

Chatham News + Record

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3A STATE CHAMPIONS

Redemption arc: Northwood, led by seniors and first-year coach, finally reaches pinnacle



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Natalie Bell (left center) embraces junior Sarah Barbour (right center) in celebration after the final buzzer sounds after the Chargers' 70-42 win over the Enka Jets in the 3A women's basketball state title game in Raleigh on Saturday. The win ends a 52-year championship drought for team sports at Northwood.

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — Northwood Athletic Director Cameron Vernon knew the question was coming.

He'd gotten it from his dad earlier that morning.

"No," Vernon comfortably told the News + Record on Saturday night when asked if he thought he stepped down as the Chargers' women's basketball head coach a season too early. "My father called me this morning and he said to me, 'Do you regret stepping down?' ... I said, 'Dad, I'm happier right now to see one of my players as the head coach.' ... It was the right time for her to step in and for me to step away."

Vernon was referring, of course, to Kerri Snipes — now the head coach of the Chargers, who spent the last four years under him as an assistant coach, along with three years under him as a

player from 2009-12.

And this past Saturday, Snipes' Chargers (30-1, 12-0 in Central 3A) dominated the Enka Jets (16-15, 5-7 in The Mountain 3A/4A), 70-42, in the NCHSAA 3A Women's Basketball State Championship Game to secure the first team state title in Northwood history — a win that ended a 52-year championship drought in Pittsboro.

She reached the pinnacle in her first season as head coach.

"I think (the players) respond well to her, she's always cool," Vernon said. "Our girls looked like a seasoned team. They didn't look nervous, they didn't look scared. I think that's a credit to her preparation this week."

The Chargers stepped onto the floor at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh — the massive logo of Tuffy, N.C. State's

See **CHAMPIONS**, page A12

'COMMUNITY CALL TO ACTION'

Rally's message to Chatham: acts of racism must stop now

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The message of Monday's "Community Call to Action" was clear: Now's the time to finally put an end to acts of racism in Chatham County's schools.

More than 100 concerned citizens, students, faith leaders and parents gathered prior to Monday's Chatham County Board of Education meeting in response to a March 4 incident involving a mock slave auction at J.S. Waters School in Goldston, where several students auctioned off at least two classmates at recess.

Organized by Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity, the 40-minute combination rally and press conference took place in front of Pittsboro Presbyterian Church, a short walk from Chatham's historical courthouse downtown.

Speakers included pastors, local NAACP leaders and four Chatham students, but the focus was on the family of Jeremiah Palmer — the son of Ashley and Justin Palmer, and one of the students who experienced the auction.

In her remarks to those gathered, Ashley Palmer said the March 4 incidents weren't the first of a racial nature her children experienced at J.S.

Waters. Palmer's Facebook post about the incident galvanized the community response — leading to parents and students sharing their own stories with CORE leaders and others, including the Rev. Dr. Carl Thompson Sr., a Siler City pastor and former county commissioner who helped organize a large Zoom call last Thursday, which led to Monday's rally.

But it did mark the first time, Palmer said, that "we decided to go the distance to make sure it wasn't met with a cultural acceptance bulletin board." Rather, Palmer wanted the "heinous act" to be recognized as real racism — with real consequences for those who allowed it to happen.

"That said, today we will bring forth a document to the Chatham County Board of Education and Chatham County Schools Administration that will outline what we, along with some of the experts here today, think will provide solutions to such a terrible act," she said. "Our goal is to provide real tangible solutions that make racist acts handled appropriately without the need to go to social media, and to also create a teaching opportunity for both children and administrators. The reality is, many have reached out to us and said 'this is the norm' within

See **RACISM**, page A6



Staff photo by Keith T. Barber

Christy Wagner, a parent of a J.S. Waters student, addresses the Chatham County Board of Education during its regular meeting on Monday regarding a mock 'slave auction' at the school that involved her son.

Jackson, board formally apologize for 'slave auction'

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson spoke softly and deliberately at the end of a lengthy public comment period during the board of education's regular Monday night meeting.

Addressing the board, most speakers expressed their collective outrage over a mock "slave auction" involving Black middle school students at J.S. Waters School in Goldston earlier this month.

So, before presenting proposed poli-

cy changes — revisions to the student code of conduct, additional training resources for faculty and staff, and partnering with community organizations — Dr. Jackson first apologized to Chatham County parents and students, speaking to the overflow crowd inside the county's historic courthouse in downtown Pittsboro.

"I want to first offer an apology ... to every single student who has ever felt unsafe while in our care to every student who has ever felt demeaned, disrespected or marginalized be-

See **APOLOGY**, page A6

Feeling the pinch at the pump

Chatham residents, businesses and institutions impacted by spike in fuel prices

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record Correspondent

The economic sanctions imposed by the United States and its European allies against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine have sent fuel prices soaring across the globe with no end in sight.

Chatham residents like Jeanette Dickson have been feeling the pinch.

Dickson commutes 65 miles each way from her home in Pittsboro to her job as a speech therapist in downtown Fayetteville. She said the incremental increases in the price of gas over the past year were hard enough, but the skyrocketing fuel prices over the past two weeks are beginning to impact her

family's finances.

"The most recent price increases have really hit home," Dickson said. "It costs \$70 for me to fill my tank, and I have to fill it twice a week to get back and forth to work. It costs \$140 for gas a week, so I'm starting to rethink my job and consider whether or not I need to work closer to home."

According to the AAA Carolinas website, the average cost of regular gas as of earlier this week was \$4.18 per gallon statewide, slightly below the national average of \$4.32 per gallon. The average cost of diesel fuel now stands at \$5.10 per gallon in North Carolina. At this time last year, a gallon of regular gas was selling for \$2.66, and a gallon of

diesel fuel sold for \$2.89 per gallon.

Jeff Wilson, president of Wilson Brothers Trucking in Bear Creek, described the price fluctuation of the past two weeks as unprecedented in his memory.

"When we're seeing \$5-plus diesel fuel, I don't think the [trucking] industry can sustain that," Wilson said. "I don't think we as consumers can sustain that."

Wilson pointed out that the trucking industry transports more than 70% of all goods shipped in the U.S., so the ripple effect of the recent surge in fuel costs will be felt throughout the

See **GAS**, page A3



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Gas prices at this station in Siler City top the \$4 range.

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 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 United Way of Chatham County will hold its public meeting Thursday, March 25, at 11 a.m., in the Holmes Meeting Room of the Chatham County Library, 197 NC-87, Pittsboro. The public is invited to attend. Please contact United Way to be added to the attendee list: 919-542-1110.

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 super-

vised 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 registration 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 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.

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 May 1) and **Youth Softball** 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://chathamhistory.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.bstroop93.org for more information.

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

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

How did you LAND here?



HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?
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)
- LAND (Representing Buyers) 13 Units**
- 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
 - 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
 - 0 Hawkins Avenue (9.7 Acres)
 - 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
 - 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 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 (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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPUZR9hC-Wg>

VIDEO TOPIC: North Carolina Due Diligence Money Explained (History and Current Usage)

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NEWS BRIEF

Siler City announces 'Easter Eggstravaganza'

SILER CITY — Children are invited to hop on over to Siler City's annual Easter Eggstravaganza event on April 9, which will feature 6,000 candy and toy filled Easter eggs hidden throughout Bray Park for eager egg hunters to find.

"We are thrilled to organize the annual Easter Eggstravaganza again this year and look forward to seeing the joy this event brings to children and families in our community this Spring," said Jack Clelland, Siler City's Parks and Recreation director. "Siler City Parks and Recreation seeks to provide exceptional experiences through recreational opportunities in our community."

This is a free event offered to children ages 12 and younger. Festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with inflatable attractions, games, communi-

ty resource booths, and music. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Bring your camera, as the Easter Bunny will "hop in" to visit with the children. The main event, the Siler City Easter Egg Dash, will begin promptly at 11 a.m. and is organized by age groups across various fields.

Bray Park is located at 200 Bray Park Com-

plex Dr. in Siler City. In case of inclement weather, the event's raindate is Sunday, April 10, with only the Easter Egg Dash being held at 2 p.m.

For more information, please contact the department at 919-742-2699, email recreation@silercity.org, or visit the Town of Siler City website at www.silercity.org.

—CN+R staff reports

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Museum to showcase Chatham County's geological past in new short-term exhibit

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Historical Museum will soon allow visitors to see firsthand hundreds of millions of years' worth of local history, predating the existence of human development inside county lines.

The museum is set to open a short-term exhibit in April to highlight the area's geology and how it has affected the county's history and development. Museum director Cindy Schmidt and exhibit director Wanda Pender enlisted retired geologist Chris Palmer to identify and map out the history of Chatham County's geological resources.

Palmer will also lead two programs while the museum hosts the exhibit. The first program will take place on the first Sunday in April, where Palmer will identify rocks residents bring in and answer questions about the geology behind everyday life. The second program — which will take place on May 15 — will feature a presentation, plus a question-and-answer panel with Palmer, where he'll discuss rocks, fossils and more he has found in Chatham County and their significance to documenting the area's ancient history.

"The Chatham County Historical Association board wants to do between three and five programs a year, so I brought Chris's name and the subject to the board, and they were very enthusiastic about making it one of our programs for the year," Schmidt said.

Palmer came to Chatham County five years ago after retiring from researching seismic activity along the West coast, particularly around the San Andreas fault line in California.

After arriving in Chatham, Palmer and his wife decided to take a community college course involving a geology-centric field trip led by Phil Bradley, the Senior Piedmont Geologist for the North Carolina Geological Survey.

So, when Schmidt asked Palmer to help develop a geology museum exhibit, he asked for Bradley's help, as



Contributed photo

Chatham County's historical museum will host a short-term exhibit about the geological history of the area.

IF YOU'RE GOING

WHAT: Hands-on introduction to Chatham County Geology and Rock Identification

WHEN: noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 3

WHERE: Historic Chatham Courthouse in Pittsboro

WHAT: Program on Chatham Geology

WHEN: 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 15

WHERE: Historic Chatham Courthouse in Pittsboro

well as for background information on Piedmont geology.

"He has done a lot of work around Chatham County," Palmer said, "and he is actually getting ready to publish a geological map of the county."

As Palmer began his research into the county, he soon learned Chatham's history predates any settlers, or Native Americans who inhabited the land prior. Palmer found hundreds of millions of years' worth of history, ranging from ancient fossils, minerals, evidence of drastic seismic activity such as earthquakes, and more.

"The area is underlain by a sequence of tectonic blocks and shoved together over the last 600 or 700 million years, and in Chatham, that has been going on for around 630 million years," Palmer said. "Between Pangea and the formation of the Atlantic Ocean, there has been a lot that has been going on, which makes

for interesting geology."

One of the more interesting finds, according to Palmer, relates to the potential for earthquakes in Chatham, as well as around the state. He discovered evidence of ancient seismic activity, and learned more about the fault lines surrounding the state — such as one between Eastern Tennessee and Western North Carolina, as well as another in Central Virginia, which caused an earthquake which damaged the Washington monument in Washington, D.C.

"You can see those forces operating out west, and it is gigantic, while here, those forces were operating here, only it was hundreds of millions of years ago," Palmer said. "I got to see the current activity out west, and then travel back to the past when I came here."

According to Palmer, Chatham likely won't experience any seismic activity like that in



Contributed photo

Museum volunteers look at some of the samples and materials for next month's short-term exhibit.

communities along the known fault lines, such as San Francisco or Los Angeles. Chatham, though, may lie close to a fault line geologists just don't know about yet — though Palmer doubts it.

"There is some remobilization in the Appalachians," he said, "and you won't know there is a fault there until one snaps, like the one in Virginia."

The exhibit will not only cover the area's seismic history, but will showcase examples of the county's natural resources, including highlighting the history of mining in Chatham.

Pender said a section of the exhibit will also be dedicated to the mines around the county, highlighting some of the tragedies surrounding these industries, including a mine explosion in 1925.

"One we will highlight is Ore Hill, which was used during the Revolutionary times to manufacture munitions, and another one would be Coal Glen Mine, which was the site of the huge explosion that killed 53

people," Pender said. "It remained the largest disaster in the United States for many years."

Palmer has created a detailed map out of county documents pinpointing all locations for current and past mine sites, Pender said. With this map, Pender hopes Chatham residents will be able to learn something new about the place they call home.

"Chris has been most gracious in working with me to try to get his information into exhibits in the museum that people can see over the next two months," Pender said. "I think people will be surprised with just how many mines are in Chatham County, historical and ongoing."

Schmidt hopes people will learn more about how geological resources can impact any given area's economy.

An example of this in Chatham Schmidt gave relates to the high amounts of clay in the county's southeast corner. Schmidt said the brick industry has taken advantage of those

resources, and in turn, has helped to develop Chatham's economy.

"What's available from the soil and the ground has always brought a good economy to Chatham," Schmidt said. "Rocks, soil and water can impact how Chatham has developed over the years, just because of what lays there."

She hopes this exhibit provides Chatham residents a glimpse into how natural resources and the world around them shape their daily life, even if they can't see it directly.

"People don't quite have an awareness for how much their everyday lives are impacted by things that they can't see, the things beneath their feet such as the soil, rocks, water and more," she said. "It has a daily impact, and we just want people to explore the ecosystem beneath our feet, and how that ecosystem affects what is up and around us everyday."

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

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham, Randolph colleges receive millions in ARP Funds

The White House announced that North Carolina has received over \$1.3 billion for 144 colleges and universities, including \$432 million for community colleges, due to funding from the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

Two highlights of the White House's announcement that

affect Chatham County and Randolph County are major investments in Central Carolina Community College and Randolph Community College. CCCC received \$7,136,716 and Randolph Community College received \$4,794,820. The money represents a portion of the largest one-time infusion of funding for colleges and universities in the nation.

The American Council

on Education found that the funding will provide direct financial aid to students at risk of dropping out, keep prices for students at pandemic levels, retain employees who may have been at risk of unemployment and more.

"I am proud to see this much federal money coming to help community colleges in Chatham and Randolph counties," Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist.

54) said. "Community colleges are central to developing local talent and driving our economy forward. This money will ensure that faculty and staff are paid and that our students have access to a world-class education right in our community."

Phillip Price, CCCC's executive vice president and chief financial officer, aid the funds have made a tremendous impact in the college's ability to

continue offering high quality programming to its students during the pandemic.

"We have been able to use the funds to convert programming and services online, purchase PPE, install equipment to reduce risks of transmission of COVID-19, and assist students who experienced financial difficulties because of the pandemic," he said.

—CN+R staff reports

GAS

Continued from page A1

nation's economy.

But Wilson remains hopeful the oil market will stabilize in the days ahead. Despite the challenges, he said his company will honor its

commitments to customers.

The impact of higher fuel prices, Dickson said, has led her and her family to refocus their energy on how best to conserve and lower their carbon footprint.

"We've made a lot of choices about what we

do in terms of recreation in order to know that we need to conserve money in order to get back and forth to work," she said. "Do we want to go to the mountains just to go hiking versus going to the Haw River? So making choices like that are things that we weren't doing a year ago, but we certainly are now."

Dickson, who recently started working a second job near her home in Chatham County, is considering reducing her hours at her speech therapist job because of the lengthy commute. Even so, Dickson said she supports economic sanctions against Russia, including banning all imports of

Russian oil.

"It's a small price to pay in the grand scheme of things," Dickson said. "To support the people on the other side of the world right now who are going through unimaginable suffering — if what we have to do is pay more money at the gas pumps, then that's what we'll do for right now."

