCHSAA 1A State Championship, played at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh), 5 p.m.
 Basketball: (1) Northwood women vs. (19) Enka (NCHSAA 3A State Championship, played at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh), 7:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, February 28

Tennis: The Northwood men fell to the Carrboro Jaguars in their season-opener, 8-1, with the duo of seniors Mason Erman and Cole Murray (8-4) being the only Chargers to win their match.
 Tennis: The Seaforth men swept the Graham Red Devils in their season (and program) opener, 9-0. Winning singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Walker Magrinat (6-2, 6-2), sophomore Felton Burleigh (6-0, 6-1), freshman Henry McFall (6-0, 6-0), freshman Matthew Bowser (6-2, 6-2), freshman Broden Jones (6-1, 6-0) and sophomore Shivam Patel (6-1, 6-4), while the duos of Magrinat/Burleigh (8-2), McFall/Bowser (8-6) and freshman Brennan Luster/sophomore Logan Ching (8-6) all won their doubles matches.
 Lacrosse: The Seaforth men fell in their season (and program) opener to the East Chapel Hill Wildcats on the road, 17-3.
 Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost a high-scoring battle with the Southern Lee Cavaliers, 26-15, in their season-opener.

Tuesday, March 1

Golf: The Woods Charter men placed second (241) in a match with Central Tar Heel 1A opponents (including Chatham Charter) at Bendwinds Country Club in Fuquay-Varina.
 Soccer: The Woods Charter women drew with the Franklin Academy Patriots, 0-0, in their season-opener on the road.
 Tennis: The Chatham Charter men were swept by the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 9-0, in their season-opener.
 Tennis: The Northwood men fell to the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 6-1, on the road. Earning the lone singles win for the Chargers was junior Ragul Ramesh (6-3, 6-3).
 Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews men nearly swept the Asheboro Blue Comets at home in their season opener, 8-1. Winning their singles matches for the Jets were junior Weldon Thornton (6-0, 6-0), junior Paul Lujan (6-4, 6-1), junior Ronald Huang (6-4, 6-2), junior Almotawakel Ali (6-0, 6-1) and junior Brady Andrew (6-0, 6-0), while the duos of Thornton/Lujan (9-7) and senior Dawson Clark/junior Angel Gonzalez (8-0) won their doubles matches.
 Basketball: The No. 2 Northwood women extended their season with an Elite 8 win over the No. 14 Williams Bulldogs,

66-52, in the 4th round of the NCHSAA playoffs. The Chargers punch their ticket to the program's second-straight Final Four. See game report in this week's edition.

Basketball: The No. 6 Northwood men lost to the No. 2 West Carteret Patriots, 51-44, in the 4th round (Elite 8) of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs on the road. The Chargers' season ends with a Central 3A conference title, an Elite 8 appearance and a 24-4 overall record.

Softball: The Northwood women lost a lopsided game to the Wakefield Wolverines, 21-6, at home.

Lacrosse: The Northwood men were crushed by the Apex Cougars, 15-3, in their season-opener.

Lacrosse: The Northwood women won a close game over the Apex Cougars, 8-7, in their season-opener on the road. Scoring for the Chargers were junior Mia Collins (3 goals, 3 assists), junior Grace Costa (2 goals, 2 assists), sophomore Ryan Tinervin (2 goals, 1 assist) and senior Kendall Laberge (1 goal, 1 assist).

Baseball: The Chatham Central men dropped their season-opener to the Asheboro Blue Comets on the road, 5-3, after allowing Asheboro to walk it off after scoring four runs in the bottom of the 7th inning. Leading the Bears on the night were junior Travis Crissman (1-for-4, 2 RBI) and senior Nick Jourdan (2-for-4, 1 RBI).

Baseball: The Northwood men won their season-opener over the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 7-5, thanks to a 5-run fifth inning that propelled them to the victory. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Walker Johnson (1-for-2, 2 RBI, 2 BB) and senior Mason Bae (2-for-4, 1 RBI, 2B; W, 2.0 IP, 1 H, 1 ER, 2 K).

Basketball: The No. 1 Chatham Charter men defeated No. 12 KIPP Pride, 57-49, in the 4th round of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs. The Knights advance to their second Final Four in three seasons. Leading the Knights on the evening were junior Adam Harvey (25 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, 1 block) and freshman Beau Harvey (19 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals). See game report in this week's edition.

Wednesday, March 2

Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women were shut out by the Apex Friendship Patriots, 11-0, on the road.
 Tennis: The Northwood men fell to the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 6-1. Junior Ragul Ramesh was the lone Charger to win his singles match (6-3, 6-3).
 Track & Field: The Woods Charter Wolves competed in the Red Ram Spring Kickoff, hosted by Franklinton, where they placed 9th in both the men's (13 points) and women's (22 points) events. Placing in the top 15 of their respective women's events were freshman Isabel Wood (5th, girls 100-meter dash, 14.06), freshman Mia Ballachino (13th, girls 100-

meter dash, 14.91), sophomore Elizabeth Poitras (12th, girls 1600-meter run, 6:25.53), freshman Anna Peeler (13th, girls 1600-meter run, 6:26.33), freshman Emma Cope (9th, girls 400-meter dash, 1:11.43), senior Analise De Leon Villa (3rd, girls 300-meter hurdles, 54.85), freshman Brylee Downs (11th, girls 800-meter run, 2:59.60) and senior Sophia Miller (5th, girls discus throw, 62-03). Placing in the top 15 of their respective men's events were junior Wiley Sikes (8th, boys 1600-meter run, 4:55.69), junior Collin Thompson (15th, boys 400-meter dash, 57.89), sophomore Evan Elk (10th, boys discus throw, 89-04), senior Peter Ising (11th, boys discus throw, 87-03; 9th, boys shot put, 34-10.00), while the Wolves also had three relay teams — Boys 4x100 Meter Relay (3rd, 50.07), Boys 4x400 Meter Relay (3rd, 4:18.90), Girls 4x400 Meter Relay (2nd, 5:11.00) — all finish in the top 3 of their events.

Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews men narrowly defeated the Chatham Central Bears, 5-4. Winning singles matches for the Jets were senior Benjamin Dekaney (6-4, 6-2), junior Almotawakel Ali (6-0, 6-0) and junior Ricardo Rocha (6-0, 6-0), while the duos of senior Dawson Clark/junior Angel Gonzalez (8-3) and senior Emmanuel Cortez/senior Victor Paz (8-0) won their doubles matches. Winning singles matches for the Bears were senior Landon Hackney (6-2, 4-6 (10-5)), sophomore Jacob Gilliland (0-0 (11-9)) and sophomore Seth Gilliland (6-2, 6-4), while Hackney/Jacob Gilliland was the lone duo to win its doubles match for the Bears (8-4).

Baseball: The Seaforth men clobbered the River Mill Jaguars in their season-opener, 19-6, after scoring 12 runs in the first inning. See game report in this week's edition.

Lacrosse: The Seaforth men were trounced by the Carrboro Jaguars, 15-2, in their home opener.

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women lost their season-opener to the Asheboro Blue Comets, 5-3, after being shut out in the second half.

Soccer: The Seaforth women crushed the Southern Durham Spartans, 10-1, in their program-opener on the road.

Soccer: The Northwood women were shut out in their season-opener against the Chapel Hill Tigers, 3-0, at home.

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men won their season-opener against the Hillside Hornets, 6-1, at home.

Thursday, March 3

Track & Field: The Northwood Chargers competed in their first meet of the season against Central 3A opponents, where they finished second in both the men's and women's events behind the Person Rockets, but ahead of both the Orange Panthers and the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves. Finishing in the top 3 of their respective men's events for the Chargers were:

Luke Waldstein (1st, boys 110-meter hurdles, 19.7; 1st, boys 300-meter hurdles, 47.5), Marco Sanchez (3rd, boys 100-meter dash, 11.5; 1st, boys 400-meter dash, 52.2; 1st, boys 200-meter dash, 23.3), Christian Glick (1st, boys 800-meter run, 2:03.80), Jack Spotz (2nd, boys 400-meter dash, 54.5; 3rd, boys long jump, 18-04.00) and Cameron Stevenson Jr. (1st, boys shot put, 40-04.00). Placing top 3 in their respective women's events for the Chargers were: Rokia Sissoko (2nd, girls 100-meter dash, 13.9; 2nd, girls 400-meter dash, 1:08.30; 3rd, girls 200-meter dash, 30.0), Hailey Hirschman (3rd, girls 100-meter dash, 14.0), Caroline Murrell (1st, girls 1600-meter run, 5:20.30; 1st, girls 800-meter run, 2:27.00), Emma Serrano (2nd, girls 1600-meter run, 5:52.80; 3rd, girls 800-meter run, 2:46.00), Bentley Brooks (1st, girls shot put, 28-02.00) and Kennedy Poston (2nd, girls shot put, 27-06.00).

Tennis: The Seaforth men lost a lopsided match to the Carrboro Jaguars, 8-1, on the road. Earning the lone win for the Hawks was the duo of sophomores Walker Magrinat & Felton Burleigh (8-3).

Softball: The Chatham Charter women earned a season-opening win over the Bethany Wolves, 10-4. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Sawyer Bowman (1-for-2, 3 RBI, BB), sophomore Delana Loflin (2-for-4, RBI, 2 3Bs) and junior Chelsie Hardister (1-for-3, RBI, 3B).

Lacrosse: The Northwood women thrashed the Athens Drive Jaguars, 18-6, at home. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Kendall Laberge (4 goals, 1 assist), junior Mia Collins (4 goals, 1 assist), junior Grace Costa (3 goals, 1 assist) and sophomore Ryan Tinervin (3 goals, 1 assist).

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews and Woods Charter women tied in their game in Chapel Hill, 3-3.

Friday, March 4

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men were trounced by the Providence Grove Patriots, 14-4, on the road. The Jets are 1-1 to start the season.

Soccer: The Chatham Charter women were shut out by the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 9-0, in their season opener.

Tennis: The Seaforth men defeated the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 6-3, at home. Winning their singles matches for the Hawks were freshman Henry McFall (6-1, 6-0), freshman Matthew Bowser (6-3, 7-5), freshman Brennan Luster (6-2, 4-6, 10-6), sophomore Logan Ching (6-2, 6-1) and freshman Gavin Maley (6-2, 6-2), while the duo of sophomore Noah Wright & freshman Jett Gabreski (8-5) won their doubles match.

Softball: The Chatham Charter women were shut out by the Gray Stone Day Knights, 7-0, at home.

See **SCORES**, page B4

COACH

Continued from page B1

to wrap up his career in Durham with a win over Carolina with the world watching?

Because it surely was. ESPN announced that the game averaged 3.98 million viewers on Saturday, marking the network's highest-rated college basketball game since 2019.

Tickets to the game — as they usually are for a place like Cameron Indoor, which is the essentially the size of a high-school gym — were through the roof, averaging a price of \$5,307 to attend Coach K's sendoff, the most expensive ticket price for a single game in basketball history, according to Duke Men's Basketball.

This game — one that many people assumed would be a blowout win for the Blue Devils, who surely couldn't lose a



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

UNC fans celebrate the 94-81 men's basketball win over the Duke Blue Devils on Saturday with a timeless tradition: rushing Franklin Street. An estimated 15,000 people, including N+R photographer Peyton Sickles, were in attendance for the celebration.

game of this magnitude — was one of the most anticipated contests in years.

And then, in what seemed like the blink of an eye or, for Duke fans, an unimaginable nightmare, Coach K lost.

The Tar Heels stunned the Blue Devils, 94-81, as they scored 45 points in

the final 12 minutes, 33 seconds of game time to secure the win and shock the sports world.

Franklin Street erupted with a storm of an estimated 15,000 students, fans and Chapel Hill residents flooding the streets to celebrate, party and be a little reckless.

It's a common celebra-

tion each time Carolina downs Duke.

But this one just felt a tad more special.

And of course, Duke fans and staff members pouted.

Blue Devils assistant coaches refused to shake UNC Head Coach Hubert Davis' hand after the game, along with reports coming out later that Duke was upset that UNC didn't honor Coach K in his final trip to the Dean E. Smith Center in February.

Coach K went as far as to call the game "unacceptable" and apologize to the fans that drained their bank accounts — and, according to one sign in the arena, their child's inheritance fund — to be in attendance.

My friend, Matt, a lifelong Duke fan that I've fought with numerous times thanks to the UNC-Duke rivalry for nearly two decades, sent a text message after the score went final that

read: "Worst loss imaginable."

But for me, and the 15,000-plus on Franklin Street, this couldn't have been sweeter.

All of the struggles, the mediocrity and the bad losses these last couple of years were absolutely worth suffering through for this moment.

And as long as Duke doesn't pull out a national title win in early April, I'm already calling this season a win.

In due time, my die-hard UNC fandom will come back around.

I'll get back into the groove of things and begin shifting my winter nights around what time Carolina's playing and where I can watch it — this, I'm sure of it, is just a phase.

But even if the Tar Heels miss the NCAA Tournament for the next 10 years, I'll be content.

Saturday night was worth it.

Best win imaginable.

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

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MADNESS OF MARCH

Chargers use wealth of experience to stave off surging Bulldogs, earn spot in Final Four

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Editor's note: This story was published online ahead of Northwood's Final Four clash with Terry Sanford last Saturday, which they won, 51-50.

PITTSBORO — If you hadn't looked at a calendar beforehand, Tuesday's Elite Eight matchup in Pittsboro would have made it obvious that the month had just flipped over to March.

It was a night full of pure madness.

The No. 2 seeded Northwood Chargers withstood a third-quarter storm to defeat the No. 14 Williams Bulldogs, 66-52, in the Elite Eight of the NCHSAA 3A women's basketball playoffs.

The win gives the Chargers a spot in the Final Four, where they'll be facing off against the top-seeded, undefeated Terry Sanford Bulldogs (30-0) on Saturday.

With Northwood and Williams both being members of the Central 3A conference, they were plenty familiar with one another heading into Tuesday night.

The teams had previously met twice this season, with the Chargers sweeping the regular-season series, 2-0, and winning those two games by a combined score of 123-67.

In short, Northwood never had a reason to worry in the regular-season contests, earning victories of 39 and 17 points, respectively.

Naturally, as patterns typically go, you'd expect the result to be similar in the third meeting.

But this was a different Williams team.

After suffering the most recent loss to Northwood on Feb. 2, 55-38, the Bulldogs won nine of their next 10 games — their only defeat coming at the hands of Eastern Alamance by 5 points in the conference tournament — including upset wins over No. 3 Southern Wayne and No. 6 Southern Durham on the road in the second and third rounds of the playoffs.

"They're tough, they've been the under-ranked team in all of their games and they've been battling it out," said Kerri Snipes, Northwood's first-year head coach, following the win. "Seeing them two times in-conference, we certainly



Staff photo by Victor Hensley

Northwood's women's basketball team poses for photos after the Chargers' 66-52 win over the Williams Bulldogs in the Elite Eight of the NCHSAA 3A playoffs on Tuesday. With the win, Northwood advanced to its second-straight Final Four.

knew they were a tough team and kind of knew what to expect, but they were on a roll and they had momentum with them, knocking off Southern Wayne and Southern Durham, so we knew they were going to come in here battling."

Northwood's experience may have been the key to winning that battle.

Over the last three seasons, Williams had won just one playoff game in two appearances before this year's deep run.

In that same span, Northwood won five playoff games, including trips to the third round or later in the past two seasons.

For a team full of impactful seniors, that experience — even for those that didn't get many reps on the court — is crucial. And it showed.

The Chargers were led by senior Olivia Porter (20 points), followed by seniors Natalie Bell (15 points) and Myla Marve (11 points), the three of which culminated in a veteran trio that accounted for 70% of the team's total scoring.

Porter, who was the leading scorer on two Final Four teams during her four years at Auburn High School in Alabama before transferring to Northwood this season, made it clear that no moment is too big for her.

After an early 3-pointer from Bulldogs junior Bri Scott, the Chargers swiftly took back the lead on a floater from Marve and an easy layup from junior Te'Keyah Bland on a beautiful assist from Bell.

Then, a potential momentum-swinging, and-one bucket from talented Williams senior Taniya Hunter-Smith (21

points, led all scorers) put the Bulldogs within one point, 7-6, but Porter fired back and drilled a 3-pointer from the left corner in transition, which was complemented by another 3-pointer from Bell on the next possession, giving the Chargers a 13-6 lead and blowing the game wide open.

Porter totaled seven points in the opening quarter, including a put-back bucket in the paint to make it 15-8, which she followed up with a steal on the other end.

All night long, she flew to the ball.

She plucked the ball from the Bulldogs' hands, disrupted all sorts of passing lanes, hustled to secure loose balls and rebounds and constantly wanted the ball in her hands on offense.

"Olivia's just a hustler," Snipes said of her senior leader. "She was fighting."

From there, the Chargers were on a roll.

They topped off a 24-point first period with a 7-0 run that included a driving layup by sophomore Skylar Adams, followed by a pickpocket and transition layup by Bell and then, finally, a deep, buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Adams that brought the Northwood crowd to its feet.

At the end of the first period, the Chargers held on to a 24-11 lead and looked to be cruising to a Final Four appearance.

The second period was much of the same for Northwood, including more transition buckets for Marve, gorgeous drives by Porter and even better team defense.

At the halftime break, the Chargers led, 39-21.

But then it all started to click

for the Bulldogs as they began to inch back into the game.

A 3-pointer for sophomore Kiya Shavers here, an and-one bucket from Hunter-Smith there.

And before the Chargers could blink, Williams had cut the deficit down to just 10 points.

A 3-pointer by Bell later in the quarter appeared to give Northwood some breathing room, 45-34, but the Bulldogs simply wouldn't quit.

A floater by Hunter-Smith and a free throw from freshman Xiomara Moser set up a game-changing 3-pointer from Shavers to cut it to 5 points, 45-40.

Just like that, the Bulldogs had made it a game, all while Northwood fans sat stunned.

This was rare territory for the one-loss Chargers, who are used to putting their feet on the gas and hardly letting up, having blown out nearly every team they've faced this season — winning all but one game by double digits.

Early in the fourth quarter, Hunter-Smith hit a pair of free throws to make it a one-possession game, 47-44. Northwood's lead had nearly evaporated entirely after being outscored in the second half up to that point, 23-8.

"It definitely made us toughen up," Snipes said of the Bulldogs' second-half run. "We haven't been in too many situations this season where we've had to kind of grit it out, so it was really good for us to experience that."

Then, the experience factor kicked in as Northwood's seniors took control.

Bell knocked down a much-needed ice-in-her-veins 3-pointer shortly after Hunter-Smith's free throws, extending their lead back to six points.

Porter then hit a free throw to make it a seven-point game, one of her eight made free throws in the quarter. Though she started out the period missing four of her first six free throws — including two technical free throws after the official called Bulldogs Head Coach Jason Cheek for a technical foul — she'd come up huge late in the game, hitting six straight and helping seal the eventual win.

In total, Northwood knocked down 12-of-17 free throws in the fourth (71%), slowly pulling away from a Williams team

that suddenly struggled to hit even the most open of shots.

The Bulldogs must've used up all of their good fortunes in the third-quarter scoring barrage, which was a stark contrast to the mistake-filled, brick-laden fourth period that saw them make just two field goals and score 10 points.

By the time the final buzzer sounded, the Chargers eked out a 14-point win, 66-52, overcoming their late-game demons to right the ship, get back on track and advance to their second-straight NCHSAA 3A Final Four.

"I think we had a lot of composure there toward the end," Snipes said. "We came out and tried to settle down a little bit. ... It speaks a lot to our seniors, they were in the game for most of the game and they've been in those positions before. ... I think their experience really helped us out tonight."

Snipes was referring to the seniors that played in last year's Sweet 16 game against Terry Sanford, where the Chargers came away with a gritty 46-43 road win after junior McKenna Snively drained a game-winning 3-pointer.

This year, she said she knows the Bulldogs of Terry Sanford will likely be looking for revenge for last season's upset.

"The excitement's there, we know that they've been a tough basketball team for a number of years and we know it's going to be a battle," Snipes, who was an assistant coach on last year's Final Four team, said. "The girls have been very familiar and aware of what Terry Sanford's been doing and they're returning most of their players (from last season)."

"We've explained every round that there's only this many teams left, everybody else has packed their bags and gone home," Snipes added. "We've kind of gone with that mindset to be grateful for the opportunities we have, but not take it for granted. I think the girls are really starting to realize that."

Northwood will face No. 1 Terry Sanford in the NCHSAA 3A East Regional Final at Southern Lee High School in Sanford at 2 p.m. on Saturday with a trip to the state title game on the line.

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

CHATHAM CHARTER 57, KIPP PRIDE 49

Mental toughness, brotherly love fuel Knights

Elite 8 win over Panthers advances team to 1A East Regional Final

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record Correspondent

Editor's note: This story was published online ahead of Chatham Charter's Final Four matchup with Wilson Prep last Saturday, which they won, 59-42.

SILER CITY — On March 1, Chatham Charter's men's basketball team advanced to the NCHSAA 1A Final Four for the second time in its eight-year history — but not before a bruising, physical clash with KIPP Pride that featured aggressive bumping, thumping and spilling across the hardwood in a 57-49 donnybrook.