Chatham County Schools has also been feeling the economic pain of higher fuel prices. In February 2021, the average cost for a gallon of fuel was \$1.55 for the school system. One year later, that cost stands at \$2.56 — a 65% increase in fuel costs with little to no increase in funding.

Chatham County Schools' Nancy Wykle explained that the reason for the shortfall in funding lies in a formula devised by the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction. The state covers school transportation costs based on a school system's efficiency rating, a formula producing a dollar amount that the state gives a school system at the beginning of the school year.

"If fuel costs are stable, this works pretty well," said Wykle, CCS' public information officer.

When the oil market is volatile and the price of gas spikes, however, it falls on the school systems to make up the

difference, she added.

Chatham County Schools has on-site tanks for 20,000 gallons of gasoline and 20,000 gallon of diesel as a safety precaution in times of fuel shortages. At this time, Wykle said, the district hasn't had any problems receiving fuel deliveries, but prices have continued to climb — which means the county will be on the hook for the additional costs.

"There is no emergency fund source," she said. "Last week, some of the smaller and more financially depressed counties across the state had already exhausted all of their available funding for fuel."



VIEWPOINTS

When gaining your sight becomes a 'big deal'

"Mom, it wasn't a big deal." Among all the impassioned words, among all the emotional pleas I heard during Monday's community rally and Chatham Board

BILL HORNER III
Publisher + Editor

of Education meeting, those — conveyed by a Chatham County mother, Christy Wagner, whose son was one of those students "sold" during a mock slave auction at J.S. Waters School — hit me the hardest.

Wagner was one of 21 people who addressed the school board during the hour-long public comment section of the board's standing-room-only meeting, which was held at the county's courthouse. That meeting followed the rally on the grounds at Pittsboro's First Presbyterian Church, which drew at least 100 people.

Each of the speakers I heard and those I spoke with

at the two events — maybe 35 people in all — was uniquely eloquent. The pastors. The students. The parents. Concerned citizens who have little direct connection with public schools.

I earmarked 20 or 25 comments speakers made as especially memorable as I furiously scribbled notes throughout the night. But when Wagner recounted her conversation with her son to the school board — after finding out about the incident from another parent — it stopped me in my tracks.

It took me back to my childhood, growing up in Lee County and seeing, and hearing, how my white classmates dealt with my Black classmates' color. I recall no cruelty, no taunting, no overt acts of racism. I was taught that "all men are created equal," that we're the same in God's eyes.

But somehow, I knew differently. What I was taught by my parents on one hand, and what I saw and heard from other adults in my life on the other, provided a subtle contradiction. It was in that contra-

diction that my sight became cloudy. It wasn't that I didn't see, but rather that I didn't recognize.

We were equal, was the message — but we were also different. That was made clear as well, and that belief reflected, in turn, the way I chose to see.

Correcting that, setting that right, took not only time but teaching and lots of reflection — to the point where I see now, and recognize what I was once oblivious to. And as importantly, I understand now that perspective has limitations. Some forms of blindness never fully heal.

Wagner addressed the sadness of that reality when she spoke to the board.

"Some days," she said, "I feel anger about what happened. Some days I feel sadness trying to grasp why we're still having these issues in 2022. Honestly, some days I feel guilty and question if I'm doing a good job raising my son. I never thought in a million years I would be standing here talking about my son experiencing racism in

middle school."

Yet, here we are. Why wasn't it a big deal to Wagner's son? Why weren't such actions a "big deal" when I grew up? Maybe because it was so commonplace. Maybe because so many of us with poor eyesight weren't on the receiving end?

In Chatham County, for all the talk about unity, I've never felt separation and "apartness" more strongly than I did Monday night: in the same courtroom where a month earlier parents of students decried the board's (and many of the rest of us) terminal "wokeness" over masks and COVID-19 protocols with sneers and angry threats, a different group of parents cried out over an issue that too many of us have shrugged off like a passing cloud in an otherwise crystal-line sky.

One speaker, Pittsboro resident Tami Schwerin, said what has transpired isn't a new problem — nor is it a black or brown problem, but rather "a white problem our ancestors inherited" — with behaviors

repeated consciously and unconsciously from generation to generation.

It's no wonder so many of the speakers on Monday talked about this series of events being a wake-up call, a pivot point, for our schools — and also for the community. Of a pattern that must be addressed once and for all. Of a failing on too many levels. Of a singular problem that must be worked until solved.

Of a trauma that demands healing.

Those who spoke during this school board meeting had it right: We're weary of having the same conversations over and over. What you do not address, you bless. It's time to live out our values and keep these things from happening on our watch again.

And finally: this is a real chance to take a step so clear and unambiguous that no one can fail to see what is right and must be done.

And that's where the key lies: seeing.

That is a big deal.

The long way home

Quo Vadis? My Latin is rusty, but I know the phrase literally translates as, "Where are you marching?" It was originally directed to a passing soldier in the Roman Empire. The question is really one of purpose: What are you doing?

These ancient words have come to mind with modern images of Russian troops in Ukraine. Where are they marching? What are they doing?

This much is clear: Vladimir Putin has isolated and estranged himself from the rest of the world. I have little sympathy for this madman whose actions have already cost thousands of lives and threatened global stability.

But what about those Russian soldiers? Have they all drunk the Kremlin's Kool-Aid? Or do they harbor doubts about their mission or even sympathies for the Ukrainian people? Whether they realize it or not, they have been caught in a drama not of their own making.

In his novel about the Vietnam War, "The Things They Carried," Tim O'Brien wrote, "War is hell, but that's not the half of it because war is also mystery and terror and adventure and courage and discovery and holiness and pity and despair and longing and love."

What are those Russian soldiers doing? What are they feeling?

One of the tactics of war is to dehumanize the enemy. I understand this strategy may be necessary to kill in battle.

But watching coverage from the safety of my home, I wonder how I might make those Russians soldiers human again. This is not to justify the atrocious invasion of their president, nor excuse the violence. Undoubtedly, some soldiers are misguided. We know others have committed heinous acts.

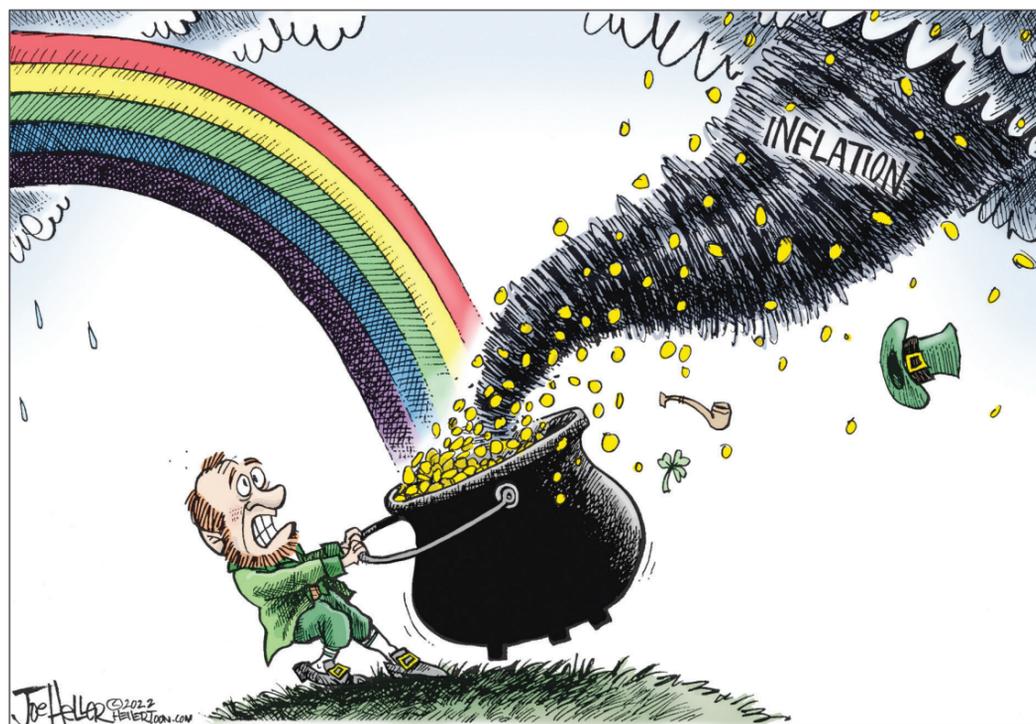
Yet, every soldier was once a child, and some of them have children of their own back home. To humanize another person is to recognize we all struggle and suffer, live and die. Especially when we find ourselves in foreign and terrible situations, we long for the safety, comfort and peace of home.

In his poem "Quo Vadis," former poet laureate William Stafford wrote of "travel that takes you home." This trip may not be easygoing. The word "travel" in both Western and Slavic languages can imply a sense of struggle, toil, even suffering. With ceasefire negotiations broken down between Ukraine and Russia, our world is far from a peaceful resolution. All signs point to a long, hard road ahead.

What about America? Where are we going? What are we feeling? The armed combatants overseas fight for their lives. Our struggle in this country is less obvious. As civilians, we must think beyond our immediate interests, such as the price of a gallon of gas or the political party of our president. Many of us pray, yet we must also strive to have empathy for others, even for our enemies. Remarkably, the Ukrainians are setting this example for us.

Even though the Russians have invaded their land and killed their children fleeing across bridges, the Ukrainian government has made it a point to contact the families of captured prisoners of war to assure their loved ones that they are alive. Not only that, but a recent video documented Ukrainian soldiers offering tea to a Russian soldier after he had surrendered. It was exactly as an ancient rabbi commanded: Do unto to others as you would have them do unto you. Wherever you go, those are good marching orders.

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."



Wondering if I'll ever find the answer

Of all the things that make up life, the one that is the most puzzling to me — and at the same time intriguing — is that age-old question of "human nature."

Simply put, that question comes down to "Why do we do what we do, and why do we leave undone what we should do?" Some folks, it seems, never ponder that whole idea. Maybe they're the lucky ones who go through life unscathed. But my DNA isn't put together that way.

The answer to some questions is obvious. For instance, in the area of why we don't do some things could be the question, "Why don't we stick our hands into the fire to see if it's hot?" Well, duh ... We already know the answer.

But the answers to other questions might not be so obvious. Can we outrun that bull across the pasture? Will Mrs. Johnston have me go to the board and work a math problem? If she does, will it matter that I didn't do my homework last night? (Well, actually, I knew the answer to that question; I was just playing the odds she wouldn't call on me, and she usually did when I didn't do the homework.)

And see, that's the whole human nature question in a nutshell. It wouldn't have taken any longer to do the homework than the hour I spent on the phone with my buddy, the hour I spent watching an episode of "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis," which I'd already seen

twice before, and the 45 minutes spent trying to remove a humongous zit from my nose so Katy Sue would speak to me in the hall the next morning.

So, back to the original question: "Why?"

Theologically and spiritually speaking, that's the question Paul continually asked in the New Testament, summing up his understanding in the idea of two natures, which I understand and deal with. There's Bob the Wonderful (that's me), and then there's Bob the Terrible (also me). Plus, there's Bob the Doofus, Bob the Dummy, Bob the Procrastinator (which may be the real me) and Bob the Whatever, just to mention a few.

They're all me. Having children of my own was an educational experience in this area. I was a bit young myself at the time so all of what there was to learn may not have sunk in. But for the past few years, I've had the opportunity to learn a few more things.

Case in point: Oldest grandchild of our group, which now numbers seven with another soon to arrive, lived with us during a period of transition in his young life. We were good buddies, still are. We play games (he usually wins and not because I let him), go to Waffle House, shoot basketball — at least he does since my long gone shoulders won't let me — and other good stuff.

One day, I learned a valuable lesson from him I've tried to hang onto. Now that I'm a bit older, I've come to believe one of the most helpful tools to use navigating life is to let some

things go and not get your socks in a wad over everything. Some things just aren't worth the effort.

With all that wisdom in hand, why then do I keep falling back? A case in point was the Sunday television showing of the ACC basketball tournament finals between Carolina and Duke some years ago; I really don't remember when.

Sure, I graduated from UNC — spent seven years there, three as a freshman. But that was long ago, back in the dark ages when dinosaurs roamed the earth. I'm not a student now; I don't earn my bread from working at the school. No one there knows me. All the professors I had are either retired or fossils. More and more of my classmates and dorm buddies are precious memories. It's been forever since I've even set foot on campus.

Why then was I hollering at the television as the game progressed in a way I didn't like? Little Guy, who is now a teenager, had caught on fairly early: "Gandaddy (his word), the TV can't hear you. Why you hollering at it?"

Good question.

Why?

If and when you find out, please let me know.

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

Property rights are worth defending

There's always a cost to protecting property rights.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

No rational person has ever suggested otherwise. In free societies that place a high value on the individual right to own and control private property, it's more

expensive for governments to build roads or public facilities. It's harder to piece together parcels of land for redevelopment. And what your neighbors choose to do with their property may annoy you.

These costs are well worth paying, however, because the alternative is a more stagnant and stultifying society. If you're unsure whether some future politician or bureaucrat might confiscate your property, or diminish its value through capricious regulation, you're less likely to invest significant resources in it. You're less

likely to take chances. You're less free to live as you choose. These are significant costs, as well.

An underappreciated accomplishment over the past decade is that North Carolina's protection of property rights has gotten a lot stronger. Still, each leap forward drew passionate critics.

When in 2012 the General Assembly essentially did away with forced annexation, critics predicted dire economic and financial consequences for cities and towns. When the North Carolina Supreme Court struck down the state's nearly 30-year-old Map Act in 2016, critics predicted that having to compensate people in the path of future roads for government restrictions on the use of their land would make road building inefficient and unwieldy.

Neither objection held water, in my view. North Carolina's annexation and road-corridor regulations were wildly out of step with those of most other states, where somehow munic-

ipalities and highway departments managed to deliver their services without relying on unjust laws.

Our latest leap forward in property rights protections came in December. But neither state lawmakers nor state judges are responsible. It came from a federal court, in response to a case involving a homeless shelter in North Wilkesboro.

The Catherine H. Barber Memorial Shelter opened its doors in the Wilkes County town more than three decades ago. When board members expressed a need for a larger space to accommodate the shelter's growing needs, a local dentist and his wife stepped up to donate the two-story office building that had previously housed his practice.

Barber Shelter officials were delighted — until the local zoning board denied its application for a conditional use permit, citing a potential loss of property value among neighboring parcels as well as an alleged threat to public health because

of the shelter's location on a busy highway.

Rather than take the rejection on the chin, the Barber Shelter took the zoning board to court. Represented by the Institute for Justice's Diana Simpson, the shelter argued that other similarly situated businesses would have received permits to operate in the same location. U.S. District Court Judge Kenneth Bell agreed, writing in his order that the board "apparently believes — incorrectly — that it can say the magic words 'traffic and safety' and this Court will rubber stamp the classification no matter the facts."

Examining those facts, Bell concluded that "North Wilkesboro intentionally treated the Shelter differently from other similarly situated uses, and there is no rational basis for the difference in treatment." While there are certainly circumstances in which courts should defer to the informed judgment of administrative agencies, he wrote, "such deference cannot be an excuse for

the Court to abdicate its duty to protect the constitutional rights of all people."

To their credit, the town manager and North Wilkesboro Board of Commissioners decided not to appeal and will pay \$180,000 in attorney fees. Indeed, Mayor Marc Hauser went out of his way to be supportive.

"The Catherine Barber shelter provides a much-needed service for the less fortunate," he said. "Personally, I would like to see them expand their hours and offer more services. Here's wishing them all the best in their new facility."

So, the Barber Shelter is relocating as planned. And local officials in North Carolina and beyond got a clear message: infringing on property rights may be costly — for you.

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

The courts spoke. Now we must.

It should have come as no surprise that the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the maps approved by North Carolina's high court.



TOM CAMPBELL
N.C. Spin

They generally uphold redistricting decisions from state courts. After two gerrymandered maps from the legislature, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled their last submissions "are unconstitutional beyond a reasonable doubt under the free elections clause, the equal protection clause, the free speech clause, and the freedom of assembly clause of the North Carolina Constitution."

A bipartisan group of retired judges and academic experts was tasked to draw new congressional districts, which they submitted and which our high court approved. The state GOP, urged by legislative leadership, asked the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the districts from being used, arguing that the legislature, and only the legislature, had the right to draw district maps. Further, once drawn the courts had no authority to change the maps.

We have a long and sad history with redistricting, both from Democrats and Republicans. Perhaps you remember the 2016 comments of Representative David Lewis, the former Harnett County Republican chairperson of the House's redistricting committee. After a federal court had ruled the 2011 congressional maps were unconstitutional because of racial gerrymandering, Lewis said, "...the districts were drawn to give Republicans 10 seats and Democrats three seats because they couldn't figure out a way to draw an 11-2 map." Some thought he was just being facetious, but it is increasingly clear neither he nor Republican leadership was joking.

Are we to believe that the legislature has *carte blanche* to draw maps in almost any manner they like? Does fairness matter? Should race, sex or recent party voting patterns be of any import? And if our lawmakers figure out how to gerrymander all 14 congressional districts to Republican advantage is there no one to whom we can appeal?

In 2019, all members of the U.S. Supreme Court — including Thomas, Alito, Gorsuch and Kavanaugh — seemed to agree that state courts have some role.

Ours is a so-called "purple" state. The legislature is controlled by Republicans. Our executive branch by a Democrat, our Court of Appeals has

a Republican plurality and our Supreme Court a Democratic plurality. In the 2020 election, we gave 50% of the presidential vote to Trump and 49% to Biden. Shouldn't our legislative and congressional districts reflect these patterns?

Here are my takeaways: First, we can now hold the May 17 primaries using the maps approved by our Supreme Court. Candidates know the districts in which they will run. Next, it is unreasonable to trust legislators, interested in maintaining their power, to apply fairness in less than a partisan way. It's as impossible as teaching the proverbial pig to fly.

Recent court redistricting lawsuits center around the two political parties, but North Carolina is no longer just a two-party state. Unaffiliated voters now outnumber Republicans, and it won't be long until they do the same with Democrats. We make it highly difficult, if not impossible, for an unaffiliated candidate to even get on the ballot, much less win an election. The entire proposition of having to attain a large number of signatures for an unaffiliated or third-party candidate to get on the ballot desperately needs changing. The one thing the two political parties can agree on is blocking any other parties (especially unaffiliated voters) from ballot access.

Here's an idea: Let's remove all party designations on primary and general election ballots. To be sure, this will likely mean more people file to run. It won't shorten an already too-long ballot, but maybe we might have more choices and better candidates offering to serve in public offices. The top two vote getters would advance to the general election. This would also eliminate costly and lengthy runoff elections. While making changes, we must regulate "dark money" independent expenditure groups, so candidates, parties and special interests are no longer able to buy elections.

If these ideas sound like a return to simpler times, a time when the candidate with the best message won, we are clearly communicating.

Finally, if there was ever a time that demonstrated how important judicial elections are, it is now. I say again the most important elections in 2022 will be our appellate courts.

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 tom-camp@carolinabroadcasting.com.

LETTERS

Don't promote segregation for profit

TO THE EDITOR:

I would not mind CRT (Critical Race Theory) or racial justice being addressed in school if the subjects also included food stamps, welfare checks, Medicaid, free school lunches and grants for segregated colleges.

One day I, a lady with a medium beige skin color, was working with a younger lady with a light brown skin color. The young lady told me she was going to have to quit her job because she was making too much money and if she did not quit work, she would lose her welfare checks. I had to continue working and felt as if I were the one being treated unjustly.

Since everyone living today is a descendant

of Noah, we are one race ranging in skin colors from light beige to dark brown. No one is black, and only albinos are white. "Only Noah and those who were with him in the Ark remained alive," according to the Bible (Genesis 7:23). Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream was for ALL Americans to be united. Martin Luther King Jr. would probably turn over in his grave if he knew someone was using his dream to divide Americans and put coins in their pockets. Everyone knows the more one stirs dung, the more it stinks, and the more one stirs hate, the more coins go into their pockets.

Maybe it's time to cut the purse strings on entitlement programs and those promoting segregation for profit.

Carol Gene Good
Conover

Bad news about favorite eateries and some good news, too

There's good news and bad news about our favorite places to eat in North Carolina.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

The bad news is that many of our favorite roadside eateries closed recently. Some could not meet the challenge of the COVID pandemic, and some closed for an assortment of other reasons.

Meanwhile, UNC Press held an updated "North Carolina's Roadside Eateries," which was ready to go to press, when the pandemic began. It seemed certain that more eateries might fail.

So, what is the good news?

First, many of the roadside eateries survived the COVID crisis. Second, UNC Press has asked me to move forward with an updated revision of "Roadside Eateries."

This is where you, my readers, come in. You can help.

If you have a favorite eating place close to a North Carolina Interstate Highway, send me an email at the address below with the eatery's name, location and why it is a place you'd recommend to an Interstate traveler or North Carolina neighbor who happens to be on the road.

When you write, tell me why your restaurant is a place you would recommend — where the atmosphere and staff are cordial, where you are served barbecue or some other comfort food at reasonable prices by friendly people happy to have you there.

It would help if the restau-

rant is a well-known local favorite, but it would be even better if you have found a little-known gem.

To remind you of what we have lost, here is a list of the restaurants from "Roadside Eateries" that have closed and will not be a part of the new edition:

- Interstate 26: Ward's Grill, Saluda.

- Interstate 40: Judge's Riverside, Morganton; Smith Street Diner, Greensboro; Allen & Son and Margaret's Cantina, Chapel Hill; Toot-n-Tell Restaurant, Garner; Holland's Shelter Creek Fish Camp, Burgaw.

- Interstates 73 & 74: Dixie III Restaurant, Asheboro; Hill's Lexington Barbecue, Winston-Salem.

- Interstate 77: Acropolis Cafe & Grill, Cornelius; Carolina Bar-B-Q, Statesville; The Cook Shack, Union Grove; The Lantern Restaurant, Dodson.

- Interstate 85: Wink's King of Barbecue, Salisbury; Tommy's Barbecue and Captain Tom's Seafood Restaurant, Thomasville; Angelo's Family Restaurant, Graham; Bob's Bar-B-Q, Creedmoor; Nunnery-Freeman Barbecue, Henderson.

- Interstate 95: Sheff's Seafood Restaurant, Pembroke; Candy Sue's Restaurant and Fuller's Old Fashion Bar-B-Q, Lumberton (Relocated to Pembroke); Saltbox Seafood Joint, Durham; Miss Maude's Cafe, Benson; Holt Lake Bar-B-Q & Seafood, Smithfield; Bill's Barbecue and Chicken Restaurant, Wilson; and Broadnax Diner, Seaboard.

This little list of closures brings forth so many memories. Ward's Grill in Saluda, for instance, was located in Thompson's Store, which has

been open since 1890 and is worth a visit. You can follow my visit to Saluda and Thompson's at www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3JYPuglUb4.

Losing Allen & Son in Chapel Hill was a personal tragedy. It was one of the last in the state to cook barbecue all night over wood coals. So was Carolina Bar-B-Q in Statesville, which earned a recommendation from Charles Kuralt, even though he admitted he preferred more fat and gristle. Kuralt was a fan of eastern "whole hog" barbecue.

Nunnery-Freeman Barbecue in Henderson also had important knowledgeable fans, including former Charlotte Observer columnist and barbecue enthusiast Jack Betts. He put Nunnery-Freeman at the head of his top ten list of barbecue eateries.

I still lament the loss of Bill's Barbecue and Chicken Restaurant in Wilson and the end of Bill's massive barbecue empire that had trucks taking food to celebrations throughout the East and Piedmont.

Finally, I cannot forget the tragedy of Broadnax Diner's closing in Seaboard, the town where Broadway's William Ivey Long hosted his family reunions and tried to make the town a support center of performances.

If these departed restaurant favorites remind you of places you would be willing to share, please write to me with details at nceateries@yahoo.com.

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

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

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APOLGY

Continued from page A1

cause of their race, ethnicity, gender or disability,” Jackson said. “In the Chatham County Schools, we proudly boast that diversity is our strength and moving forward it will be our intentional focus to ensure that this celebration includes everyone.”

“We will do better,” he added.

Board Chairman Gary

Leonard echoed Jackson’s sentiments.

“We want to do right by our children,” Leonard said. “We want to make sure they’re treated well, so please understand we’re working to do a better job.”

Board member David Hamm said the criticisms leveled at the school board by concerned parents and citizens were “well-taken,” and said the racist incidents at J.S. Waters have been equally painful for board members.

“Sometimes when you get hurt, you get yourself up and move forward,” Hamm said.

Board member Del Turner characterized the public comments as a “wake-up call,” while board member Jane Allen Wilson also offered an apology to parents of J.S. Waters students targeted in the mock auction.

“Whenever there’s racial violence from adults in a community, it’s troubling and upsetting, and when it happens with our children, it is expo-

mentally upsetting,” Wilson said. “And it’s humbling to me to realize any inroads we make just scratch the surface. We could have done a better job.”

The board unanimously adopted a set of proposed policy changes Jackson presented to address racial discrimination, bullying and intimidation in the Chatham County Schools.

Jackson’s proposal includes developing a districtwide protocol for training all staff members to clarify expectations, working closely with parents

and community agencies to improve communication between stakeholders and the school system, and performing a thorough review of the Student Code of Conduct to address racially charged incidents on school grounds.

During the first hour of Monday’s meeting, 21 speakers addressed the mock slave auction incident in which white students at J.S. Waters “auctioned” classmates earlier this

See **APOLGY**, page A7

RACISM

Continued from page A1

our school system. This should not be the case.”

Palmer said the “blatant” racist acts weren’t exercises in diversity, inclusion or equity, but rather a violation of the school system’s code of conduct.

“Racists acts shouldn’t be disciplined on the same level as someone pulling another student’s hair, with a one-day suspension,” she said. “It should have its own designation reportable at the county level and handled with the significant consequences it deserves. No child should face abuse by their peers or staff.”

A readiness to help

J.S. Waters School is a K-8 school serving the central rural region of Chatham County and located just off U.S. Hwy. 421 near Goldston. It has a student population of about 200 students, 68% of whom are white.

Palmer said J.S. Waters Principal Matthew Wilkins and CCS administration had been “extremely supportive emotionally” and had expressed a readiness to help. She singled out Chris Poston, the system’s executive director for excellence and opportunity (a recently-created position), Dr. Amanda Moran, assistant superintendent for academic services & instructional support, and Dr. Anthony Jackson, who was named superintendent last summer, for their response.

But Palmer asked now for the administration and school board to act on a list of recommendations made by the CORE-led community coalition — a list presented to the board later that evening.

That document, as first reported by the News + Record, was widely circulated in advance of Monday’s board meeting. It read, in part:

“Our coalition heard the testimony of a mother whose bi-racial son, an eighth-grader, was racially bullied and abused by his white classmates at J.S. Waters school. We learned what this young man experienced was the latest of many experiences that span generations; during our meeting and immediately afterward, multiple families and former students recalled racialized bullying, microaggressions, terror, and trauma experienced in Chatham County schools. As a result, black students and their families have very different school experiences from white students.

“At J.S. Waters school, white students felt safe enough to commit blatantly racist acts on school property, in the presence of staff and faculty, and while being filmed. These students were emboldened to not only commit brazen and overt acts of racism but to retaliate further and continue their aggression after serving a perfunctory one-day suspension. The initial tepid response by the school’s administrators to these traumatizing incidents is problematic. An intense examination and redress of the cultural, structural, and institutional informants creating these environments are



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Ashley Palmer (right) and her husband, Justin, listen to the Rev. Dr. Carl Thompson Sr. speak at a press conference prior to Monday night’s board of education meeting.

essential.”

‘To denounce racism’

Under the heading of “What We Want,” the coalition reminded CCS of its mission to “graduate globally competitive and confident students by providing a rigorous and relevant curriculum in a supportive, safe and nurturing learning environment.”

“Unfortunately, this is not happening for all of our students,” the document read. “This coalition believes we are at a pivotal moment in our district to denounce racism and white supremacy by implementing policies, procedures, and consequences in our school system that support safe and just learning environments.”

The coalition’s list of “initial recommendations” included eight points:

- Collaborate closely with community equity partners, parents of color and this coalition for community-led approaches to an equitable school system.
- The students involved need to apologize to their discrimination targets and the school community.
- Child trauma counselors skilled in racial trauma should be available to support all students impacted.
- Review and revise the Chatham County Code of Conduct to designate racist and discriminatory remarks as hate speech separate from the current bullying policy with corresponding consequences that match the severity of this abuse our children face.
- Review and revise the Chatham County Schools Personnel Guidelines to make racist remarks and behaviors a fireable offense for teachers and staff. Racist educators have no place in the classroom.
- Review the administration’s response to this and previous racist incidents at the school to determine the appropriateness of their responses. Consequences have to be sufficient to deter future acts.
- Provide protocol for reporting hate crimes to Federal Authorities when the level of behavior warrants it.
- With the guidance of racial equity consultants, develop a harm protocol when racist acts occur to be available and accessible to every school.

“We all agree that our students should not be subject to racial abuse and stereotyping by their classmates or the adults entrusted to teach and support them,” the document concluded. “However, until Chatham County

Schools implements these community-driven recommendations, our community will continue to see no dedicated commitment to dismantling the culture of racism in our schools. By adopting these recommendations, Chatham County Schools will send a clear message that no forms of racism are tolerated in our schools.

“How many generations of black students will continue to be racially traumatized in our schools? We say no more. With strong leadership, clear goals, and accountability, this coalition believes the Chatham County School District can ensure its mission, a safe and nurturing learning environment for all students, not predicted by race.”

Other speakers, including a 4th-grade student from Virginia Cross elementary, urged changes and actions, including an apology from students involved and making child trauma counselors skilled in racial trauma available to students.

The ‘slave auction’

Just 10 days earlier, Palmer made public the incident in a Facebook post.

“Our son experienced a slave auction by his classmates and when he opened up we were made aware that this type of stuff seems to be the norm so much that he didn’t think it was worth sharing,” she wrote. “His friend ‘went for \$350’ and another student was the Slavemaster because he ‘knew how to handle them.’ We even have a video of students harmonizing the N word. Since when were children so blatantly racist? Why is this culture acceptable?”

Then, a week ago Monday, Palmer posted on Facebook that students who participated in the “auction” had been suspended for one day. In the same post, she said the “slavemaster” student “‘accidentally’ hit my son with a baseball 4 times upon his return to school. Now he has decided to retaliate by making up things that Jeremiah didn’t say to attempt to get him into trouble. No further action from the school at this point.”

Jackson, the CCS Superintendent, released a statement after the incident, saying administration had become aware of other incidents in which students used racially insensitive language and offensive imagery.