The No. 1 seed Knights, whose winning streak is now at 24 games — their last loss was Dec. 3 — will be the home team when they play No. 2 seed Wilson Prep on Saturday at J.H. Rose High School in Greenville.

Wilson Prep defeated No. 11 North Edgecombe, 76-64, to punch its ticket.

Outsized in height but not in heart, the Knights weathered three lead changes in an explosive first quarter against



Staff photo by David Bradley

Chatham Charter junior Adam Harvey avoids a KIPP Pride defender mid-air to score a bucket in the Knights' 57-49 win over the Panthers in the Elite Eight of the NCHSAA 1A playoffs on March 1. Harvey scored a game-high 25 points on the night.

visiting No. 12 seed KIPP, built a 13-point lead later in the game only to watch it evaporate repeatedly in never-say-die comebacks by the pesky Panthers of Gaston County, and benefited from some brotherly love on the court.

Junior Adam Harvey scored a game-high 25 points and his brother, freshman Beau Harvey, tickled the nets for 19. Together they accounted for 77% of Chatham Charter's scoring.

"I love him. He's my little brother, but he's a big part of the team, and he really helps us out there," Adam Harvey said after a post-game locker room celebration.

"We have always played together throughout the years. Always in the backyard, we always put in the work. So we combine it, and we just play together well, and the other three guys stepped up too," Beau Harvey said. "It's great, going from the

backyard days to now in high school going into the Final Four."

Beau Harvey doesn't play like a freshman. He's cool, composed and often in command. It helped against a KIPP team that had four rugged starters over 6-foot-5.

"We expected it, but they were very physical. Probably the most physical team we've played this year," Beau Harvey said. "They were a lot taller, but we just outsmarted them, kept working, kept going and we ended up scoring."

And it pays to listen to the coach.

"Coach [Jason Messier] just told me to keep driving, keep attacking and I just listened and it worked," Beau Harvey said. He nearly matched his season-high 21 points he posted in the holiday tournament in December.

Adam Harvey, the team's spark, said he didn't get rattled when KIPP continually carved away gaping leads that were never secure.

"I knew we just had to fight back," Adam Harvey said. "I knew we weren't going to fold under the pressure. I just have trust and faith in my

teammates we're going to pull it out.

"We were really strong on the defensive end ... and we had a fantastic free throw performance," he added. "We dominated from the line. It won us the game."

The Knights have struggled in the past few games from the charity stripe, but on Tuesday, they tossed in 23 of 30 free throws, a 77% performance.

In stark contrast, KIPP was 3 for 9 on foul shots (33%).

Messier, Chatham Charter's head coach, acknowledged his players struggled with the imposing altitude of the Panthers, who clogged the lanes and zealously protected the basket with their wide wingspans. The Knights shot 14-for-36 from 2-point range (38%), and 2-for-10 from 3-point range (20%).

"I think that, ultimately, we got inside where we were looking to attack the basket, and I think that's what got us to that free throw line. We got some fouls on rebounds and really we have that toughness," Messier said. "At this point in the season, you've got to have

that toughness to get through and this is how it's been."

Messier said many teams falter when a towering team like KIPP comes into the gymnasium. He called it the eye-test factor.

"You look at them and think, 'Wow, they're big and they're monsters,' but the guys here, they don't get intimidated by teams," Messier said. "They go out and do the things that they know they can execute," and in the process, held Panthers 6-foot-5 junior guard Chicale Ward to 12 points.

He had been averaging 26 points-per-game for the Panthers coming into the contest.

"What matters is heart, passion," Messier said. "I thought my guys went out there and gave it everything they have. They left it all on the floor. And because they did that, they got the win."

While he praised all his players for contributing to the victory even if the stat books didn't show it, Messier said the Harvey brothers bring a special

See **KNIGHTS**, page B5



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A bounce-back shut out

The Northwood men's lacrosse team kicked off its season last week, where it fell in its season-opener to the Apex Cougars, 15-3. In response to the blowout loss, the Chargers took the field two days later and shut out the Cary Academy Chargers, 13-0, in a bounce-back victory. Here, a pair of Northwood players, including attacker Jason Walden (23), celebrate after scoring a goal against Cary Academy.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood veteran Will Smith (2) slings a shot toward the net in the Chargers' 13-0 shut-out win over the Cary Academy Chargers. It was Northwood's first shut-out victory since 2019.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood attacker Jeremy Fernandez (24) evades a defender in the Chargers' 13-0 shut-out win over Cary Academy last Friday.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood defender Pierce Cook (14) plays keep away from a Cary Academy player in the Chargers' 13-0 win last Friday.

SEAFORTH 19, RIVER MILL 6

Hawks score 19 runs in program-opening pounding of Jaguars, earn 1st win in school history

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Seaforth Hawks didn't just burst onto the scene in their program-opening baseball win last Wednesday.

They promptly decimated the River Mill Jaguars in what was an Opening-Day explosion, 19-6, to begin the program's first season with a "1" in the win column.

In just four offensive innings — with the game ending in five after the mercy rule kicked in — the Hawks racked up 10 hits and 13 walks, amassing as large as a 15-run lead after thrashing the Jaguars for 12 runs in the first inning.

It was night fit for celebration, with Seaforth High School principal Tripp Crayton throwing out the first pitch in school history, followed by the program's first win.

"A lot of hard work, a lot of effort have been put in by these guys with us being a first-year school," Landon Jones, the Hawks' head coach, said after winning his coaching debut. "These guys have had a big part in helping build this field, so to see us get to reap the benefits of this field and all of the hard work come to fruition and result in some runs, it was really encouraging."

As has been the case with all of Seaforth's athletics this year, the baseball roster is strictly made up of underclassmen — nine sophomores and 10 freshmen, to be exact.

And according to Jones, only three of them have ever played in a high school baseball game prior to last Wednesday night.

"I got on them today, I said, 'Hey, let's take the nerves out early,' and based on the way we warmed up, it looked like those

nerves were there," Jones said. "But I was also feeling it with this being my first game as a head coach, so we were feeling it together."

Those nerves showed themselves early with Hawks' sophomore starting pitcher Anders Johansson (1.1 IP, 2 H, 3 ER, 4 K) who walked the first two Jaguars batters, then allowed back-to-back hits — an RBI double from senior Cameron Cutterloh and RBI single from junior Matthew Wolfe — before hitting senior Logan O'Hara with a pitch.

However, after giving up 3 runs and five total baserunners, Johansson took the advice of his coach. He locked in, shook off the nerves and struck out the next three batters in a row to end the inning.

He'd only face one batter in the top of the second — freshman Jackson Webster, who he also struck out — before Jones took him out after 42 pitches, seemingly impressed with the way he bounced back.

"Anders is this really cerebral, high-IQ player and I knew when those challenges hit that first inning — the plan was to only throw him one inning — but I needed him to see that that first inning isn't where he's at," Jones said of his starter. "He gave up a few walks early, so we wanted to bring him back out and he responded, struck the first guy out to start the second inning and I was just really proud of him because he works harder than anyone."

When it came time for Seaforth to take the plate for the first time in program history, the Hawks wasted no time making it memorable.

After a pair of walks and a strikeout to open the bottom of the first, Seaforth sophomore

Dane O'Neill walked to load the bases with one out.

Then, in what's one of the most anticlimactic ways to score your first-ever run, Hawks freshman Cade Elmore took off from third base on a passed ball during freshman Griff Burk's plate appearance, crossing home plate and becoming the first run scored in Seaforth history.

Burk walked, loading the bases once more as the Jaguars held on to a 3-1 lead with one out.

Then, the fireworks started to fly.

In the following at-bat, Seaforth freshman Daniel White (2-for-4, 2B, 3B, 4 RBI) smashed a deep shot to left field, landing just out of the outfielder's reach and rolling toward the fence.

The crowd hollered as two runs scored and White strolled into second base, tying the game at 3-3 with a two-run double.

"In the first inning, he was timid and his first swing was timid," Jones said, "but with his true power and athleticism and ability as a baseball player, it was really encouraging to see him drive the ball a few times, because he's a kid who's been working at it and has all of the capability in the world. Sometimes, he's just got to get through that first swing."

White's big hit was just the beginning.

Burk and White then scored on two separate passed balls during freshman Joshua Brown's plate appearance, giving the Hawks a 5-3 lead with just one out.

In what was an imperfect inning for Wolfe, the Jaguars' starting pitcher, he proceeded to walk Elmore in his second at-bat of the inning with the bases loaded, putting the Hawks up, 6-3, and ending his

night as head coach Nick Larsen relieved him of his duties.

His final statline included just 0.1 innings pitched, two hits, eight earned runs and eight walks as he was never truly able to get into a rhythm against the well-disciplined Hawks.

But River Mill sophomore Connor Holyfield didn't have it much easier.

He faced Johansson (2-for-2, 2B, 3B, 5 RBI) as his first batter, who promptly rocketed a triple to deep left-center field to clear the bases, give the Hawks a 9-3 lead and deliver a blow to Holyfield's confidence in one swing of the bat.

Seaforth collected two more hits off of Holyfield in the first inning, including an RBI single by O'Neill and a two-RBI triple from White, who was on fire in his first career game.

When the time finally came for the Jaguars to hit in the top of the second, it was a 12-3 game and practically out of reach.

"It just took a little bit for these guys to realize that they belong on this stage," Jones said. "And hopefully, as the season builds, they'll see that even more and play into it, but it was really cool to see them flip that switch after giving up a couple of runs in the first inning. ... After that first inning, I walked back into the dugout from the coach's box and it just felt like our guys believed a little bit more."

The second inning was more of the same for the Hawks, who allowed just one run on an error in the top of the inning, but led off the bottom half with a walk and four straight hits, including an RBI single from Elmore, a two-RBI double from Johansson and another double from sophomore Tanner Morgan.

Burk grounded into a sacri-

fice out to score Johansson just before White struck out to end the inning, giving the Hawks a 16-4 lead.

After a 1-2-3 inning for Hawks freshman Brylee Cothren on the mound in the third, the Hawks went to work in the bottom half, scoring another three insurance runs off of an Elmore two-RBI single — thanks to two lead-off walks — and an RBI double from O'Neill to round out the scoring for Seaforth and make it 19-4.

River Mill scored two runs in the top of the fifth inning on an error-filled inside-the-park home run from sophomore Chasen Phillips on an uncharacteristically poor sequence from the Hawks, but the game ended two batters later with Morgan, now pitching, striking out the final pair of batters to secure the 19-6 victory.

It was nearly the best season-opening night a new program could ask for, especially for a team with as much inexperience and youth as the Hawks.