“These incidents were unacceptable and do not reflect who we are as a school system or a community,” he wrote last Thursday. “Incidents such as these cannot

and will not be tolerated by Chatham County Schools.”

In the statement, Jackson said his administration and the community “cannot be silent in the face of incidents and behavior that create an unsafe or uncomfortable environment for students in our schools. The core values espoused by this school system compel us to recognize and to interrupt any issues that demean or disrespect anyone on the basis of their race, gender, sexual orientation or religion.

“No student, staff, or family should be silent when their humanity, dignity or identity are threatened, disrespected or challenged,” he said. “I want to be crystal clear: Racist, homophobic or otherwise hateful behavior or speech has no place in the Chatham County School System. We are better than this as a school system and a community. I want to assure everyone that we are working with and will continue to work with families of students who are targeted in this way. Those who are acting outside of our expectations will be held accountable.”

He promised to review processes and encourage students to speak up if they witness or are targeted by behavior they consider “hurtful, racist and demeaning,” saying the school system “must commit to dismantling racism and other negative influences that affect our school community. We must capture this moment to strengthen our commitment to ensuring that every person feels valued and respected for who they are and what they contribute to their school and our community. This means confronting issues openly, directly, transparently and unapologetically. This is our moment, we will not miss it.”

‘Express dire concern’

Meanwhile, over the weekend, Thompson told the News + Record that Monday’s gathering would feature “people coming forward to express their concern and, more so, demand that changes be made as opposed to asking for any specific type of policy change.”

“Ideally, that needs to happen,” he said when asked about specific changes to Chatham school policy. “But I think just given the timeframe, that’s something that we’ll need to take some time and to look at and to review and make recommendations.”

“I think the thing we want to do Monday is to express our dire concern to make sure that the board and the administration understand that there have to be some changes made,” Thompson said. “... that those changes have to be made not in the course of years, but short-term changes that have to be made. I think people want to make sure the board understands that we’re just not going to tolerate this any longer and that we need to work together.”

Thompson envisioned the community and the board collaborating on those changes, something Jackson later embraced during the school board’s

meeting (see story, page A1).

“It has to be done together, and it has to be the school board [buying] in and the administration [buying] in with the community, that we have to work together to just simply eradicate — stop these incidents of brazen acts of white supremacy that [are] taking place on the school grounds now,” Thompson said.

Thompson, 68, is a lifelong resident of Chatham County. He spent 16 years as a commissioner and says the 50 or so local residents who met last Thursday to support Palmer and her family “all love this county.”

He recalled attending public schools in Chatham during the 1960s, during the period of local integration.

“Of course, back then there were acts of racial bigotry and hatred that took place that I even remember today,” he said. “It stayed with me a lifetime some of those acts. But if what I’m hearing today is true about the incident at J.S. Waters ...”

Thompson referred to that and other incidents that have taken place in Chatham County Schools in years past as “brazen and bold.”

“There were just brazen and bold acts by children — white children against Black children — and to me that’s extraordinary because they did it without any fear of reprisal,” he said. “These acts were even more brazen and bold than some that the kids did when we were coming through school. That shouldn’t be in 2022 — 50 years later in this county.”

It’s a part of a larger pattern, he said, that CORE and Palmer family supporters sought to address.

“I’ve been involved over the years in incidents in the school system that happened,” he said. “I can go back to 20 years ago at Chatham Central, there were racial incidents going on — nooses on a school bus that they found — a visiting school bus, mainly Black athletes, when they went back to the bus, they found nooses on the bus ... There were racial epithets that the school principal actually used.”

‘Tired of the rhetoric’

A lawsuit Thompson and others brought against Chatham County Schools decades ago led to the federal Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights visit to Chatham, resulting in pledges by the board.

“We’ve had promises over the years,” he said. “We’ve always had promises that changes were going to be made, that changes would be instituted that would stop these kind of practices, and it just hasn’t happened ... We remember the promises and we look and see what’s happening at places like J.S. Waters, and Chatham Central, and other places today.

“So I think we’re to the point right now where we’re tired of the rhetoric,” Thompson continued. “We want to see some action. Don’t tell me anything — show me something now. And we want to work with [the school system] to make sure that they have

the right kind of policies instituted and in place and other requirements that will help change people’s behavior, so they just act like decent human beings. People are more of the posture now that we’re tired of asking, we’re demanding — these type of things have to change and they have to change now.”

And it’s not just because of what happened at J.S. Waters, he said — but rather “a continuation of similar type issues have come out in recent months.”

“So I think the idea was, we need to come together and really demand that something be done about these continued incidents,” Thompson said. “And so that was the reason behind the meeting. The meeting was kind of like a meeting of a number of groups, and we coalesced around this particular issue.”

In the meantime, the incident has drawn attention statewide and beyond, with the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization — the Council on American-Islamic Relations — weighing in, condemning the incident and calling on Chatham County Schools to respond.

“Racist acts of bullying and intimidation cannot be tolerated in schools,” said National Communications Coordinator Ismail Allison in a statement released on CAIR’s website. “We urge the school district to offer anti-racist curriculum to students to help ensure these kinds of alleged hate incidents do not continue to occur.”

Another one of the speakers at Monday’s rally, long-time Chatham educator Valencia Toomer, said the incident was proof changes were needed.

Toomer is a former Chatham principal, as well as founder and head of the School of the Arts for Boys Academy, which will open in Pittsboro in the fall.

“What must change is cultural responsiveness,” she told the News + Record. “Public schools have to be intentional about building a school environment that’s inclusive and culturally sustainable; you have to get adults and personnel in the building that look like the children they serve.”

And part of that, she said, is holding staff and faculty accountable.

“I think that at this point, we have to move beyond words,” she said. “We have to move beyond ideas and the thought of inclusivity and the thought of equity and put it more in action. These are permanent scars that particularly some of these children of color will have because of this incident. Think about the kind of message that instigators of this behavior will get if the schools and other adults in their lives do not do the right thing.”

It’s time, Toomer said, for this “systemic issue” to be addressed.

“At some point we have to hold the mirror up to ourselves and say, you know, ‘Houston, we may have a problem.’”

Keith T. Barber contributed to this report.

WRITING CHATHAM'S HISTORY

Johnson working to chronicle story of the African American community

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record
Correspondent

"History is the fruit of power, but power itself is never so transparent that its analysis becomes superfluous," observed author Michel-Rolph Trouillot in his book, "Silencing the Past."

Dr. Charles Johnson Jr., director of the Public History program at N.C. Central University in Durham, is embarking on a journey that could take years — but it is vital, he says, to expanding understanding and awareness of the contributions of the African American community in Chatham County.

"[Chatham County] has a remarkable African American history, and I just wanted to preserve it," Johnson said. "There had not been anything in a long time written substantively about the history of the whole community, so that was sort of the origin of the book project."

Johnson and his N.C. Central students are in the research phase of a book project endeavoring to tell the full story of the county's Black community. Johnson said he ascribes to Trouillot's view that history is the fruit of power, which means a comprehensive analysis of that history could have far-reaching impacts.

"The most powerful person is the person who controls the narrative," Johnson said, paraphrasing a quote often attributed to Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. "The past is not set in stone; it is very malleable. It depends on what historians have to say about it and what people are willing to share about it."

In the fall of 2021, the Rev. Dr. Carl Thompson — the first African American to be elected to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners — and Mary Nettles, president of the Community Remembrance Coalition-Chatham (CRC-C) and Pittsboro's branch of the NAACP, contacted Johnson about the possibility of writing a book on the history of the Black community in the county.

The creation of a comprehensive compendium on the history of African Americans in Chatham was vital to increasing understanding amongst all communities in

Chatham, and something that is long overdue, Nettles said. "If the true Black history is not documented now and not later, our contributions will remain unknown and unappreciated," Nettles said. "Hopefully, the book will open the eyes of everyone to see how Blacks survived despite segregation and discrimination and see the richness of our culture."



Dr. Charles Johnson

Johnson concurred with Nettles' sentiment that the work of telling the comprehensive history of Chatham County — which must include the comprehensive history of African Americans who lived here — is vital to increasing understanding. The book project is one of several he and his NCCU students are currently working on at the moment, but remains time-sensitive in nature.

The work of Johnson and his students will include gathering "stories of the past from elders in the Black community," he said.

"We will start back as far as we can go and we will come forward as far as we can go," Johnson added. "Right now, we certainly can push back into slavery and the founding of the county and what we can learn about the indigenous people who were here and who were displaced. We will include that. It's all relevant, but we're still making those discoveries."

A native of Durham, Johnson has witnessed great change in both Durham and Chatham counties over the course of his lifetime. He admits he didn't have much familiarity with Chatham County growing up, but he's been moved by his visits to the county in recent years.

And history projects like this are familiar to him. At Howard University, Johnson worked with Dr. Joseph E. Harris to create a web-accessible relational database of information about relations between African Americans and South Africans during the anti-apartheid era. In his position at NCCU, Johnson teaches courses on archives and oral traditions; in his research, he's emphasized preserving local histories of



Submitted photo

An archival photo from Chatham County's history.

the Black experience.

In February 2020, Johnson gave an in-person presentation on the history of the African American community at the Chatham Community Library, just weeks before the global pandemic halted all such in-person gatherings.

"I went down to Chatham only to discover that many of the people I was coming into contact with there had ties to the African American community here in Durham," Johnson said. "The context in which this work began was just an effort to try to preserve histories. In the Chatham case, it's the same, it's really important. We're at a crossroads in a certain sense because of all the changes that have taken place."

Johnson's roots in the Durham community run deep. His father, Charles Johnson Sr., joined Duke University Medical Center in 1970 as the first Black physician on Duke's faculty. Johnson said his father's legacy as a barrier breaker and close friendship with a fellow physician long served as personal motivation in his work as a historian.

Dr. Barton Haynes — currently the director of the Duke Vaccine Institute — was pivotal in the elder Johnson's career at Duke Medical Center.

"My father spent his whole career to try to change that hospital," Johnson said. "He had been brought there for that purpose truthfully, and Dr.

Haynes was someone who was really willing to do that, but he was a white Southerner."

Haynes, a native of Tennessee who grew up in the segregated South, found the courage to be an agent of change at Duke Medical Center, according to Johnson.

"He had the courage to do that — to kind of lean into the wind, and turn and face it and walk into it instead of continuing to go in the other direction," Johnson said. "And the only way as a nation for us to heal is for us to have the courage to turn into the persistent wind — to face it and embrace African Americans and other groups to create real community."

Nettles shared her enthusiasm for Johnson's book project and the high hopes of the Community Remembrance Coalition for the book's ultimate impact on the Chatham community as a whole.

"The [Coalition] is working to open the eyes and hearts of people to 251 years of the true history of Chatham County through truth, justice and reconciliation," she said. "Chatham County is like many other counties except its history includes the lynching of six Black people, including a female. No one ever admitted it happened. By acknowledging it occurred, we all can move forward as a community to reconciliation."

In the days and weeks ahead, Johnson and his NCCU students will continue their

Chatham Cleric Seeks Office

PITTSBORO — Mrs. Roxie Small, prominent citizen and church-woman of Pittsboro, announced this week that she would be a candidate for a member of the Chatham County Board of Education.

Mrs. Small, in announcing the decision, will be the first Negro to ever run for that position in Chatham County.

A longtime native of Pittsboro, Mrs. Small is pastor of Belmont A.M.E. Zion Church. She is also president of the Horton School Parent-Teacher Association.

For many years she has run a rest home for the aged in Pittsboro and last year was elected "Mother of the Year" by the Chatham Community branch of the NAACP.



MRS. ROXIE SMALL

Courtesy of Mary Nettles

Roxie Small, a Pittsboro native and pastor, was the first Black Chatham resident to seek a seat on Chatham's Board of Education. Here's a newspaper clipping from her announcement.

rigorous work. Johnson will lean heavily on the inspiration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., he said, and King's idea that it's difficult to legislate against a sentiment that forms the basis of racism and bigotry, so the goal is to reach people through enlightenment and understanding.

"You've really got to get people to change their way of thinking, and a way to do that was to hit people in the heart," Johnson said. "I think in the present moment in particular, history opens up the possibility for us doing that because I think people can see how their experiences dovetail with the experiences of other people. That is an entree to a dialogue or conversation that might move the needle forward."

APOLOGY

Continued from page A6

month. Board members heard from a variety of concerned citizens — from elementary school children to parents to longtime Chatham residents.

Christy Wagner, the mother of one of the J.S. Waters students targeted by white classmates in the mock auction, took a moment to compose herself during her allotted three minutes. Wagner said she had experienced every possible emotion over the past two weeks.

"Some days I feel anger about what happened," she said. "Some days I feel a sadness, just trying to grasp, 'Why are we still having these issues in 2022?' I'm a mother who just had to explain to my son why being auctioned as a slave is unacceptable."

Mary Nettles, president of Chatham County Community NAACP, pointed out that the recent incident of white supremacy at J.S. Waters is inextricably linked to Chatham County's racist history.

"After more than 250 years, we are still fighting the same fight in 2022," Nettles said. "Our children in Chatham County, especially at J.S. Waters, are still impacted by race-based discrimination — a problem that generations

have failed to address or even attempt to acknowledge. It is time for children and the adults in the county to say enough is enough."

The Rev. Carl Thompson Sr., senior pastor of the Word of Life Christian Outreach Center in Siler City, proposed creating a task force of school board members and a community coalition to implement changes to school system policies and procedures.

"It is apparent that changes or revisions to the current policy, as well as sensitivity and diversity training for staff, (are) needed," Thompson said. "One could reasonably argue that existing policies and procedures don't seem to be working."

"May I suggest that we work together towards a solution to this recurring issue?" Thompson added.

Ronda Taylor Bullock, co-founder and lead curator of the WE ARE nonprofit, said she founded her organization — "We Are" is an acronym for Working to Extend Anti-Racist Education — because of the "racist experiences" she had while attending J.S. Waters Elementary as a child.

Bullock proposed an initiative to educate school faculty and staff on becoming anti-racist as one way to address the issue. Bullock also said the recent incident at

J.S. Waters represented a golden opportunity for the school board.

"What will you all be remembered for doing during this time?" Bullock asked. "Diversity and equity and inclusion is inadequate. Sometimes we just diversify and include people in racist spaces."

"This is a civil rights moment, and here's your time to live out your values," she continued. "How you show up now will be remembered because this is a civil rights moment."

Bob Pearson, a retired diplomat and lifetime NAACP member, described the racism that led to incidents like the one at J.S. Waters as a "social cancer."

"Nice rhetoric doesn't solve problems," Pearson said. "Actions do solve problems and for whatever reason — which I don't understand myself — there's some level of acceptance of racial, verbal and physical attacks and abuse that is corrupting the educational system in Chatham County."

Pearson said the board's response to these racist incidents will have a powerful ripple effect impacting thousands of Chatham residents.

"Tonight is your chance to take a step so clear, and so unambiguous, that no one can fail to understand what was wrong and what is right," he said. "We can't erase history, but we

can redeem it."

Sara Martin, vice chairperson of the Chatham Health Alliance, said teachers have a profound impact on children's beliefs and attitudes about race by the example they set in the classroom. So the school board, she said, should focus its efforts on training teachers to better facilitate discussions of race in schools.

"When teachers invite the conversation about how everyone is learning about race and that racism is all around us," Martin said, "we give children the space to name it and to become anti-racist themselves."

"The system is designed for some to rise at the expense of others, and loving all children equally is not enough," she continued. "If teachers are not actively working toward an anti-racist space, then they may be teaching children to be racist by their own behaviors and words in the classroom."

Dr. Dana Iglesias, Chatham Hospital Maternity Care Center's medical director, said childhood trauma caused by racially charged incidents is a growing public health issue with long-term consequences. Adverse childhood events include things that happen in our homes, she said, but one of the additional areas that the CDC has added

is that historical trauma — and one of the forms of historical trauma is racism.

"It affects people," she said. "... it affects our genetics. It affects not just our psyche, it affects us physically, so what happens to us as a child in our schools, affects people when you become adults."

Sarah Daniels, a Chatham County parent, spoke last during the public comments portion of Monday's board meeting. Daniels, who recently moved to the area, said she was disappointed that the punishment for the J.S. Waters students who engaged in the "slave auction" was a one-day suspension.

"I want to hold the school, the teachers, the adults accountable," Daniels said. "There is clearly a lack of leadership, there is clearly a lack of empathy, and there is clearly a blind eye being turned to these things. This is unacceptable, and I'm holding all of you accountable."

"I am here to demand better for my children because I work every day to make sure that they are given a good education, but more importantly, a good character education," she continued. "You all know what to do, so there's no excuse."

Jackson's recommendation's including addressing policy regu-

lations, revisions to the school system's Student Code of Conduct, additional training, "restorative circles" and focus groups for students, and working to build formal relationships with local community agencies and nonprofits — including Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE), which presented its own list of recommendations (see accompanying story in this edition).

He also authorize staff to immediately employ a community engagement coordinator to assist CCS with supporting parents with accessing community-based support for students and providing support to them as they exercise agency and advocacy on behalf of their students.

"I ask our community to see these changes as a beginning and not a fix," he said. "None of this will work if we continue operating in silos. We are better together. Working together, I am confident that we can provide amazing educational opportunities and experiences for all of our children in school environments where they feel safe and welcome. This is our moment. Chatham County Schools stands ready to work with you to build a brighter unified community. Our children deserve this and our community will be better because of this."

CHATHAM CHAT | CHATHAM LITERACY'S 'SPRING FOR LITERACY' EVENT

During National Reading Month, literacy group focuses on tutoring, prepping for spring fundraiser

Chatham Literacy's staff and volunteer tutors provide literacy services and help residents gain a variety of life skills. This week, we speak with Executive Director Vicki Newell about promoting literacy and about the organization's upcoming spring fundraising event.

This is Newell's 11th year with the Chatham County Literacy Council, more commonly known now as Chatham Literacy. While staying home for six years to raise her three sons, she volunteered on the boards of Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services and the PTA of Pittsboro Elementary School. Newell has a master's degree in health communication from Johns Hopkins University and worked for six years with the Smart Start Initiative as a health specialist at the state level and as a program director at the Chatham County level.

A former member of the Peace Corps in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, she speaks French and Tshiluba (with a lot of effort). You can reach her at 919-742-0578 or at vicki@chathamliteracy.org.

March is National Reading Month. How are you encouraging reading at Chatham Literacy?

Great question. All of our adult learners are taught to read as part of the tutoring services they receive, regardless of the program. All of the educational materials we use are designed to



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Chatham Literacy's Executive Director, Vicki Newell (in back), poses with staff members, from left, Kayla McCline, Joselyn Villasenor, D.J. Lynch and Leslie Ocampo.

teach students on all four components of language acquisition: listening, speaking, reading and writing. We also have adult books available that are written for earlier literacy levels. As a result of COVID-19, we now offer our learners a digital learning app that is convenient and adapts to their schedule.

A love of learning happens as a result of the relationship established between the learner and the tutor. Each tutor takes time to get to know their learner and then individualizes the teachings in response to their interests and needs. A true bond is established that typically goes beyond the classroom, and beyond a learner and tutor's time with Chatham Literacy.

We've discussed the pandemic's impact on Chatham Literacy before and the work you do. Now that we see some easing of COVID and pandemic restrictions, how is your work there changing?

Cautiously, we are rebuilding our in-person tutoring activities, but are retaining distance learning for both our learners and tutors. Distance learning enables us to serve adult learners who require flexibility and to enroll learners in the digital learning app at the time of intake, instead of placing them on a waiting list. Our more conventional in-person training allows us to meet the needs of those who are less comfortable with digital learning and offers a more intense learning experience. Our transformational educational services

encompass traditional literacy, civics and language literacy and life skills literacy:

- Traditional literacy: To help adults improve their basic education in reading, writing and math to prepare them for the GED, to enroll in a vocational degree or to ready themselves for training opportunities to advance their work.
- Civics and language literacy: To help adults learn to speak, read and write, and understand English. We also help prepare adults for the citizenship exam.
- Life skills literacy: To help prepare adults for the expectations and norms in today's society and workplace. We offer workforce soft skills training, computer literacy and digital skills. We will begin piloting support for adults in need of financial literacy.



John Rosenthal

themselves for training opportunities to advance their work.

To help adults improve their basic education in reading, writing and math to prepare them for the GED, to enroll in a vocational degree or to ready themselves for training opportunities to advance their work.

To help prepare adults for the expectations and norms in today's society and workplace. We offer workforce soft skills training, computer literacy and digital skills. We will begin piloting support for adults in need of financial literacy.

Chatham Literacy's "Spring for Literacy" event is just around the corner. Give us an overview.

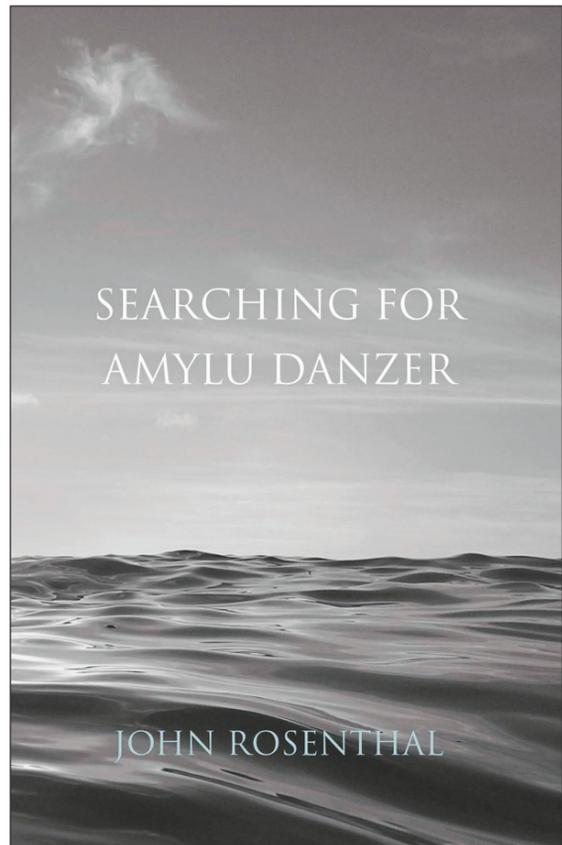
Rarely do you have the chance to experience the life of someone fascinating — in person! On Tuesday, April 5, our annual "Spring for Literacy" Luncheon will feature John Rosenthal, a legendary UNC professor, noted photographer and extremely popular former National Public Radio host. And what's even better, John will also highlight his new, highly acclaimed memoir, "Searching for Amylu Danzer."

North Carolina author Clyde Edgerton said John's memoir about a girlfriend in his youth, who took her own life, is not only a page turner, but will "knock you down in the way books are supposed to knock you down." This compassionate personal story took John years to write because he says this book is also about the essence of true friendship, love, the burden of loss and the persistence of memory.

John will also highlight some of his photographs currently on display in museums and venues nationwide. Luncheon participants have a chance to win one of his most acclaimed photographs called "Central Park." And don't forget, for years John was also beloved by many people in North Carolina and nationwide for his spellbinding mini-essays on National Public Radio.

This event will take place at Governors Club from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Spring for Literacy Luncheon, Chatham Literacy is selling raffle tickets for a chance to win



Rosenthal's latest book, 'Searching for Amylu Danzer,' is partly a memoir of his childhood friend and first girlfriend and the mystery of her death in 1965.



Courtesy of John Rosenthal

One of John Rosenthal's photos taken in New York City's Central Park.

John's famed "Central Park" photograph. This spellbinding picture is a 26" x 19.25" print, valued at \$800. The winner will be drawn during the program on April 5. You do not need to be present to win. Raffle tickets are one ticket for \$20, or three tickets for \$50.

Why is it important — and why will it be fun — to support Chatham Literacy by attending this luncheon?

This is Chatham Literacy's largest fundraiser of the year. It not only offers great speakers, fun games and great prizes, it also provides a wonderful way for people to again gather together.

The author luncheon offers a fun and interactive experience. When you arrive, you can try your luck at creating your own poetry using only book titles, see how much you know about Chatham Literacy's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, win great door prizes and socialize with your friends, and not to mention, make new ones.

Most importantly, the funds raised through this event go directly into Chatham Literacy's programs, which help so many in our community realize their literacy goals — whether that is improving their ability to read and write in English, becoming a U.S. citizen, obtaining a new job or a promotion, or talking to a doctor without the help of their child as an interpreter! We are also proud that you will hear from one of our adult learners and her tutor about their experiences and achievements. By participating in this event, together we are helping to build better futures.

How will your organization use the funds generated by this event?

Funds from this event will go directly into our services. These funds will help us enhance programming and engage more adults in existing

and new programs. Our goal for this year is to provide free tutoring to 160 adults through a combination of in-person and distance learning. Since COVID-19, our learners (and tutors!) have really progressed and gained technical and computer skills to be able to conduct classes virtually. Distance learning is here to stay!

Although Chatham Literacy does not create jobs, we prepare citizens to better access and take part in the job market. Chatham Literacy strives to build an educated workforce so that as businesses expand and arrive to Chatham County, they will hire locally — strengthening families, our community and Chatham County. Literacy leads to gainful employment, financial mobility, family stability, improved health care, and better opportunities and outcomes for the next generation.

How can people find out more about the John Rosenthal event and about Chatham Literacy?

Tickets are available through March 28 for the Spring for Literacy Luncheon.

Luncheon tickets are \$100 per person, \$75 of which is tax deductible. Tables seat 10 people.

We still have a few tables of 10 seats available. So, gather your friends, have a fun date together and at the same time help support Chatham Literacy's efforts to improve lives through literacy in our community. Contact us to:

- Register for the Spring for Literacy Luncheon
- Buy raffle tickets to win the Central Park print
- Volunteer with Chatham Literacy

Find more information about Chatham Literacy online at www.chatham-literacy.org or by calling 919-742-0578.

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OBITUARIES

EARL DAVID DOWD



Earl David Dowd, 89, of Alston Bridge Rd. in Siler City, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, after fighting a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

He was born June 6 of 1932 in Siler City to George Sr. and Myrtle Fields Dowd. He was preceded in death by both of his parents, a brother, Guy Dowd of Selma, and the love of his life, his loving wife whom he married on March 16, 1953, Alma Jean Cheek Dowd (2007) along with their infant

twin boys, Kentt and Kevan Dowd (1970).

Earl is survived by his four daughters, Kathy of Pittsboro, Karen of Spring Hill, Florida, Karla of Homosassa, Florida, and Kimba Hockenberry (Danny) of Siler City. He has four grandchildren, Amber Gaines (Jeremiah Jones) of Ramseur, Danielle Havard (Jacob) of Bear Creek, Coda Hockenberry (Taylor) of Harper's Crossroads and Gage Hockenberry of the home. He also has two great grandchildren, Bradly and Liam Gaines. He is also survived by two brothers, Clyde Atlas Dowd and George Dewey Dowd (Inez), both of Siler City, and sisters-in-law, Frances Cheek Stains of Garner, and Joann Dowd of Selma.

Earl was a proud Army veteran having served in the Korean War in 1951-52 where he was a Purple Heart recipient. Upon returning from the war, Earl began his career at Miller Heating and Air Conditioning in Goldston where he continued working for 67 years. Earl had great pride and love for his family and spent many years of his life enjoying his passion for farming and gardening. He was a great husband, uncle, brother, granddaddy and daddy (he disliked "father," saying anyone could be a "father" but it took someone special to be a "daddy"). His absence will leave a hole in many of our lives for years to come!

He laid in repose on Saturday, March 12, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home in Siler City. Funeral Services were held at 3 p.m. at Rives Chapel Baptist Church on Sunday, March 13, 2022, with family visitation from 2:30 to 3 p.m. beforehand.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, <https://foodbankcenc.org/> or to the Cora Food Pantry, <https://www.corafoodpantry.org/>

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Dowd family.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

MARGO SMITH SIMMONS



Margo Smith Simmons, loving daughter, sister, wife, aunt, mother, and grandmother, passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus at her home on March 29, 2020, after an illness.

A celebration of her life will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at the Barn Dance, 6341 Phillippi Rd., Julian, N.C., with the family receiving friends beginning at 2 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 3 p.m. At the conclusion of the memorial service, "Margo's Jubilee and Celebration" will be held, featuring Southern Gospel and 50s/60s music, as well as dancing (casual dress).

Survivors include her husband of nearly 58 years, Larry A. Simmons; her daughter and son-in-law, Melody and Brian Smith; her granddaughters, Marina Smith and Ellie Smith; her sister, Joel S. Cole; her sister-in-law, Gladys S. Stout; her brother-in-law, Monroe J. McVey; and nieces and nephews and their families: Julie (Larry) Perkins; Marcy (Timmy) Rice; Mike (April) McVey; and William (Loren) Stout.

Also in Heaven with Margo are her parents, Albert E. and Marguerite H. Smith; her father- and mother-in-law, Willie S. and Ophelia A. Simmons; her brothers-in-law, Jesse S. Cole and Jimmy C. Stout; her sister-in-law, Belva J. McVey; and her nieces, Jodie C. Laster and Jennifer L. Stout.

Margo's musical talent shined throughout her life. She loved her church, Mt. Pleasant UMC, which she had belonged to her entire life, and she spent many years there directing the Youth Choir and directing a church fundraiser, a Hee Haw-style musical show. She also owned Margo's Studio of Dance for 24 years. In addition, her passion for music was witnessed when she and Larry ran the Liberty Jubilee Theater. Children held a special place in her heart, as observed through her volunteering and working at Liberty Elementary for many years in the classroom and as the YMCA Afterschool Director at Nathanael Greene Elementary for over a decade.

The family would like to express their appreciation for your love and support throughout Margo's illness.

At the family's request, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mt. Pleasant UMC, 4400 Alamance Church Rd., Liberty, N.C. 27298, or Community Home Care and Hospice, 533 S. Fayetteville St., Asheboro, N.C. 27203.

Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at www.LoflinFH.com.

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

ELIJAH SHARONE WOODS

Elijah Sharone Woods, 18, of Sanford passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2022, at First Health Hospice House in West End

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

TINA LOUISE JEFFERSON

Tina Louise Jefferson, 55, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at her home.

Funeral service was held at 12 noon on Monday, March 4, 2022, at Gospel Lighthouse Word Ministries, with burial following at Lee Memory Gardens.

BETTY JEAN WICKER COCKMAN



Betty Jean Wicker Cockman went to her heavenly home on Monday, March 14, 2022, at the age of 85, at The Greens at Pinehurst.