"What's really cool about where we are as a program is that every game, every at-bat, everything we do is laying the foundation of what it is," he continued. "I tell them all the time, there aren't really any bad habits in this program yet. ... It presents a cool opportunity for us to get to work hard and really set the tone for what we want the program to be."

Seaforth kept the train rolling two days later against the N.C. School of Science & Math Unicorns, 6-3, last Friday, catapulting the Hawks to a 2-0 start to the season.

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

SCORES

Continued from page B2

Baseball: The Seaforth men defeated the N.C. School of Science & Math Unicorns, 6-3, to start the season with a 2-0 overall record.

Lacrosse: The Seaforth men suffered a loss to the Western Alamance Warriors, 17-11, to fall to 0-3 on the year.

Soccer: The Sea-

forth women shut out the Southern Durham Spartans, 9-0, to begin the season 2-0.

Softball: The Chatham Central women downed the Southern Lee Cavaliers in a close game, 9-8, in their season opener.

Softball: The Northwood women crushed the Jordan Falcons, 19-4, to improve to 1-1 on the season. Leading the Chargers on the night

were junior Zoe Hatzidakis (2-for-3, 2 R, HR) and junior Abi McLaurin (2 H, 2 R, HR).

Baseball: The Chatham Central men were shut out and no-hit by the Union Pines Vikings, 11-0, to fall to 0-2 on the season.

Baseball: The Northwood men defeated the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 6-5, in extra innings at home to start the season 2-0. Leading

the Chargers on the night were senior Mason Bae (2-for-4, 2 RBI, 2B, R) and junior Seth Davis, freshman Kaleb Howell and junior Nate Davis, all of which went 1-for-4 with an RBI each.

Saturday, March 5

Soccer: The Northwood women shut out the Richmond Raiders, 5-0, to start the season 1-1.

Basketball: The No. 1 Chatham Charter

men defeated the No. 2 Wilson Prep Tigers, 59-42, in the NCHSAA 1A East Regional Final in Greenville to advance to the 1A state title game for the first time in school history. Leading the Knights on the afternoon were junior Adam Harvey (20 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals) and junior Aamir Mapp (11 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists, 4 steals).

Basketball: The No. 2 Northwood women handed the No. 1 Terry Sanford Bulldogs their first loss of the season, 51-50, in the NCHSAA 3A East Regional Final in Sanford to advance to the 3A state title game. See game report in this week's edition.

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FINAL

Continued from page B1

Snipes and I said, ‘I want to win a state championship.’” Porter said. “And the fact that I’m doing everything that I told her at the beginning means a lot to me, and my word means a lot to her that she trusts me and we’re in this position.”

But the Bulldogs tested Northwood like no other team — and they didn’t advance to the state finals without some pain.

Northwood sophomore Skylar Adams had a frightening collision with Terry Sanford top gun Miya Giles-Jones early in the game, going down hard and being helped off the court. She returned to the floor a short time later.

“I dislocated my shoulder,” Adams said, nursing her injury with a post-game ice pack. “I felt it pop out. But then it popped back in.”

“We certainly had a game,” Snipes said. “We

knew Terry Sanford was a tough team. They’ve obviously been undefeated for a reason all season.”

They were the toughest team the Chargers faced this year, she said.

“We knew they were going to have aggression that we probably haven’t seen in all aspects. But I’m really proud of our girls for sticking to our plan, playing smart, playing defense, and just stepping up to the challenge,” Snipes said. “So we ... played, I thought, really, four good quarters.”

The biggest surprise of the day was that it was a relatively low-scoring affair.

Terry Sanford was averaging 67.9 points per game; Northwood 60.1. But Northwood led just 6-2 after the first quarter and 24-18 at the half.

Credit the Chargers’ defense for keeping the Bulldogs in check.

Giles-Jones was averaging 19.7 points per game, but was held to 9 on Saturday. Bulldogs senior Tamia Morris was

averaging 18.5 points per game but scored just 12, all on 3-pointers.

Terry Sanford coach Thurston Robinson was at a loss to explain the scoring collapse.

“It was kind of the way the game evolved,” Robinson said. “We wanted to have an up-tempo game, but for some reason, it got slowed down. I guess some of the fouls involved slowed it down, so we couldn’t get up-tempo as fast as we normally play, and that hurt us too.”

Northwood outscored Terry Sanford 11-7 on free throws.

Snipes had a slightly different take, starting with the pesky defensive play of Adams, a slender 5-foot-8 guard who disrupted the muscular 6-foot Giles-Jones. Adams, Snipes said, was tough on D, and got plenty of help from teammates.

“We knew that they like to run,” she said. “That’s how they get most of their points, is in transition. So we wanted to make

sure that we were ready for their press, being able to break their press and then slow the tempo down to where we were getting good shots, and not forcing anything.”

The coach switched to a full-court press in the fourth quarter to further badger the Bulldogs.

But Terry Sanford’s relentless defense made it tough for Northwood to get shots off as well. The Chargers were able to attack the rim more in the second half, drawing fouls and hitting key free throws in the waning minutes.

The second half was a nail-biter.

Four times the game was tied. Three times Terry Sanford edged into the lead.

Northwood seized the lead four times, most importantly with 2:13 left in the game when Porter hit a pair of free throws to go up 47-45.

The Chargers never trailed again.

That’s not to say there weren’t any more mo-

ments of suspense. Two late, unforced turnovers caused some chills. With Northwood leading, 48-45, with 47 seconds on the clock, Chargers junior Gianna McManaman was under intense double-team pressure on the Chargers’ end of the court. She attempted to pass, but the ball went wide and rolled out of bounds, leading to a pair of free throws by Bulldogs freshman Breonna Roaf to make it a one-point game.

Then, with 27 seconds remaining and Northwood clinging to a 48-47 lead, the normally steady-handed Bell lost control of the ball as she brought it up the court and it spun out of bounds.

“When I did that I was like, ‘Oh, my God, I literally screwed it. I literally messed it up,’” Bell said. “I didn’t really get frustrated with myself because our defense was on point today. ... I just knew we had it in the bag.”

Her faith in the team

panned out.

Porter snatched a huge defensive rebound on an errant Terry Sanford shot, getting fouled and converting a pair of free throws for a 51-47 lead with 10 seconds to go.

Then, Morris fired in a 3-pointer with 3 seconds remaining to tighten the score to 51-50.

Chargers’ senior Myla Marve then inbounded the ball to Porter, who was swarmed by Bulldog players but managed to hold off until the buzzer sounded.

“I didn’t want my final high school game to go out like that on me,” Porter said. “So I knew I’d do anything to get that ball, even if I had to fall or do a cartwheel, I didn’t care ... because that’s how I knew we were going to seal the game.”

Northwood will play for the NCHSAA 3A Women’s Basketball State Championship against the Enka Jets (16-14) at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh.

STATE

Continued from page B1

• **Final Four:** vs. (2) Wilson Prep, 59-42

Game Details: 5 p.m. Saturday at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh

Chatham Charter just seems different this season.

The team’s swagger, its confidence, its ready-for-anything mindset are indicative of its roster full of talented athletes and its insistence that it can beat anyone it takes the court against — and most of it stems from its calm, cool and collected leader at the helm of it all.

“For us, we haven’t had to get up for any of these state playoff games,” Jason Messier, the Knights’ head coach told the News + Record on Monday after being asked how his team has stayed motivated during its postseason run. “We’ve been talking about the playoffs since the beginning of the year — not overlooking any teams that we were playing — but as a unit, as a team, we were good enough to make a run in the playoffs.

“We had the pieces if we could put it all together,” he added.

That they do. And they have.

The Knights aren’t led by a roster full of veterans with a lifetime of experience.

In fact, it’s quite the opposite. They don’t even have a single senior on their roster.

Instead, they’re headed by a trio of juniors — forwards Adam Harvey and Aamir Mapp, along with guard Jackson Brown — who have learned how to weather the storm by fighting their way through last year’s COVID-shortened season and were members of (and much smaller contributors to) the Final Four team that came up just short against Winston-Salem Prep in 2019-20.

And yet it’s been Harvey, who was injured for his freshman season and has since won back-to-back Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Player of the Year awards, who has taken the reins of this team down the stretch and played like the most reliable of veterans — despite having just 48 career games under his belt.

Through 34 contests this season, Harvey is averaging 16.4 points per game, a number that’s drastically increased this postseason, bumping up to 22.8 points per game as he begins to settle in as the team’s top scoring option.

“When you’re in the conference tournament and the state playoffs, your best players need to step up and he is our best player,” Messier said. “He’s

Hayesville Yellow Jackets Conference: Smoky Mountain 1A (champions)
Record: 27-0 (10-0 in Smoky Mountain 1A)
Seed: No. 1 in Men’s 1A West
Postseason Recap:
 • **First round:** vs. (32) Star-mount, 85-47
 • **Second round:** vs. (17) Corvian Community, 84-59
 • **Third round:** vs. (9) Carolina International, 83-47
 • **Elite Eight:** vs. (4) Thomasville, 81-62
 • **Final Four:** vs. (2) Winston-Salem Prep, 72-66

Enka Jets Conference: The Mountain 3A/4A (fifth place)
Record: 16-14 (5-7 in The Mountain)
Seed: No. 19 in Women’s 3A West
Postseason Recap:
 • **First round:** vs. (14) Hickory, 63-57 (OT)
 • **Second round:** vs. (3) Freedom, 48-39
 • **Third round:** vs. (6) Ben L. Smith, 56-54
 • **Elite Eight:** vs. (7) Parkwood, 46-42
 • **Final Four:** vs. (4) North Davidson, 51-49

by 57 and 53 points, respectively — and others keeping it close. But rarely have they strayed from the consistent, defense-centered play that’s got them to this point.

While nearly all of the Chargers’ games this season have been blowouts — with only two wins by single digits and one total loss — their Final Four match-up with Terry Sanford, one of Northwood’s newfound rivals due to all of their recent postseason battles, was nothing short of extraordinary.

It was a thrilling reenactment of last year’s Elite Eight game, played in Fayetteville, where the Chargers won on a last-second 3-pointer.

It had it all: lead changes, big-time scorers, a rivalry atmosphere and, as is customary from the Chargers this season, a ton of defense.

Northwood held out for a close 51-50 win, sending the previously undefeated Bulldogs home with a bad taste in their mouths as their storybook season came to an end.

“I was just so proud of our team, that was a fight to the end, it was a fight the whole game and we knew it would be, they’re a very talented team,” Kerri Snipes, Northwood’s head coach, told the News + Record on Monday. “Our girls worked really hard on defense. That’s probably the best defensive effort I’ve seen all season.”

Chargers senior Olivia Porter, as she has been all season, was crucial to the Final Four win, doing what she does best: putting up points (averaging 18 points per game), creating turnovers and thriving at making opposing ball-handlers uncomfy.

Porter’s decision to transfer to Northwood — leaving Alabama with her father, Larry Porter, who took a job as an assistant football coach under Mack Brown at UNC — has proven to be a lucrative one, getting her one step closer to claiming her first state title and ending her high school career with a bang.

She’s impressed alongside her fellow senior guards, Natalie Bell (8.4 PPG) and Myla Marve (7.9 PPG), and sophomore guard Skylar Adams (6.7 PPG), who have, together, created a fearsome defense that wreaks havoc on opposing guards.

As a team, the Chargers are averaging 13.1 steals per game, a testament to their defensive greediness.

Down low, Northwood is aided not only by Porter — who has been a terrific post player and rebounder when she needs to be — but also junior Te’Keyah Bland (8.5 PPG) and junior Caroline Allen (5.9

PPG), both of whom have made names for themselves with their ability to draw contact, give their team second and third chances and use their size to impose their will inside.

At times, the Chargers have felt like a complete package.

And seemed nearly unstoppable.

Enter the No. 19 Enka Jets, the 3A West Regional Champions, a 16-14 team who are on the Cinderella run of a lifetime. Enka, located near Asheville, knocked off the region’s No. 14, No. 3, No. 6, No. 7 and No. 4 seeds, all on the road, to make it all the way to the state title game.

It may be easy for some to write off the Jets — a sub-.500 team which also had a losing record (5-7) in its conference — but not Snipes and the Chargers.

When it’s playoff time, as Enka’s already proven, anything can happen.

“They’re a tough team and they didn’t get there by happenstance,” Snipes said. “Just because their record may not show it, they’re obviously a tough team, they’ve made it this far and played against some tough schools. Plus, they’ve been traveling. That says a lot. ... We know it’s going to be a battle.”

The Jets have two formidable scorers in senior Bentlee Chockley (20.1 PPG) and junior Hadleigh Dill (16.8 PPG), which will be a tough test for the likes of Porter, Bell or any other Chargers that attempt to guard them. But despite Enka’s momentum and team-of-destiny aura, Snipes doesn’t appear to be concerned.

After all, with Northwood pushing through obstacles such as early-season injuries, a new head coach in Snipes and plenty of offseason exits, all while still having a monstrously successful season so far, shouldn’t they also be considered a team of destiny?

“(We’re going to) really enjoy this week,” Snipes said, “and make sure that we’re preparing the best that we can to try to bring home a championship trophy for Northwood and Chatham County.”

IF YOU’RE GOING

Tickets are \$15 and available only through the NCHSAA’s Digital Ticketing partner GoFan (<https://gofan.com/app/school/NC1661>). Admission for children under 5 is free with a paid accompanying adult.

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been capable of doing these things. Maybe earlier in the year, he may have deferred a little bit to some of the other players, but right now, when we need him, he’s just playing at an extremely high level.”

Harvey is joined by his brother, Beau Harvey, who has been the team’s floor general this season as a freshman, leading in assists per game (4.1) and steals per game (3.4). In the Elite Eight game against No. 12 KIPP Pride, the Harvey brothers combined for 44 points (77% of the team’s total scoring), proving their off-court relationship is beginning to improve their on-court chemistry.

However, as talented as the Knights are at dishing out assists and fighting for each and every bucket on offense, it’s a thing of beauty when they put together a strong defensive performance.

Entering Saturday’s Final Four game, the No. 2 seeded Wilson Prep Tigers — the defending 1A state champions — were averaging 77 points per game, having seven contests this season (and two this postseason) where they scored 90-plus points.

Yet, despite the Tigers’ high-octane offense, the Knights were able to hold them to their lowest point total of the season, by far: 42 points.

“We knew, coming in, that they had four guys who could shoot from the parking lot; these guys’ range was exceptionally deep,” Messier said. “Going into the game, we broke down each of those players and how we were going to approach them, what their strengths were and what we needed to do. We needed to make sure we were playing team defense.”

The Knights will need to make sure that defense shows up against the Hayesville Yellow Jackets, the 1A West’s No. 1 seed, in the state title game on Saturday.

Not only does Hayesville average 67.9 points per game, but it has two dominant scorers in senior forward Jake McTag-

gart (18.3 PPG, 12.1 rebounds per game) and senior point guard Kolbe Ashe (17.4 PPG), both of whom bring a bucket of unique skills to the table.

By having played the Yellow Jackets in two of the past three post-seasons — splitting the series, 1-1, during that span — the Knights know a little bit about what they’re going up against.

“We’re familiar with the team and their approach, we know they’re well-coached and they’re going to be fundamental, so we’ll just have to play our game and trust in what has gotten us to this point,” Messier said. “Defense, energy, teamwork, that’s really our game plan. There’s no reinventing the wheel at this point.”

“(This run’s been) exhilarating, exciting, it’s been a lot of fun,” he added. “I just want these guys to enjoy it and realize that they’re a part of history.”

Northwood Chargers

Conference: Central 3A (champions)

Record: 30-1 (12-0 in Central 3A)

Seed: No. 2, Women’s 3A East

Opponent: Enka Jets

Postseason Recap:

• **First round:** vs. (31) Swansboro, 64-7

• **Second round:** win vs. (17) Triton, 67-44

• **Third round:** vs. (7) West Carteret, 67-14

• **Elite Eight:** vs. (14) Williams, 66-52

• **Final Four:** vs. (1) Terry Sanford, 51-50

Game Details: 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh

The Chargers are one game away from immortality.

After a deep playoff run last season that was cut short by an experienced Asheboro Blue Comets team in the Final Four, the Chargers are back, better than ever and ready to play for a state title for the first time in program history.

It’s been an up-and-down postseason for the Chargers’ opponents, some getting absolutely waxed — including two games where Northwood won

down to one point again when senior Keion Patillo swished a 3-pointer with 3:15 left in the game, but as they had done repeatedly, the Knights quickly widened the margin.

Oldham snagged a rebound and pumped in a basket. Adam Harvey struck next, again with a basket and free throw, and then he converted a second pair of free throws after he was intentionally fouled with 1:24 showing on the clock.

That 7-point run and the 55-47, 8-point lead it rebuilt, effectively iced the win.

On Saturday, the Knights will get their second crack at a state title appearance, having last made a 1A regional final in 2019-20, where they fell in a close game to No. 2 seed Winston-Salem Prep, 65-60.

Chatham Charter’s battle with Wilson Prep will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday at J.H. Rose High School in Greenville.

KNIGHTS

Continued from page B1

chemistry to the team.

“At this point in the season, you’re going to have players step up in the big moment,” Messier said. “And these young guys have stepped up. Big-time players step up in big-time moments.”

The Knights’ defensive intensity set the tone early, building a healthy 26-15 lead at halftime. But

not before a hotly contested first quarter.

The Panthers drew first blood, but with 3:30 to play, Beau Harvey drilled a 3-pointer from the corner to give the Knights their first lead, 7-5. Brandon Hyman put the visitors back out in front, 9-8, at 1:35, but Beau Harvey sank four consecutive free throws to give Chatham Charter a 12-9 lead at the end of a low-scoring period.

In the second quarter, the Knights extended their

lead to 26-15, featuring Beau Harvey’s second 3-pointer, freshman Brennan Oldham tossing in four free throws and Adam Harvey adding another three free throws of his own.

Khyelle Ingram, the Panthers’ leading scorer with 15 points, kicked off a third quarter comeback.

He hurled in a 3-pointer at the 7:34 mark that jump-started an 11-4 run. That cut the lead from 11 to 4 points with 3:34 left in the period.

With 55 seconds remaining, KIPP scored six unanswered points to pull within one point, 35-34, but Adam Harvey answered with an and-one bucket, hitting the free throw, to push the lead back out to 38-34 before the buzzer.

“We knew they were going to come back and fight. We decided to weather that storm whenever it came, and we did,” Messier said.

But it was far from over. KIPP whittled the lead



Submitted photos

Having a heart for Meals on Wheels

Students at Pittsboro Elementary School recently took time from their busy academic schedules to create Valentine's Day cards for Meals on Wheels clients in Pittsboro and Siler City. The students, ranging from kindergarten through 4th grade, completed the cards before they were delivered to the Chatham County Council on Aging's Eastern Center in Pittsboro for delivery.



Wastewater Commission adopts 'problem statement' to help clarify its mission

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record
Correspondent

The Northeast Chatham Wastewater Study Commission has unanimously adopted a "problem statement" to help clarify its goals in addressing rapid growth in the 90-square mile area adjacent to the U.S. 15-501 corridor, stretching from the northern city limits of Pittsboro to the Orange County line.

The commission's March 1 meeting was the second of five scheduled gatherings of the 11-member study group.

"The growth in NE Chatham County is undeniable, and Chatham County's current strategy for managing wastewater in this area is not sustainable long-term," the

statement reads. "The current approach has well-documented problems and is not considered an adequate solution for the future."

Chatham County Planning Director Jason Sullivan began the virtual meeting with a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the county's unified development ordinance and development activity in the study area. Sullivan provided commission members with an overview of Plan Chatham, which was adopted by county officials in 2017. He described Plan Chatham as "a comprehensive plan that provides a strategic guide for future decisions," regarding development in the county over the span of the next 25 years.

Under Plan Chatham, the county has designated specific

areas for specific uses, including areas for conservation, parks and protected lands, as well as areas for compact residential development, Sullivan said.

At the conclusion of Sullivan's presentation, commission member Liz Rolison inquired about the existence of a master wastewater plan for the county.

"So there really isn't a master wastewater plan for the entire county?" Rolison asked.

Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne responded that at present there was no master wastewater plan for the county. Sullivan added that the last study commissioned by Chatham County on developing a master wastewater plan was performed nearly 30 years ago.

"We need to have a wastewater strategy that will work long-term," Rolison said.

"What I hear people saying is the solutions used in the past are not working."

Rolison cited numerous violations of N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality standards at a number of privately-owned "package facilities" in Chatham as evidence of the importance of developing a master plan for wastewater in the county. In addition, the county's limited wastewater capacity has impacted growth potential. (Chatham Park has its own — the planned community's half-million-gallon Decentralized Wastewater Reclamation Facility converts Pittsboro's wastewater to non-potable water to be used for agricultural, industrial and

landscaping applications.)

Commission member Denise Nowak said there was poor oversight at many of the package wastewater facilities in the county, and expressed concern over potential damage to the environment, including the pollution of surface waters.

"The lack of oversight is the biggest concern with regard to wastewater package facilities," Nowak said. "When they violate the rules, it's not a huge financial burden to pay a fine to the state."