Mrs. Cockman was born in Chatham County on January 19, 1937, to parents William Jennings Wicker Sr., and Pauline Stinson Wicker. She was a member of Tyson's Creek Baptist Church. Betty was a graduate of Goldston High School where she loved playing basketball back in the good old days. Upon graduating

from High School, in 1955, Betty moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked with the FBI before returning home to her sweetheart and starting her career with Kellwood.

Betty's athleticism as a teenager and young adult turned into an enduring stamina, which allowed her to work many hours in the yard, using her green thumb and a little magic to make everything she touched absolutely beautiful. Betty also loved decorating for every season of the year, holiday, or any special occasion, in an effort to bring happiness to all those around her. In recent years, she found great joy in decorating the lobby at Braxton Manor where she enjoyed spending time with her many friends. Betty loved and cared deeply for her family and friends, and was always willing to lend a helping hand.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, William R. "Buddy" Cockman; her son, Larry Wayne Cockman; brother, William "Bill" Jennings Wicker Jr.; and sister Lula Mae "Lou" W. Phillips.

She is survived by a sister, Doris W. Brady (Winfred) of Bennett; brother-in-law, Earl Phillips of Bear Creek; three grandchildren, Alicia Cockman of Burlington, Jessica Cockman and fiancé John Grimm of Elon, and William "Will" Cockman and wife Anna of Humble, Texas; four great-grandchildren, Noah, Ada, and Trinity Jones, Bailey Willard, and Jayda Grimm; several cousins, nieces and nephews and many close and caring friends including her friends at Braxton Manor in Siler City.

Mrs. Cockman will Lie in Repose from 12 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at Smith & Buckner Funeral Home, 230 N. Second Ave., Siler City. A graveside memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Tyson's Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, 10891 Siler City Glendon Rd., Bear Creek with Andrew Needham officiating. The family will receive friends at the graveside following the service.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Cockman family.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

THOMAS HENRY CLEGG



Thomas Henry Clegg, born April 22, 1948, in Sanford. He died March 1, 2022, in New Port Richey, Florida, where he had lived for the past year. He spent the year spoiling his grandkids and making new memories with us.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dixie K. Clegg, his mother, Elizabeth W. Clegg, and father, Horace B. Clegg.

Survivors include, daughters, Kelli C. Otts (son-in-law Bob Otts), Ashley Hargett, and Traci Williams; brother, Horace B. Clegg Jr. (H.B.); and grandkids, Clayton Johnson, Logan Duncan, Leila Duncan and Summer Belcher.

"Tommy" was the epitome of a southern gentleman, who loved his family and friends more than anything. He was an excellent "shot" who loved skeet shooting and hunting, along with playing poker and going fishing. He was a lifelong Tar Heels fan and always said, "There's only one Carolina, and it's NORTH Carolina!"

He worked as an Engineer for Duke Power for many years before his retirement in 1996, when he took over being a stay-at-home dad and started making custom knives.

HAROLD JUNIOR NORRIS

Harold Junior Norris, 82, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Graveside funeral service was held at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13, 2022, at Lee Memory Gardens with Rev. Shane Wilson officiating.

He was born in Harnett County, son of the late Preston B. and Jessie Lee Baker Norris, who preceded him in death, and his brother, Bobby Ray Norris.

Surviving is his wife, Rachel N. Norris of the home; daughters, Kathy Elizabeth Norris of New Bern, and Cindy Jean "Jeannie" Reece of Sanford; son, Berry D. Norris of Sanford; sisters, Sue Puryear of Sanford, Peggy Seamone of Concord, and Faye Strouth of Sanford; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

JASON ALLEN PLYMALE

Jason Allen Plymale, 36, of Cameron passed away Monday, March 7, 2022, in Sanford.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford.

THELMA JEAN MINTER

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

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022.

MAVIS ARZALLIA FLEMING

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

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022, at Cameron Grove A.M.E. Zion Church with burial following in Johnsonville Community Cemetery.

JUDITH 'JUDY' DEATON THOMAS

Judith "Judy" Deaton Thomas passed away on Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

The family received friends on Friday, March 11, 2022, from 12 to 1:45 p.m. at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. The funeral followed at 2 p.m. with Tim Thomas officiating. The burial was in the church cemetery.

Judy was born on March 21, 1941, to Bernard and Frances Willet Deaton, of Siler City. Her first husband, Earl Hart and her parents, preceded her in death. She was a member of Mt. Olive Baptist Church, and retired from Chatham County Social Services.

Survivors include her husband, Edward Loy Thomas Jr., sons, David Hart of Snow Camp, Shane Hart of Bear Creek; Tim Thomas of Chapel Hill, Jeremy Thomas of Pittsboro; a sister, Janice D. White of Siler City; brothers, Don Deaton and Doug Deaton, both of Siler City; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Mt. Olive Church Cemetery Fund, 5043 Mt. Olive Church Rd., Pittsboro, N.C., or to UNC Hospice.

Online condolences may be made at www.pughfuneral-home.com.

DENNIS GEORGE CRAWFORD

Dennis George Crawford, 72, of Fuquay Varina, formerly of Broadway, died Friday, March 11, 2022, at his home.

The funeral service was held at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 13, 2022, at Southside Baptist Church in Broadway with Rev. John McVey officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

He was born on November 6, 1950, son of the late Jonas Charles and Ruth Ada Seal Crawford. He was a member of Southside Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his brother, Charles Crawford.

Surviving is his son, Dennis Crawford of Fuquay Varina; four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Online condolences can be made at www.smithfuneral-homebroadway.com.

MELVIN SCOTT CARROLL

Melvin Scott Carroll, 57, of Gulf, passed away on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at his home.

The family will receive friends on Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The memorial service will follow in the chapel at 2 p.m. with Rev. Andy Foley officiating, with burial following at Center United Methodist Church Cemetery.

He was born in Greensboro on May 22, 1964, to Malcolm Rufus and Linda Delores Caviness Carroll. Scott was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, Rufus Clyde and Bonnie Ruth Holder Carroll, Robert Earl and Pauline Spivey Caviness, and his brother, Bradley Rufus Carroll.

He is survived by his wife, Eratta; daughter, Danyell Lewis; brother, Chris Carroll; sister, Robin Smyth; and three grandchildren.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneral-home.com.

NEWS BRIEF

Commercial truck driver course begins March 28 at CCCC

SANFORD — Central Carolina Community College, Randolph Community College, and Sandhills Community College have partnered to offer a regional

workforce solution to the demand for Commercial Truck Drivers in the combined service areas of Chatham, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore and Randolph counties.

This is a 12-week, 400-hour training course that will prepare students for the Class A Commercial Driver License. The first cohort

will begin March 28 at CCCC operating Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The truck driver training program provides instruction in both theory and hands-on behind-the-wheel operation of tractor-trailers, which prepares students to safely operate tractor-trailer

vehicles on the road to and from pickup, and at delivery points. Emphasis is placed on defensive driving, Federal Motor Carrier Safety regulations, trip planning, cargo handling, vehicle systems, hours of service and accident prevention. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate

the skills required for the commercial driver's license and employment.

Scholarships are available to support students wishing to pursue this training course.

Those interested in this course should go to nctruckdriving.com/request-info/ and fill out

the form.

Interested residents can also contact Thomas "Lantz" Lackey, lead instructor of the Truck Driver Training Program, at tlackey@cccc.edu or call 919-718-7072.

Learn more about this program at www.nctruckdriving.com.

—CN+R staff reports

Immigrant Advisory Committee identifies priorities to strive toward for this year

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Siler City Immigrant Community Advisory Committee shared subcommittee updates and identified several Building Integrated Communities strategies to explore this year during its monthly meeting last Tuesday.

After appointing members to five subcommittees in February, the group resolved to meet within their subcommittees before the committee's March meeting, identify priorities and then report back to the committee at large. Most subcommittees met that goal last Tuesday.

"I think from what I'm hearing, a lot of fruitful conversations are starting to take place, which is what we are wanting to happen," Chairperson Hannia Benitez told the committee.

Subcommittees include Communications and Leadership, Business & Entrepreneurship, Parks & Recreation and Youth Mental Health, Public Safety and Law Enforcement, and Housing and Public Transportation. Each holds up to three committee members, plus a town employee specializing in that topic.

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

The plan's eight key strategic objectives include communication, housing, leadership, youth mental health, business and entrepreneurship, public safety and law enforcement, parks & recreation, and public transportation. Residents may view it in full at unc.live/3Donqpl.

The Communication & Leadership subcommittee met right before Tuesday's meeting and established the creation of a bilingual Siler City Public Information Officer position as its top priority, according to members Benitez, Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez and Carlos Simpson.

"We came to the conclusion that the town is already doing a lot of the key points that's in the plan," Vazquez Rodriguez said. "Our main goal is coming up with this PIO position. We realized that this person is probably very important to communications because we were looking and discussing every point, and we realized that just that position hits every point that we have in the BIC plan."

To work toward that goal, subcommittee members resolved to study similar positions in neighboring North Carolina municipalities and use their observations to create a job description encompassing everything a potential bilingual PIO would do.

"The ultimate goal of what we're looking to do is ... share



Staff photo by Victoria Johnson

The Siler City Immigrant Community Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting in November at the Wren Memorial Library. Back row, left to right: Hannia Benitez, Victoria Navarro, Shirley Villatoro, Carlos Simpson and Jisselle Perdomo. Front row, left to right: Danubio Vazquez Rodriguez and Norma Hernandez.

it with town management in consideration for next steps possible within the either short- or long-term future," Benitez said. "We are in the general consensus that a position such as the public information officer would be very beneficial in house for the town of Siler City and staff, and then also beneficial for the community at large."

Presenting next, Business & Entrepreneurship subcommittee members Jisselle Perdomo and Norma Hernandez reported that they're scheduled to meet with Jack Meadows, Siler City's planning and community development director, to discuss the BIC plan. They also hope to partner with the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, which Hernandez said has already been working toward achieving similar goals.

"Last year, I sat [in] on the Economic Development [Board], and a lot of their goals are our goals," Hernandez said, "and although they're focusing on minority-led businesses and entrepreneurship, a lot of what they're doing is things that we can just kind of join in on or join forces with."

Similarly, Parks & Recreation and Youth Mental Health subcommittee members Hernandez, Victoria Navarro and Shirley Villatoro scheduled a meeting next month with Jack Clelland, Siler City's Parks & Recreation director, to identify which Parks & Rec-related BIC priorities the town can achieve within the next year.

For youth mental health, subcommittee members identified two goals to strive toward this year: hosting a family-friendly mental health community event and expanding existing Communities In Schools programming to other Siler City schools.

"What we were looking at that it's achievable within the next few months — with COVID precautions, of course — is to host the family-friendly

community event and start reaching out to the partners to see what we can do because ... within the last recent months, there's been a couple of suicides in town within the Latinx youth community," Villatoro said, adding, "We're also starting to talk about counselors and expanding the Communities in Schools programming in Jordan-Matthews and other different schools to build that bridge program."

Lastly, Public Safety & Law Enforcement subcommittee members also outlined their two objectives for this year: working with the Siler City Police Department to plan events connecting law enforcement and the immigrant community, as well as improving communication about police procedures, police encounters and individual rights.

"We determined that the overall focus is to promote and increase ongoing positive interactions between law enforcement and the immigrant community, and also to build trust between law enforcement and the immigrant community," member and immigration attorney Jisselle Perdomo told the committee.

In particular, Perdomo said, she and fellow subcommittee members Vazquez Rodriguez and Villatoro would like to explore adopting the FaithAction ID program in partnership with Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner, the Hispanic Liaison and St. Julia Catholic Church.

"Many immigrants currently do not have an ID or state identification, and the reason for this is because many of them are undocumented, and cannot get a state ID, because they don't have a social security number or a valid status in the United States," Perdomo said. "So the Faith ID program would provide these individuals with an identification that can be recognized by the community and the police

department, in terms of being an ID that can be used to prove identity."

The program could also benefit the Siler City community at large, according to Benitez, since many residents may not have the requisite documents for obtaining government-issued ID.

"It's just, like, a whole process for them to finally obtain their birth certificate, their social security card," she said. "It also benefits people that may have recently been incarcerated."

Previously, Ilana Dubester, the Liaison's executive director, told the committee that they'd scheduled a Faith ID sign-up event for April 2020, before COVID-19 forced them to cancel it. The program framework, however, "is ready to go," she'd told members in January, as soon as the community can gather together again in large groups.

But, as Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson told the committee Tuesday, the primary staff members who oversaw the initial program setup have long left the town.

"That was under a previous town manager and previous police chief, so I think if you definitely wanted to have that conversation, and I'm sure that Chief Wagner is aware of that program, and how it works and that kind of thing," she said. "So I think it's just something that you would probably have to start the conversation all over again."

The Housing and Public Transportation subcommittee had not yet met by last Tuesday, but members Benitez and Navarro had plans to convene with Planning and Community Development Director Jack Meadows on March 10.

The Immigrant Advisory Committee will meet again at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, on Zoom at bit.ly/3JfKave.

"I think we're [heading] in the right direction meeting

with town staff and discussing BIC," Villatoro told the committee near the end of the meeting. "I think our next meeting, ideally, we should have a better understanding of what it is that we can achieve in a short period of time that we have — at least within the next six months — what we can actually start working on now."

Other committee business

Near the end of the meeting, various committee members thanked outgoing Town Manager Roy Lynch for guiding them through their responsibilities as a newly minted town advisory committee. Tuesday's Immigrant Advisory Committee meeting was his last as Siler City's town manager.

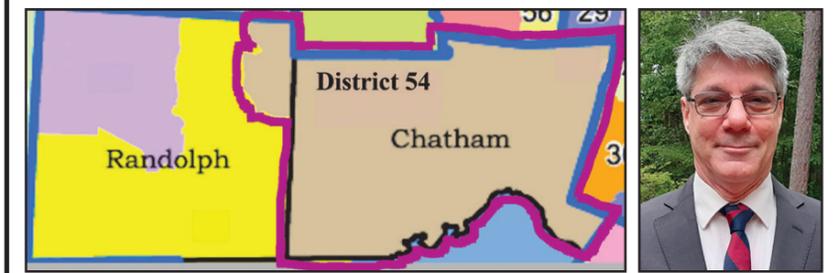
"We really appreciate and value your time and just teaching us more about what a committee is, and you know, all these past few meetings, we learned a lot," Vazquez Rodriguez told Lynch. "I really do appreciate it, and we wish you good luck — best of luck. Know that even though you might not be in the meeting, or in our group, you're still very much a big part of what we will accomplish, or what we're trying to accomplish, so thank you so much."

Lynch will join Chatham County as its new finance director next month.

"I've enjoyed being a part of the initiation of this advisory committee, a part of the BIC plan," he said. "It was in progress when I came here in 2017 as the finance director. It was already underway, and great initiatives were already in place, and so, I'm just thankful to have been a part of moving forward and still want to be a part of the community as a whole."

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

Kinsey For State House of Representatives 2022 (Chatham and Randolph, District 54).



Conservative Opinion by Craig Kinsey: Why is gasoline so expensive?

The short answer is that America is not extracting enough oil from under our ground, so now our President is begging Iran, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia to sell us more oil. Our Federal Leadership should look in the mirror and they will see the reason for high gasoline prices because they created roadblocks for U.S. oil companies to extract domestic oil and they blocked oil infrastructure (the Keystone Pipeline). The paradox is America's leader decided to practice morality/virtue by stopping the purchase of oil from a Russian dictator (Putin), but his actions belie virtue by his proposals to purchase oil from (a middle eastern terrorist country (Iran), a south American dictator (Venezuela's President Maduro), and a tyrannical middle eastern King (Prince Mohammed bin Salman). All the while ignoring America's oil industry. We currently need oil to keep our modern economy functioning. My solution as your State House Representative: Make it easier for US oil companies to drill domestically. This will lower your gasoline prices and create good paying jobs for Americans. Next week what causes inflation and suggestions to reduce it.