During its next meeting, commissioners will discuss a number of subjects, including exploring the option of continuing with the county's policies regarding privately-owned package sewage treatment facilities. The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on March 28.

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Chatham COA Events & Announcements

March 10th through March 16th

Thursday, March 10th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 

Friday, March 11th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 

Monday, March 14th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)  
- [Strong & Fit w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 

Tuesday, March 15th

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  
- [Walking at CCCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot) 

Wednesday, March 16th

- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM 
- [Chair Yoga w/Liz](#) at 9:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom)  

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

 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**

 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

 **Fee Required for Participation**



The free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will run through 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 Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at chathamcoa.org or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

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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Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Art with a smile

Yvonne Kovacic of The White Sparrow displays some of her work at Pittsboro's 'First Sunday' event. First Sunday happens from noon to 4 p.m. in downtown Pittsboro the first Sunday of each month from March through December.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Yin, yang and wood

Woodworker Baron Hoffman poses with a yin and yang wood art piece he made, and was selling, at Pittsboro's 'First Sunday' event of the year last Sunday. Hoffman, who owns WoodArt Studios, makes a variety of wood art objects.



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

Be yourself

Ellie Valverde of Chatham County poses with a t-shirt she purchased during Pittsboro's 'First Sunday' event last week.

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On Mar. 1, Shawnace Lamont Yarborough, 26, of 1060 Willow Way, Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for trafficking opium or heroin, possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver heroin, and possession with intent to manufacture/sell/deliver cocaine. He was issued a \$100,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County Superior Court in Pittsboro on April 4.

On Mar. 2, Shy'Asia Latryreana Anderson, 19, of 1611 NC Hwy. 27 West, Lillington, was arrested by Cpl. Robert Hussey for order for arrest/failure to

appear. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on Mar. 15.

On Mar. 2, Codie Nicole Johnson, 27, of 7721 Lanes Mill Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for failure to comply. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County Superior Court in Asheboro on Mar. 7.

On Mar. 2, James Filmore Kendall, 32, of 7721 Lanes Mill Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for failure to appear. He was issued a \$80,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Ran-

dolph County District Court in Asheboro on Mar. 7.

On Mar. 3, Patrick Robin Mitchell, 23, of 1234 Cedar St., Pueblo, CO, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for manufacturing marijuana, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for controlled substances, possession of marijuana greater than ½ to 1 ½ ounces and possession of marijuana paraphernalia. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 21.

On Mar. 3, Christopher Trent Hackney, 26, of 331 Austin St., Burlington, was arrested by Deputy Andrew

Gray for felony possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia, simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance, possession of marijuana greater than ½ to 1 ½ ounces, possession of marijuana paraphernalia, driving while license revoked, expired registration card/tag, expired/no inspection, failure to heed light or siren, fail to stop for a stop sign/flashing red light and reckless driving with wanton disregard for safety. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 21.

On Mar. 5, Amber Rochelle Weatherman, 41, of 117 The

Church Rd., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for simple assault and resisting a public officer. She was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 16.

On Mar. 6, Christopher Lynn Gilliland, 46, of 7550 Old 421 South, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for obtaining property under false pretense, attempting to obtain property under false pretense, financial card fraud and identity theft. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on Mar. 21.

CHATHAM SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Roberson announces 2021 award winners

From the Chatham Sheriff's Office

In celebration of National Employee Appreciation Day last Friday, Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson hosted the annual Chatham County Sheriff's Office Award Ceremony.

This tradition is intended to honor the outstanding men and women who serve within the agency. Awards were presented at the Chatham County Agricultural & Conference Center in Pittsboro, where staff members gathered with family and friends to show support for their peers and each award recipient.

"It is always my pleasure to recognize the hard work and exceptional service provided by our staff," Roberson says. "In my eyes, every employee deserves an award for the amazing job they do every day. I cannot say enough great things about the dedicated individuals who make this Office a shining example of teamwork and professionalism all year long!"

Sergeant Luisa Rojas received the Detention Officer of the year award while Deputy Alberto Estrada took home the award for Officer of the Year. Administrative Services Specialist Beverly McLean Goldston was honored as Civilian of the Year. All were nominated by peers and selected via a voting process.

"The highest praise you can receive comes not from supervisors, but from your peers," Roberson said. "Out of everyone who works at the Sheriff's Office, your co-workers identified you as most deserving of this award. It also means we expect more great things from you in the future."

The same process is followed to select "Rookies" of the Year — new employees identified for their superior performance and potential in their career field. Detention Officer Katie Bond and Deputy Joe Scott were given awards for Rookie of the Year in their respective units. Detention Support Specialist Allison Armstrong took home the award for Civilian Rookie of the Year.

"Rookie of the Year Awards come with high expectations... To receive such an award says a lot about the recipients' work ethic, initiative and value they add to our team," said Lieutenant Sara Pack. "We expect these recipients to continue on a path of excellence to become Officers or Civilians of the Year in the future."

Life Saving Awards went to Deputies Tyler Welch and David Nixon. These awards are only earned by employees who take immediate action



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Chatham County Sheriff's Office Employees celebrate Retired Chief Deputy Charles Gardner. Pictured left to right: Sergeant Anthony Norton, Animal Resource Director Karen Rogers, Lieutenant Abby Bristow, Captain Tammy Kirkman, Detention Officer Casey Kitzman, Captain Chris Cooper, Legal Advisor Rik Stevens, Lieutenant Jessica Norton, Retired Chief Deputy Charles Gardner (center), Sheriff Mike Roberson, Captain Ken McDaniel, Chief Deputy Tracy Kelly, Administrative Support Specialist Beverly McLean Goldston, Chaplain Mark Agan, Lieutenant Joe Birchett, and Captain Steve Maynor.



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Roberson with Investigator / Firearms Instructor Branden Havens as he receives a Certificate of Appreciation celebrating his exceptional work ethic, adaptability, and teamwork.



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Roberson presents Administrative Support Specialist Beverly McLean Goldston with an award for Civilian of the Year. Goldston was also recognized for 15 years of dedicated service to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office as a member of the Administration Unit.



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Mike Roberson presents Retired Chief Deputy Charles Gardner with the Old North State Award on behalf of the Office of the Governor of North Carolina.



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Captain Tammy Kirkman (left) and Lieutenant Phillip Richard (right) attend the Annual Award Ceremony to show their appreciation and support for award recipients.

to assist individuals in life-threatening distress.

"These deputies bring honor to all law enforcement professionals through their demonstration of selflessness and service when it was needed most," said Captain Ken McDaniel.

Sergeants Rischetta White, Ashley Ellington, Brent Fonville, and Nick Keifer received Meritorious Achievement Awards for going above and beyond the requirements of their jobs for the ben-

efit of Chatham County. Animal Resource Specialist Carolyn Stevens Smith also received a Meritorious Achievement Award for her teamwork and leadership at the Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center (ARC), and Investigator John Flynn received a Meritorious Achievement Award for his impressive year of accomplishments as a Narcotics Task Force Officer.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded

to Investigators Ricky Culberson and Branden Havens for their guidance, dedication and professional service both within the Sheriff's Office and to the residents of Chatham County. Both men have proven themselves to be talented, compassionate and committed team players who regularly use their knowledge and experience to help others learn, grow and overcome obstacles.

The Unit Citation Award went to the An-

imal Resource Unit for their adaptability, innovation and commitment to serving the public and furry residents of Chatham County.

"Last year brought many new challenges for the Animal Resource Center (ARC) and its staff," Pack said. "They successfully transitioned into the new ARC building, hosted a Grand Opening to welcome the public into the facility, created and launched a robust volunteer pro-

gram, expanded partnerships with local, state, and national agencies and organizations, drastically reduced euthanasia rates, and worked tirelessly to combat animal cruelty, disease, and the spread of misinformation. They have proven themselves to be dutiful advocates and public servants, and we are endlessly grateful for their devotion and sacrifice."

All Chatham County Sheriff's Office Employees are expected to perform at least 20 hours of community service each year. Student Resource Officer Sergeant Rebecca Madden received the Community Service Award for 2021 for completing more than double the required hours.

Deputy Brent Ward received the Top Gun Award for achieving top accuracy scores during yearly firearm qualifications. A recipient of this award must maintain high marks while operating under stress, time constraints and varying environmental conditions. This elite honor can only be earned through a combination of practice, skill and self-control, and serves as a testament to Ward's experience and expert proficiency.

Deputy Marcus Hart, Student Resource Officer Noah Frazier, Animal Resource Officer Caleb Phillips, and Sergeants Jonathon Porter, Nick Keifer, and Luisa Rojas received certificates acknowledging five years of dedicated service to Chatham County. Lieutenant Stephen Renn, Detention Cook Tonya Adcock, and Sergeants Lee Lester, Robbie Hussey, and Scott Meulendyke were recognized for 10 years of service. Administrative Support Specialist Beverly McLean Goldston, Investigator Mike Copeland, Sergeant Chris Burger, and Captain Chris Cooper received awards for 15 years of service. Lieutenant Brandon Jones was recognized for 20 years of service, and Lieutenant Joe Birchett received an award for an impressive 25 years of service to the Chatham County Sheriff's Office and the public.

The ceremony ended with a moving tribute to outgoing Chief Deputy Charles Gardner following his recent retirement. Gardner was ultimately presented with the Old North State Award, issued by the governor to recognize "dedication and service beyond expectation and excellence to the Great State of North Carolina."

"I am proud of each and every one of you for all you have accomplished in 2021," Roberson said. "I expect even greater things from our office in 2022."

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THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

The really dark knight capsizes in 'The Batman'

While most 21st century films featuring Batman have cast him as a Caped Crusader or Dark Knight, writer-director Matt Reeves's reboot/refresh, titled simply "The Batman," attempts to revive another of the superhero's venerable monikers: the World's Greatest Detective.

Between sporadic flourishes of Gotham



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

City's winged vigilante (played by Robert Pattinson) roughing up some seedy ruffians, most of his early appearances involve visiting grisly crime scenes, ushered through a phalanx of disapproving glares from Gotham's finest by seemingly his only friend, police lieutenant Jim Gordon (Jeffrey Wright). Gordon's haggard desperation over the city's sorry state has forced him to embrace the equally morose Batman, who plods into murder scenes with the slow burn of a Clint Eastwood antihero.

Batman is thrust into the hunt for the Riddler (Paul Dano), a crazed Zodiac-esque killer who is out to unmask and dispatch the city's corrupt elite. In other words, the Joker in "The Dark Knight." Batman is a whiz at solving Riddler's esoteric wordplays, yet Gotham's greatest detective somehow fails to detect the rank rot infecting every level and official in the city's government, spearheaded by mob boss Carmine Falcone (John Tuturro). In other words, "Batman Begins."

Batman is aided by the comely and morally complex Selina Kyle (Zoë Kravitz), a working girl of sorts who has the hots for Bats and tiptoes along the dividing line between hero and criminal. In other words, Catwoman in both "Batman Returns" and "The Dark Knight Rises."

The man beneath the cowl is a glum and younger Bruce Wayne, whose parents' untimely deaths have left an antisocial orphan whose only meaningful relationship is an albeit strained one

THE BATMAN

GRADE: C+

DIRECTOR: Matt Reeves

STARRING: Robert Pattinson, Zoë Kravitz, Paul Dano, Jeffrey Wright, John Tuturro, Andy Serkis and Colin Farrell

MPPA RATING: PG-13

RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 56 min.

with family butler Alfred Pennyworth (Andy Serkis). It is not a coincidence that Kyle twice conspicuously exclaims "Jesus!" when startled by the Batman. Yep, the film is also yet another stab at religious allegory: Batman's walk through a proverbial Judean Desert in which he must choose between a path of Old Testament vengeance or New Testament sacrifice.

Stuck somewhere between "Se7en" and "Watchman," Reeves's rain-soaked redux succeeds along the margins, including its portrayal of the Penguin as an underworld underling yearning for greater power. Played by Colin Farrell beneath layers of fat prosthetics, Penguin looks like a Dick Tracy villain and is one of the film's few entertaining elements.

So much of "The Batman" feels overly familiar and, at 176 minutes, monotonous. From Christopher Nolan to Zack Snyder, the modern push has been to conjure a grittier, realistic Batman, patterned largely after Frank Miller's graphic novels and their progeny. However, Reeves's "The Batman" suffers from being both too derivative, too literal and too detached from its underlying mythos. If you strip down the character's iconography deep enough, you are left not with a film about capital-B Batman but rather just a sullen sociopath who dresses up like a bat to fight bad guys. The former carries nostalgic and thematic import; the latter is bemusing and tedious.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

SILLY SAILING

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86						87					88		89				90	91	92	93	94
					95						96	97					98				
99	100	101								102	103						104				
105					106	107	108														
114						115															
118										120	121										
125											126										
128																					

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

H	A	L	B	E	R	D	U	T	A	H	N	E	O	S	G	T	S				
E	T	A	I	L	E	R	R	A	M	I	E	A	C	T	S	O	U	T			
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S	I	R	M	A	T	I	S	S	E	A	R	M	V	T	E	N					
T	O	O	L	A	T	E	T	O	T	U	R	N	B	A	C	K	W	O	N		
A	D	D	I	N	S	P	E	R	U	N	N	U	I								
T	I	E	D																		
E	N	O	I	N	F	O	D	O	W	N	T	H	E	D	I	N	A	R			
D	E	B	C	O	R	E	A	P	A	T	I	O	O	N	T	O					
O	S	L	O	S	C	I	R	E	P	L	I	E	D	P	O	R					
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G	O	S	O	L	O	D	E	F	L	C	D	S	D	Q	E	D					
A	R	E	Y	O	U	C	A	L	L	I	N	G	M	E	A	R	I	A	L		
O	P	E	L	B	U	C	O	N	T	O	A	S	T								
S	T	R	I	K	E	A	P	E	S	O	B	U	S	T	A						
H	E	A	D	I	E	R	D	O	N	T	G	I	V	E	A	R	A	N	D		
E	S	T	E	L	L	E	I	S	E	R	E	E	R	I	T	R	E	A			
A	T	E	T	S	A	T	O	Y	E	D	S	A	L	E	T	A	G				

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 K U I G D S G U Y B E Z X V S
 Q O O M K I M I F E W G E C A
 E R A Y C H A R L E S Y W U S
 Q C A H O P S I A N C N L J H
 F E A E S T M M C R O A D A Y
 X O V E L S K U A S E O E Q P
 W N N M P C K C J E H H M P F
 E I C T U O H C A E R B T Z Y
 P Y L R E D N E T B X D V O U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: JUST AN OLD — SONG

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|
| Back to you | Moonlight | Pines | Smile |
| Clear | No peace | Ray Charles | Tenderly |
| Dreams | Other arms | Reach out | Woah |
| Eyes | Peaceful | Road | |

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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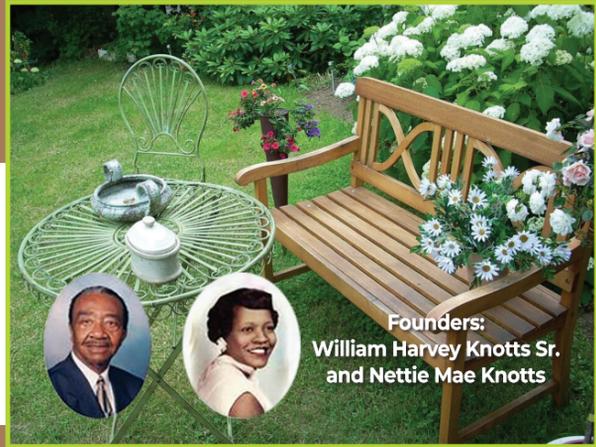
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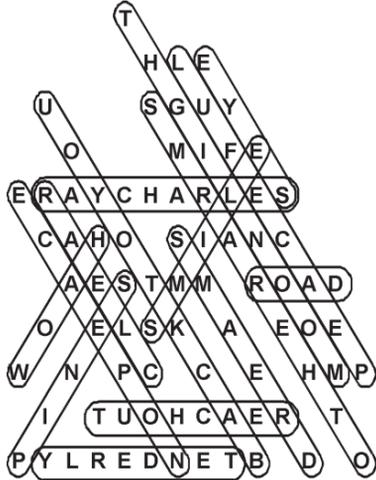
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“GEORGIA ON MY MIND”



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Cook today, chili tamale

I'm not a chili fan. Never sat in front of a bowl of red with anticipation. Wendy's chili moves me not. Keep that mess away from my dog, I'm a sauerkraut girl. The Kid feels pretty much the same way, except for the sauerkraut (loathes it).

But we love, adore, and relish a big bowl of a homemade favorite: green pork chili.

It is a pot of many wonders. It's cheap. It's easy (not quick-but easy). It can be made on a Saturday afternoon, and will taste even better heated up on a busy Wednesday night. It freezes like a dream, so you can make gallons at a time. If you play your cards right, you can get an extra hunk of slow-cooked pork to use for another

meal. And it's so very yummy. It's rich and hearty without being heavy or greasy. It is jammed full of fresh, healthy veggies that have cooked down into a rich, roasted nirvana. It's mel-low and comforting, but has a little zip from fresh chiles, lime and cilantro.

It all starts with my old friend, a pork shoulder, or Boston butt (tee hee). Look for it on sale, and buy as big a piece as you have a pot for. You'll need at least 2-3 pounds for a nice big batch of green. The amounts of the vegetables can also vary, according to taste. Thanks for your time.

Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Chili For Folks Who Don't Like Chili

- 2-3 pound pork butt (or larger)
- 1/2-3/4 pounds fresh poblano peppers (for more heat, swap in hotter varieties as desired)
- 1/2-3/4 pound fresh tomatillos
- 1 very large white onion
- 1 head garlic
- 1 cup white wine or pale beer
- 6 cups chicken stock

- 1 large can hominy or posole
- 2 fresh limes
- 1 bunch cilantro
- Goya Adobo powder with bitter orange (the one with the orange lid)
- 1/4-1/2 cup white masa (fine corn meal)
- *Corn meal can go rancid, quickly. I keep mine indefinitely, in a labled zip-lock bag in the freezer.

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Liberally coat and massage adobo into pig. Salt, pepper, dry thyme, cumin, and a dash of dry oregano will make a barely passable substitute for the powder, but the adobo is so much more flavorful and complex. In your biggest, heaviest, lidded pot, sear the meat on all sides in a tablespoon of olive oil. Start with the fat side down, which will add to, and flavor the fat already in the pot. Done right, this will take a good 20 to 30 minutes, so meanwhile, prep your veg.

Slice off the tops of the poblanos, and cut lengthwise in half (if you aren't an experienced chili head, wearing rubber gloves now will make your life much easier later; the relatively mild poblano's oils can stay on your skin, even after washing, and burn any tender body parts subsequently touched; yours or anyone else's). Remove any ribs and all the seeds.

Peel off the papery outer skin and rinse the tomatillos (take care: their sap is the stickiest substance known to man). If they're small (plum-size) halve them, if they are the size of tomatoes, quarter them. Peel onion and roughly cut into five or six big hunks. Peel garlic, and cut off dried ends. Grab a handful of cilantro tops, to taste (I'm not a fan, so I don't use much — maybe four tablespoons here, with another couple of chopped tablespoons at the end). Slice first lime in half and juice.

When the pork is browned all over, remove and add in the wine or beer. When it has almost all reduced, turn off the stove top; it's veggie time (not unlike Hammer or Miller). Put about one-quarter of the veg on the bottom of the pot, set in the piggy, fat side up, and put in the rest of the prepped green stuff. Just tuck everything in; around and on top of the meat. Pour in about 2 1/2 cups of the chicken stock and the juice of the first lime. Cover and place in oven.

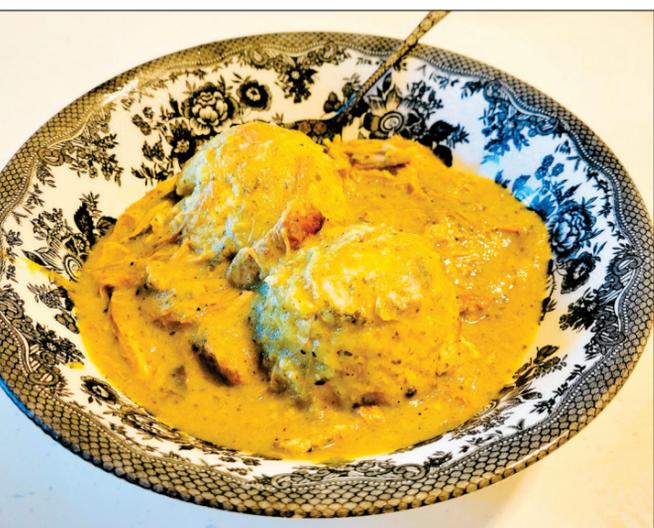
Check after two hours and then every 30 minutes until the meat is literally falling apart tender. This will probably take at least three hours. Please don't try to rush it, disaster will ensue.

When it's done, remove the meat to cool some, and put the pot of roasted veg on the stove. Puree vegetables; you can either use a regular blender or an immersion blender (the wand type). Add a few cups of chicken stock, and then with the chili at a low simmer, sprinkle in the masa, a tablespoon at a time until it has tightened up to your taste. Add in drained, rinsed hominy.