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

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BURIAL PLOTS FOR SALE - Four (4) burial plots, 30% off retail price, in Chatham Memorial Park. Seller pays transfer fee. Please email tloman@ardurra.com for further information. F24,M3,10,17,4tp

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

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SERVICES

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

AUTO BROKERS RECYCLERS - Cash paid for Junk/Wrecked vehicles. Call 919-545-0194. My13,tfnc

JUNK CARS PICKED UP Free of charge. Due to many months of low steel prices and unstable steel markets, we cannot pay for cars at this time. Cars, trucks, and machinery will be transported and environmentally correctly recycled at no charge. 919-542-2803. A2,tfnc

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

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF SILER CITY, ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS MANAGER - Supervises and performs professional level accounting work in areas such as budgetary accounting, payroll reporting/oversight, grants accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and other financial accounting work. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, or related field. Two years' experience with purchasing and budget management. Moderate supervisory experience. Strong computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications. Prior local or state government finance experience. Moderate supervisory experience in a financial/accounting environment. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Annual Hiring Salary, \$63,325. Please refer to our website for a full job description. - To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required for consideration. The application may be found on our website at www.silercity.org or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, Attention: Human Resources, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to dritter@silercity.org. Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. - The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. - The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. - This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. -- Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al [919-726-8625](tel:919-726-8625) o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. M17,1tc

WE ARE A TEAM! Come join us @ Quality Life Home Care, Inc. Updated pay rates! Hiring CNAs and PCAs. Please contact us at 919-547-2027. M3,10,2tc

FOOD SERVICES STAFF - Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. 021,tfnc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call 919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

ing CNAs and PCAs. Please contact us at 919-547-2027. M3,10,2tc

FOOD SERVICES STAFF - Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. 021,tfnc

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City: Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call 919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

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 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,M17,4tp

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 18th day of May, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This the 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 F24,M3,M10,M17,4tp

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 TO CREDITORS 22 E 110 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

The undersigned, Delma Murdock, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **ELMUS L. DOWDY, JR.**, 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 1 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 the 3 day of March, 2022. Delma Murdock c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate Hopper Cummings, PLLC Post Office Box 1455 Pittsboro, NC 27312 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Cynthia D. Wicker and Donna D. Phillips qualified before the Chatham County Clerk of Court on February 23, 2022 as Co-Executrix of the Estate of **MABEL KATHLEEN H. DOWDY**, 1716 Everett Dowdy Road, Sanford, NC 27330. This is to notify all persons, firms and corporations, as required by NCGS 28A-14-1, having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the attorney designated below on or before the 3rd day of June, 2022 or this notice will be pled in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the said estate will please make immediate payments to the undersigned. Payments and claims should be presented to: Robert B. Gilleland, Attorney P.O. Box 1045 Sanford, NC 27331-1045 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 112

The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **DOROTHY S. BRAXTON**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned at his address, 4136 Cary Oaks Drive, Apex, North Carolina, 27539, on or before the 3rd 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. This 24th day of February, 2022.

Vernon Walter Braxton 4136 Cary Oaks Drive Apex, North Carolina 27539 GUNN & MESSICK, PLLC P. O. Box 880 Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312-0880 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 96

All persons having claims against **ROBERT S. SCOTT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd 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 3rd day of March, 2022.

Kimberly A. Lazaro, Executrix 13212 Creedmoor Rd Wake Forest, NC 27587 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 634

All persons having claims against **DANIEL JOHN STACEY**, deceased, late of Chatham

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.

County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd 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 3rd day of March, 2022.

Nora Regina Stacey, Administrator PO Box 344 1004 Park Drive Siler City, NC 27344 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 72

All persons having claims against **JAMES LYNDEN BRADY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd 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 3rd day of March, 2022.

Sylvia Brady Ford, Executrix 5653 StigallRd Kernersville, NC 27284 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 111

All persons having claims against **DAVID C. EVERETTE AKA DAVID CURTIS EVERETTE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd 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 3rd day of March, 2022.

Debora Jean Lawrence, Co-Executor 232 Goathouse Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 Steve Everette, Co-Executor 312 Double N Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 96

All persons having claims against **ROBERT S. SCOTT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 3rd 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 3rd day of March, 2022.

Kimberly A. Lazaro, Executrix 13212 Creedmoor Rd Wake Forest, NC 27587 M3,M10,M17,M24,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE A public hearing will be held by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on Monday, March 21, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearing will be held in the courtroom of the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro, North Carolina at 9 Hillsboro Street. Additional information is available at the Chatham County Planning Department office. Speakers are requested to sign up at the meeting prior to the hearing. You may also sign up on the county website prior to the meeting at www.chatham-countync.gov by selecting the hearing County Government, then Commissioner Meetings, then Public Input/Hearing Sign Up. The public hearing may be continued to another date at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive input, both written and oral, on the



Career Opportunities Available

Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

HELP WANTED

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

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

PITTSBORO VILLAGE APARTMENTS

Now accepting applications for 2BR, 1.5BA Range, refrigerator, dishwasher are included in the rent. Rent starts at \$630 and up.

400 Honeysuckle Dr., Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-5410 TDD 1-800-735-2962 Email: pittsborovillage@ECCMG.T.com EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

HIRING CNA's 2ND & 3RD SHIFT

CALL: 919-542-3151 Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview.

Pittsboro Christian Village 1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

SILER CITY COUNTRY CLUB

accepting applications for Assistant Superintendent. Starting wage \$13.50 hourly, musty have experience.

issues listed below:
 Testimony is required to be given under oath during the evidentiary hearing for the following item: Quasi-Judicial Request: A quasi-judicial public hearing for a request by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to consider amendments to the following regulations:
 1. A quasi-judicial public hearing for a Special Use Permit requested by Chatham County Facilities and Construction for a new EMS station to be located on Parcel No. 62221 (2.3 acres) and 94711 (.69 acres), 9251 US 15-501 N, Baldwin Township.
 Substantial changes may be made following the public hearing due to verbal or written comments received or based on the Board's discussions.
 Notice to people with special needs: If you have an audio or visual impairment, unique accessibility requirements or need language assistance, please call the number listed below prior to the hearing and assistance may be provided. If you have any questions or comments concerning these issues, please call the Chatham County Planning Department at 919-542-8204 or write to P.O. Box 54, Pittsboro N.C. 27312.

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 The undersigned, Herbert Sasser, having qualified as Limited Personal Representative of the Estate of **CARLTON HADLEY HEWETT, SR.**, 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 8 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 the 10 day of March, 2022.
 Herbert Sasser
 c/o Shanelle K. Edmonds, Attorney for the Estate
 Hopper Cummings, PLLC
 Post Office Box 1455
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 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 Executor 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 payment to the Estate.
 David R. Frankstone
 Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A.
 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203
 Exchange West at Meadowmont

Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834
 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 126
 All persons having claims against **MOZZELLE H. GOLDSTON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of March, 2022.
 Drusilla G. Emerson, Executrix
 2589 Alston Chapel Road
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tp

NOTICE OF INTEREST ABSTRACT
 This notice is out of the ne-

cessity for the establishment of a perfected interest in the Estate identified herein. The **KEVIN JAMES WELSH**, Estate, hereinafter "Debtor" Bond registration Vermont Vital Statistics file number 144-68-003086. Federal Reserve, Federal Insurance, and Treasury account number XXXX0569. The grantor, beneficiary, heir and General Executor **WELSH**, Kevin James, a man hereinafter "Creditor" has a first priority secured interest in the Debtor's property by private agreement. As of the date of this publishing, no person, natural or artificial, has presented a superior claim of interest in the DEBTOR'S Estate including but not limited to personal and real property, chattels and entitlement rights of the estate assets and securities to Creditor. The last known residence address of the DEBTOR Estate as certified on the title is the Vermont Department of Health, 108 Cherry St., Burlington, VT 05401. All DEBTOR'S labor/energy, and every product created therefrom, whether past, present, or future are indentured by private agreement. All products of the DEBTOR'S labor including but not limited to property acquired, by gift, agreement, wage and/or sale in DEBTOR'S NAME. All means "everything" real and personal which DEBTOR has both in possession and not in possession as equitable interest. This includes real property, personal property and everything attached to it. **NOTICE OF ADVERSE CLAIM ABSTRACT**
 Any real or artificial person and or municipal corporation with an adverse claim to any of the DEBTOR'S property shall send their claim certified under oath (notary jurat), or unsworn declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746(1), sent certified or registered mail within three (3) days of the final publishing of this notice to: **The KEVIN JAMES WELSH**, Estate, Office of the Executor, RFD 238 Ross Drive, Pittsboro, North Carolina [27312-9998].
 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 128
 All persons having claims against **RUTH MAXINE OLDHAM**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of March, 2022.
 Danny Keith Oldham, Administrator
 74 Howards Mill Rd.
 Bennett, N.C. 27208
 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 17-CVD-315 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION.
 COUNTY OF CHATHAM Plaintiff, VS
MARK CURTIS LIEB a/k/a MARK C. WARREN, et al Defendants.
 TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEWISEES of **MARK CURTIS LIEB a/k/a MARK C. WARREN** and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder, and **LESLIE F. LIEB a/k/a LESLIE F. WARREN** and ANY HEIRS,

ASSIGNS or DEWISEES of LESLIE F. LIEB a/k/a LESLIE F. WARREN or any other person or entity claiming thereunder
 A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on March 17, 2022.
 The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.
 You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after March 17, 2022, or by April 26, 2022, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.
 This the 11th day of March, 2022.
ZACCHAEUS LEGAL SERVICES
 By: **MARK D. BARDILL/MARK B. BARDILL**
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 NC Bar #12852/56782
 310 W. Jones St.
 P.O. Box 25
 Trenton, North Carolina 28585
 Telephone: (252) 448-4541
 M17,M24,M31,3tc

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified on the 2nd day of March 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **DALE BALLIE EYERLY COLSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.
 This the 17th day of March 2022

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY
 Having qualified on the 2nd day of March 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **DALE BALLIE EYERLY COLSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment.
 This the 17th day of March 2022

Robert M. Colson, Executor of the Estate of Dale Ballie Eyerly Colson
 1380 Bradford Place
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 Attorneys:
 Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.
 206 Hawkins Avenue
 Sanford, NC 27314
 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 137
 All persons having claims against **BRUCE ALBRECHT BARRON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 17th 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 17th day of March, 2022.
 Mary Cahill Barron, Executor
 1109 Fearington Post, 6 Caswell
 Pittsboro, NC 27312
 c/o Bagwell Holt Smith, P.A.
 111 Cloister Ct., STE 200
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of March, 2022, as Executrix of the ESTATE OF **WILLIAM L. TEULINGS A/K/A WILLIAM LAWRENCE TEULINGS**, 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 18th 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, the 17th day of March, 2022.
LAURIE E. KNIGHT, EXECUTRIX
 ESTATE OF WILLIAM L. TEULINGS A/K/A WILLIAM LAWRENCE TEULINGS
 c/o E.J. Walker, Jr., Attorney
 Walker Lambe, PLLC
 Post Office Box 51549

TOWN OF SILER CITY
 The Board of Commissioners will conduct a legislative hearing on Mar. 21, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Legislative hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests:
 Bryce Terrell Horton proposes to rezone 7.592 acres from Agricultural-Residential (A-R) to Highway-Commercial-Conditional (H-C-C). The proposed uses are motor vehicle (repair, maintenance, painting, and body work), trucking business garage, truck parking, exterior truck part storage, automobile graveyard, junkyard, and salvage yard. The subject property is identified as 140 Silk Hope Rd. and parcel # 14159, 91443, 91444.
 The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the items are invited to attend the legislative hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on Mar. 14 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.
 M10,M17,2tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS 22 E 121



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Durham, North Carolina 27717
M17,M24,M31,A7,4tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate of **JAMES ANTHONY KOFALT**, Deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to present the same to the Personal Representative listed below on or before June 17, 2022, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All debtors of the said Estate are asked to make immediate payment.

This 17th day of March, 2022. Gladys Miller Kofalt, Executor c/o STEVEN B. LONG Ward and Smith, P.A. Attorneys at Law Post Office Box 33009 Raleigh, NC 27636-3009 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tc

PUBLIC NOTICE
Chatham County Schools' federal projects under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 are presently being developed. Projects included: Title I (Helping Disadvantaged Children Meet High Standards) Title II (High Quality Teachers and Principals) Title III (Language Acquisition) Title IV A Student Support and Academic Enrichment McKinney-Vento (Homeless Education)

Migrant Education Program Career and Technical Education High school students can enroll, without cost, in college credit classes through the Career and College Promise program. This includes Career and Technical Education pathways of study. IDEA (Students with Disabilities) - The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2022-2023 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. These projects describe the programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for federal funding for the 2022-2023 school year. Non-profit private schools and interested persons are encouraged to review these federal guidelines for the above listed projects and indicate their interest in participation in the projects if qualified. These projects

are being developed during April and May and are due to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction on June 30, 2022. The initial Equitable Services for Private Schools meeting will be held at Chatham County Schools Central Services Building in the Board of Education Room on April 7th, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the office of Carol Little, Executive Director Federal Programs and School Improvement, at Chatham County Board of Education, P.O. Box 128 / 369 West Street, Pittsboro, N.C., prior to April 7, 2022. M17,M24,M31,3tc

PUBLIC NOTICE - SPANISH VERSION, Noticia pública. Estamos en proceso de desarrollo de los proyectos federales de las Escuelas del Condado Chatham bajo la Ley Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) de 2015. Los proyectos incluyen: Título I (Ayuda a los niños desfavorecidos económicamente a alcanzar altos estándares académicos) Título II (Maestros y directores de alta calidad) Título III (Adquisición de Lenguas) Título IV A (Apoyo Estudiantil y Enriquecimiento Académico) McKinney-Vento (Educación para personas sin hogar) Programa de Educación

Migrantes (MEP por sus siglas en Inglés) Educación técnica y profesional Los estudiantes de preparatoria pueden inscribirse, sin costo, en clases de créditos universitarios a través del programa promesa Career and College. Esto incluye vías de estudio de Educación Técnica y Profesional. IDEA (Estudiantes con Discapacidades) El Proyecto de la Ley de Educación para Individuos con Discapacidades (IDEA-Parte B, Ley Pública 108.446) está siendo enmendado actualmente. El Proyecto describe los programas de educación especial que las Escuelas del Condado Chatham proponen para financiamiento federal para el año escolar 2022-2023. Se alienta a las personas interesadas a revisar las enmiendas al Proyecto y hacer comentarios sobre la implementación de la educación especial bajo este programa federal. Todos los comentarios serán considerados antes de la presentación del Proyecto modificado al Departamento de Instrucción Pública de Carolina del Norte en Raleigh, Carolina del Norte. Estos proyectos describen los programas que las Escuelas del Condado Chatham proponen para financiamiento federal para el año escolar 2022-2023. Nosotros promovemos que las escuelas privadas sin fines de lucro y a las

personas interesadas revisen estas pautas federales para los proyectos enumerados anteriormente e indiquen su interés en participar en los proyectos si califican. Estos proyectos se están desarrollando durante abril y mayo y deben presentarse al Departamento de Instrucción Pública de Carolina del Norte el 30 de junio de 2022. La reunión inicial de Servicios Equitativos para Escuelas Privadas se llevará a cabo en la Sala de la Junta de Educación de Servicios Centrales de las Escuelas del Condado Chatham abril 7, 2022 a las 11:00 a.m. Se recomienda a las partes interesadas que se comuniquen con la oficina de Carol Little, Directora Ejecutiva de Programas Federales y Mejoramiento Escolar, en la Junta de Educación del Condado Chatham, PO Box 128 369 West Street, Pittsboro, NC, antes del 7 de abril de 2022. M17,M24,M31,3tc

PUBLIC NOTICE
North Carolina Environmental Management Commission/ NPDES Unit 1617 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1617 **Notice of Intent to Issue a NPDES Wastewater Permit NC0038300 S.S. Mobile Home Park**
The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission proposes to issue a

NPDES wastewater discharge permit to the person(s) listed below. Written comments regarding the proposed permit will be accepted until 30 days after the publish date of this notice. The Director of the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) may hold a public hearing should there be a significant degree of public interest. Please mail comments and/or information requests to DWR at the above address. Interested persons may visit the DWR at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604 to review information on file. Additional information on NPDES permits and this notice may be found on our website: <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/npdes-wastewater/public-notices>, or by calling (919) 707-3601 S.S. Construction & Rental, Inc. [1808 Pinecrest St., Burlington NC 27215-5639] has requested renewal of permit NC0038300 for its S.S. Mobile Home Park in Chatham County. This permitted facility discharges treated stormwater to the Bush Creek, a class C water in the Cape Fear River Basin. Some parameters are water quality limited. This discharge may affect future allocations in this segment of Bush Creek. M17,1tc

New York man arrested in connection with February shooting of Cary woman

CN+R Staff Report

SILER CITY — Shortly after midnight on February 13, 2022, members of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of an accidental shooting at an address off of Jessie Bridges Road in Siler City.