Chop or shred three or four cups of the pork, discarding any pieces of fat, and stir it back into the pot with the lime juice from the second lime, and chopped cilantro.

Green Chili!
We serve this over rice. We spoon on some Mexican crema (like sour cream, which can be substituted), and sprinkle on cotija or queso fresco (both are white, salty, crumbly, Latin cheeses).

Rice, such a simple food, can cause acute stress when cooked at home. I promise, my method will eliminate the drama and produce evenly cooked, fluffy separate grains every time. And once you get this method down, you can flavor it to your liking, or even make pilaf this way. The secret is — don't mess around with it, and it just about takes care of itself.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Chili — for folks who don't like chili.

Basic White Rice

- 2 cups regular white rice (long grain, jasmine, basmati — all will work, but not the arborio type)
- 4 cups water
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

Stir rice, salt, and water into a heavy pot with a lid (this is the last time you will stir the rice). Heat on medium-high, and let come to a boil. The second it starts to boil, reduce to medium-low, cover, and set timer for 13 minutes.

When the time is up, carefully lift the lid, and peek; mindfully — there's steam. If the water is all gone (you'll hear hissing, but no bubbling sounds), replace the lid, and take it off the heat. If not, put it back and check every couple of minutes until the water's gone.

Leave covered and unmolested for 20 full minutes. At 20, remove the lid, and with a big fork, fluff, don't stir the rice, to separate the grains. Transfer to a serving dish and serve.

Makes about four cups.



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



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ATTENTION CUSTOMERS

This is the front page of our circular with the dates of March 9 Thru March 15, 2022. Our full circular does not appear as an insert this week, due to a printing error on the inside pages. However you can pick up the corrected 4 page circular inside our store. The printer regrets this mistake and apologizes for any inconvenience it may have caused.

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13	14	15	9	10	11	12

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F24,M3,10,17,4tp

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CHATHAM COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION is soliciting applications for an organization to be designated as the County's Youth Football Provider. For more information please visit the Parks and Recreation website at: <https://www.chatham-countync.gov/government/departments-programs-i-z/parks-recreation>. Please submit applications to Chatham County Parks and Recreation, PO Box 1783, Pittsboro NC 27312 - Attention J. Stamey or drop off the application at 964 East St, Suite 100, Pittsboro NC 27312. Application deadline: March 14, 2022. M3,M10,2tc

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MISCELLANEOUS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN! - The heir's property of Earnest & Lula Roseboro of 429 East 9th St. in Siler City, N.C. is up for sale. Please contact Donnie Roseboro Brooks in Siler City, N.C. at telephone # (919) 548-1207 or P.O. Box 496, Siler City, N.C. 27344 if you are one of the children of Earnest and Lula Roseboro. Please do this by March 17, 2022. Thank you kindly! F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

LEGALS

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.

immediate payment. This the 17th day of February, 2022.
Dean A. Hamke, Executor
304 Mattera 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

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 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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 88
All persons having claims against **HELEN COUNCILMAN**, 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.
Harold Councilman, Administrator
1806 Ronald Scott Rd.
Bear Creek, N.C. 27207
F17,F24,M3,M10,4tc

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 22 E 90
The undersigned, having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of **DAVID E. CLARK**, 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, 1318 Old Sanford Road, Moncure, North Carolina, 27559, on or before the 24th 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 the 17th day of February, 2022.
Lisa S. Long
Moncure, North Carolina 27559
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P.O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
F24,M3,M10,M17,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 204
All persons having claims against **WILLIAM W. BEAVERS, SR.** deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of February, 2022.
CO-EXECUTORS:
Betty Beavers
2341 Vander Oldham Rd.
Bear Creek, NC 27207
William W. Beavers, Jr.
2693 Vander Oldham Rd.
Bear Creek, NC 27207
Pamela B. Haga
1329 Front Ave; Unit 309
Columbus, GA 31901
F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 740
All persons having claims against **ALICE OLENE MOON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of February, 2022.
Brenda Brower, Co-Administrator
2004 Flint Ridge Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
Faye Kinton, Co-Administrator
2253 Flint Ridge Rd
Siler City, NC 27344
F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22 E 082 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, Rochelle Bryarley, having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **BRANDON WADE BRYARLEY**, 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 18th day of May, 2022, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.
This the 17th day of February, 2022.
Rochelle Bryarley, Administrator
c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate
Hopper Cummings, PLLC
Post Office Box 1455
Pittsboro, NC 27312
F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 382
All persons having claims against **WILLIAM BATTY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of February, 2022.
Susan B. Long, Executor
27 Grove Point
Pittsboro, NC 27312

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION
Line ad deadline Tuesday — Noon
Display ad deadline Monday — 5 p.m.
Rates and payment Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.
Blind ads No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.
Errors In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
The undersigned, having qualified as Co-Executors of the Estate of **COLLEEN F. BOONE**, deceased, 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 their address, 6181 US Highway 15-501N, Pittsboro, North Carolina, 27312, on or before the 24th 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 21st day of February, 2022.
Linda Gail Ellis, Co-Executor
Ronald Ellis, Co-Executor
6181 US Highway 15-501 N
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC
P.O. Box 880
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880
F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of **LISA ANNE DOROTHY LAWSON**, deceased of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms, corporations, and other entities having claims against the said decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of May, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery of any such claims. All debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment.
This the 24th day of February, 2022.
Christian Emde Lawson, Administrator
c/o Ethan C. Timmins
Patrick Law, PLLC
3805 University Drive, Suite A
Durham, NC 27707
F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
21 SP 126
Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed by Frank D. Norris and Sally W. Norris, in the original amount of \$79,300.00, payable to First Fidelity Mortgage Corporation, dated June 29, 1994 and

Live on-Site Auction 
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HELP WANTED
Chatham Monument Co. has an opening for a monument installer. Work involves working in Siler City and surrounding area installing monuments as part of a 3-person team.
Apply in Person, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
227 N. 2nd Ave. Siler City, NC 27344

M10,M17,M24,M31,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

ALL persons, firms and corporations having claims against **PATRICIA ANN MCDANIELS**, deceased, of Pittsboro, Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before June 13, 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 March, 2022. Glenda S. Garrison, Executor c/o Elizabeth K. Arias Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP
555 Fayetteville St., Ste. 1100 Raleigh, NC 27601
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

HAVING QUALIFIED as Executrix of the Estate of **EVELYN P. SILER** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of June, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This the 3rd day of March, 2022.

Patricia S. Newkirk, Executrix of The Estate of Evelyn P. Siler 122A Miss Jane Way Siler City, North Carolina 27344
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27312
(919) 542-5605
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **LAURA B. WEIGELE** aka Laura Jean Weigele of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 30th day of September, 2021, are notified to present them to Jeffrey T. Weigele, Jr. and Jonathan R. Weigele, Co-Executors of the Estate of Laura B. Weigele aka Laura Jean Weigele 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 June 16, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Co-Executors, and the devisees of Laura B. Weigele aka Laura Jean Weigele. Those indebted to Laura B. Weigele aka Laura Jean Weigele are asked to make prompt pay-

ment 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
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

Having qualified on the 7th day of March, 2022 as Administrator of the Estate of **DAVID AARON KOPF** aka David Kopf 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 10th day of June, 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 10th day of March, 2022. Myra L. Collins, Administrator of the Estate of David Aaron Kopf aka David Kopf

c/o Julia G. Henry, Esq. Kennon Craver, PLLC 4011 University Drive, Suite 300 Durham, North Carolina 27707
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 113**

All persons having claims against **DENNIS BRANSON SPIVEY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of June, 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 March, 2022.

Stephanie Spivey, Administrator 189 N Pea Ridge Road Pittsboro, NC 27312
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY
22 E 33**

All persons having claims against **RICHARD WINFRED ALSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of June, 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 March, 2022. M. Carolyn Newkirk, Administrator 674 Alston Horton Service Road Pittsboro, NC 27312
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tp

NEW BRIEFS

'Friend of the Program' launches support program for N.C. caregivers

CHAPEL HILL — Friends of the Program, the group licensing program for the University of North Carolina's men's basketball players, is launching a marketing campaign with Trualta (www.trualta.com) to "Point to the Passer" and support North Carolina's caregivers.

The special Instagram series will connect those caregivers with free help to learn the best ways to keep their loved ones safe and well at home, and honor the life of Linda "Mama" Woods, former executive assistant to Tar Heel head coaches Dean Smith and Bill Guthridge.

Trualta is the only skills-

based learning platform for family caregivers. Its clinically validated eLearning program for family caregivers is available for free on the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Caregiver Portal, and North Carolinians can self-register at any time at nc-caregivers.com/basketball.

Woods, who assisted the UNC's men's basketball program, its coaches, and student-athletes for 38 years, recently passed away from an ongoing care journey. She embodied the Tar Heel's commitment to selflessness and caring for others, which is why at UNC, pointing to a player who made a pass that leads to a basket is celebrated. These core values are the driving force behind Trualta's mission to empower caregivers, who are often

overlooked despite being the backbone of America's health system.

Approximately 1 in 4 adults in North Carolina provide regular care or support to an older adult with a long-term illness or disability, meaning there are between 1.4 to 1.7 million unpaid family caregivers in the state. Caregivers enter the role with little to no warning — or training — despite doing what is often hands-on health care work. With Trualta, they are able to access valuable content in under five minutes. There is expert-led, skills-based content for anyone who finds themselves supporting a loved one (ex: caring for an older grandparent, a parent with Alzheimer's or dementia, or even a sibling, friend or neighbor with intellectual developmental disabilities).

Now in 26 states, Trualta

is clinically proven to reduce distress and can be accessed 24/7 on any device.

Siler City ends mask mandate in town facilities, cemetery sells last plot

SILER CITY — In a short Monday commissioners meeting, Town Manager Roy Lynch announced an end to the mask mandate in Siler City town facilities. This comes after Gov. Roy Cooper urged for municipal governments and schools to lift their mask mandates as a shift towards a post-pandemic world.

"We have lifted the mask mandate for all of the town facilities and vehicles and this is in accordance with the state and other local agencies," Lynch said to the board. "We

do still recommend that those who want to wear them to continue to do that, but we have

lifted that policy."

Lynch also alerted the board to the town's cemetery and the status of available plots.

"Last week, we did sell the final cemetery plot that was available, so the town no longer has any available," he said.

Because of this, the town will not include revenue from cemetery land sales into their 2022 budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Chip Price said the town needs to make sure to communicate this to churches in the area who utilize the town's burial grounds.

"We need to let churches know that there are none available, and I think that may solve a few problems going forward," Price said.

— CN+R staff reports

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