On scene, deputies found the

victim, Patricia Stanley, 38, of Cary, deceased in an RV; she had sustained a single gunshot wound. A male subject on scene remained cooperative with deputies regarding the incident, but



Oliver Arz

investigators soon determined that available evidence did not support the initial narrative of an "accidental" shooting. Further investigation revealed additional inconsistencies and details suggesting a potential homicide. Investigators then charged the male subject — since identified as Oliver Arz, 47, of 99 Montrose

Ave., Apt. #3, Brooklyn, New York — with first degree murder. A motive has not been released, but investigators say Arz was a known acquaintance of Stanley and his actions were not random. On February 18, Arz was taken into custody by the United States Marshals and jailed with no bond. On March 11, Arz was

transported to the Chatham County Detention Center and served with the outstanding warrant for felony first degree murder. He is being held under no bond and is due to appear in Chatham County Court in Pittsboro on March 21, 2022. No additional details have been released.

Wilborn's cents make sense for Meals on Wheels



Courtesy of the Chatham Council on Aging

William Wilborn, a coin collector for over five decades, recently donated the contents of his coin collection to the Meals on Wheels program at the Chatham County Council on Aging. At left is Barbara Woody, home-based services assistant, accepting the briefcase.

BY JIMMY LEWIS
From the Chatham County Council on Aging

SILER CITY — William Wilborn claims that his coin collection has never been particularly large. The briefcase transported into the Western Chatham Senior Center during the first week of March would disagree. "I've been fooling with it for a long time," Wilborn said. "But my wife got sick, and I had to quit messing with it. It hasn't ever been a real big coin collection, just small stuff. Nickels, dimes, quarters. I'd put them in a box and save them." But Wilborn, at 93, recently decided that someone else should put his five-decade collection to good use. A client of the Chatham County Council on Aging's Meals on Wheels program since 2019, Wilborn chose to share his largesse with a program that has been a lifeline — in more ways than just a meal. He joined the program shortly after losing his wife to Alzheimer's disease just one week prior to Christmas. "That last part, she didn't even know who she was," Wilborn shared. It was then he contacted Barbara Woody, the Council's home-based

services assistant, about starting Meals on Wheels deliveries. Woody, who refers to Wilborn as a "wonderful man," didn't take long to develop a friendship with the military veteran. "(Woody) sends me a pack of pull-ups every once in a while, when I call her and tell her I ain't got none!" Wilborn said. "I really couldn't keep up with a regular diet because my kidneys don't play with me. They're in pretty bad shape." Wilborn and his wife of some 50 years came from different schools of thought in regard to saving coins. Whereas his wife would promptly roll up a stack of coins and send it to the bank, Wilborn would stash it away in his coin collection. He said that his wife never knew of the collection's existence right up until she passed away. "Right now, I figured the Meals on Wheels over there could use the stuff," Wilborn said of the coin collection. "They give me a meal at dinner (lunch). And of course, I can't cook. I thought I would try to do a little for them, so I gave them the coin collection." Wilborn, who served in the Navy for a decade from 1948 to 1958, would not attempt to estimate how much was in the

collection. He briefly considered selling the collection at an earlier time, but opted to give it to someone "who would appreciate it and help them." His relationships extend to Mark Howe, the Meals on Wheels volunteer driver who shows up on Thursdays and takes him to the grocery store and doctors' appointments. In fact, it was Howe who took Wilborn to the Western Center to donate his coin collection. "If it wasn't for him, I'd be in bad shape," Wilborn said of Howe. "I've gotten too old to drive, so I sold my car. I'm 93 years old, and I don't need to be out on no road trying to drive. Because if I didn't hurt myself, I'm liable to hurt somebody else. So I don't do that." Wilborn encouraged those considering a Meals on Wheels donation to follow through and do so. "Meals on Wheels has helped me a whole lot," Wilborn said. "Like I said, I can't cook, and I get a meal every day except on the weekends. It helps a whole lot." Howe offered his own assessment. "Someday, I'll be in his shoes," he said, "and I hope someone is around to take me to the grocery store."

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Watson named principal of Pittsboro Elementary

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Education named Lemondré Watson as the new principal of Pittsboro Elementary School at its meeting Monday.



Lemondré Watson

Watson is in his ninth year as a public school educator. He previously served as the assistant principal at Carroll Magnet Middle School in Wake County. Watson received his undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary and his master's degree in School Administration from N.C. State University.

Watson was the 2018-19 Assistant Principal of the Year for Vance County

Schools. The 2013 Teach For America Corp member said he was excited about his new role with Chatham County Schools. "I am really looking forward to getting to know our Pittsboro Elementary School families," Watson said. "This is a great school district in a community that is well known for its support of public education. I am looking forward to what we can accomplish at PES. I am truly fortunate to be a part of CCS." Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said Watson brings valuable experience to the district. "Mr. Watson is a great addition to our team," Jackson said. "His leadership and experience will ensure continued high-quality education at Pittsboro Elementary, and his role here will benefit the community, as well as the school district."

CHAMPIONS

Continued from page A1

iconic mascot, gracing mid-court — as if they'd been there before.

If there was an ounce of nervousness among any of Northwood's players, especially the team's four seniors, you wouldn't have known it.

All evening long, the Chargers took it to the Jets.

They ate breakfast, lunch and dinner in the paint, out-rebounding them by 19 boards and out-scoring them by 22 in points in the paint.

They put on an offensive clinic, especially in the first half, shooting 63% from the floor before the halftime break.

They put Enka in a pressure cooker on defense, forcing 21 turnovers and capitalizing off of them greatly, scoring 28 points directly off of miscues.

And after four quarters of beating down the Jets in just about every conceivable way, the final buzzer sounded, the pro-Northwood crowd erupted and the Chargers were named 2021-22 3A state champions.

Following a post-game celebration that saw Northwood players embracing one another, hitting the popular "Griddy" dance and posing for group photos with the trophy, the team's four seniors — Caroline Allen, Natalie Bell, Myla Marve and Olivia Porter — joined Snipes at the podium for the team's season-ending press conference.

"Going from Coach Vernon for the last three years to Coach Snipes was definitely a different atmosphere ... Coach Vernon would always yell off the court, you could always hear him, but Coach Snipes, not so much, but that's probably a good thing," Allen said with a laugh, then turning to Snipes. "But, obviously, whatever she did, it worked. I'm very happy to have you as my coach."

When Snipes stepped into the head coaching role, she immediately took over a team with a chip on its shoulder.

After falling in heartbreak-



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Northwood women's basketball team, including senior Olivia Porter (center, with plaque), holding up the game's MVP award, poses for photos alongside the 3A state championship banner and trophy after defeating the Enka Jets, 70-42, in the state title game in Raleigh on Saturday. The Chargers finished the year with a 30-1 overall record and won 21 straight games en route to the championship game victory.

ing fashion in last year's East Regional Final to the Asheboro Blue Comets — a game played at Northwood, the higher seed, due to COVID-19-related changes to the postseason — which ended their perfect season just one round before the title game, the juniors from that team came back hungrier than ever.

Add Porter to the mix — a senior transfer from Alabama who moved back to the Pittsboro area last summer, who also fell in her state semifinals last season with Auburn High School — and you've got the recipe for a motivated squad that'd stop at nothing to earn a championship ring.

"It feels amazing, I feel like I won for two cities, back in Auburn and here," Porter said. "I was kind of (representing) two teams, essentially, because I knew my old coach was going to be watching this game, so I knew I had to make him proud, as well as my teammates and coach here."

"It just means a lot that I finally reached this point, and I'm the first in my family, so that proves I'm the most athletic one," joked Porter, who has

a brother, Omari, who plays football at Stanford.

Saturday's title-sealing performance was simply the reward for a hard-fought season, one that saw Northwood outscore its opponents by more than 1,000 points, cruise through nearly its entire schedule and end the year on an impressive 21-game winning streak.

But the team's seniors — along with players like junior Te'Keyah Bland, who battled back from an early-season leg injury to be named the East Region's Most Outstanding Player in Saturday's game — were the primary reason they'd finally reached the mountaintop.

"They've been with me for a couple of years, these three that have been here for four years, and Olivia joined in and they've been great leaders on the court," Snipes said. "They motivate their younger teammates, they're vocal, they'll call each other out when they see the need to. They really communicate efficiently. They've done everything I've asked, whether they liked it or not. ... They're a big reason why we're standing here

today."

For those who made the trip to Reynolds Coliseum for Saturday evening's state with a Chatham-focused rooting interest, it was a day of mixed emotions.

On one hand, the Chargers finally secured the school's first state title after being on the precipice so many times.

But on the other, the Chatham Charter Knights (33-2, 10-0 in Central Tar Heel 1A) fell in heartbreaking fashion to the Hayesville Yellow Jackets (28-0, 10-0 in Smoky Mountain 1A), fumbling away a 10-point second-quarter lead to eventually lose in overtime, 54-43, in the 1A men's basketball state title game.

If the Chargers are any indication, though, sometimes it's possible to come back stronger from even the most soul-crushing of losses.

And with the Knights being led by a duo of juniors in Adam Harvey and Aamir Mapp and a duo of freshmen in Brennen Oldham and Beau Harvey — without a single senior on the roster — there's no reason why they can't write their own storybook ending next year like



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter junior Aamir Mapp (24) shoots over Hayesville senior Kolbe Ashe (14) in the Knights' 54-43 loss to the Yellow Jackets in the 1A men's basketball state championship in Raleigh on Saturday. Mapp (10 points) was one of three Knights in double figures on the evening.

their Pittsboro counterparts this season.

"Obviously, they're disappointed, as we all are, because we had a goal, we had a chance to win this game," Jason Messier, the Knights' head coach, said after the loss. "But how we respond to this is going to be the key."

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

Chatham Hospital is proud to support our local teams.

Congratulations to Northwood and Chatham Charter on your state championship appearances!



Congratulations to all these wonderful local athletes from Northwood and Chatham Charter from the team at Pittsboro Family Dentistry!



Congratulations to both the women's and men's basketball teams! As someone who has had two sons play for Northwood, it makes me so happy to see them win a state championship!

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way to go, champs!

Congratulations to Northwood High School's women's team on its first state championship, and hats off to Chatham Central's men for a great season and a state runner-up finish.

Chatham News + Record



HAYESVILLE 54, CHATHAM CHARTER 43 (OT)

Knights fight back to force OT in gut-wrenching 1A title game loss to Yellow Jackets

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — With each swish of the net, the knife inside of Chatham Charter's collective heart twisted just a little bit further. As Hayesville senior point guard Kolbe Ashe stood at the charity stripe in overtime, knocking down free throw after free throw, the Knights' hopes of claiming their first 1A men's basketball state title got slimmer and slimmer. Until, finally, time expired with the Yellow Jackets on top. It was a nail-biting, come-from-behind victory for Hayesville (28-0, 10-0 in Smoky Mountain 1A), who defeated Chatham Charter (33-2, 10-0 in Central Tar Heel 1A), 54-43, in an emotional overtime game in the NCHSAA 1A Men's Basket-

ball State Championship Game on Saturday, hosted at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh. In an arena full of rich history, the Knights fell just short of making their own after blowing a 10-point second-quarter lead to the Yellow Jackets, who secured their first state title since 2004. "We had some shots that would normally fall that didn't go down, so that changed some things for us," Jason Messier, the Knights' head coach, said of the team's second-half struggles. "I don't think that them switching their defense bothered us that much because we still got the ball through the middle. ... The shots just didn't fall." In a contest as fast-paced and physical as the one that took place on Saturday afternoon, it's only fitting that it came

down to the slow-moving, concentrating art of the free throw. And in the biggest game of his high school career, Ashe splashed in 12 straight free throws in the overtime period, gradually allowing the Yellow Jackets to pull away from the Knights, one point at a time. He finished the extra period 13-of-14 (93%) from the line. In total, Ashe scored 16 of his 29 points from the stripe, making 16-of-20 (80%) overall, with two of his misses coming at the end of regulation with a chance to ice the game with less than 30 seconds to play. He more than made up for it in the end. "Just whatever it takes to win," Ashe said nonchalantly in Hayesville's post-game press



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter freshman Beau Harvey (with ball) weighs his options before making a move against Hayesville sophomore Asher Brown in the Knights' 54-43 loss to the Yellow Jackets in the 1A men's basketball state championship game in Raleigh on Saturday. Harvey was named the East Region's Most Outstanding Player in the loss for his stellar performance on the big stage.

See CHARTER, page B4

BRINGING ONE HOME

Northwood clobbers Enka to claim 3A state title, end school's 52-year championship drought

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
 News + Record Staff

RALEIGH — Northwood senior Myla Marve stood at mid-court on Saturday night, donning a lime green t-shirt with the logo of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association across the front. A gold medal rested around her neck. "We really, truly appreciate all of the support from the community and from the school," Marve said, unable to hold back a laugh in front of the crowd of parents, students, siblings, staff members and fans. "You've really encouraged us to play at our best at all times." At the end of her 65-second speech, she jokingly dropped the mic as DJ Khaled's "All I Do Is Win" began blasting over the loudspeakers. It was a moment not only laced with laughter and good vibes, but also of sheer confidence. Northwood had reached the pinnacle — and it was time to celebrate. Minutes earlier, the Northwood women's basketball team returned to



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood's four seniors (from left to right: Natalie Bell, Olivia Porter, Myla Marve, Caroline Allen) pose with their head coach, Kerri Snipes (far right), after winning the 3A women's basketball state title, 72-40, over the Enka Jets. Snipes praised this senior class' vocal leadership in her post-game press conference following the victory.

the school's gym — their bus escorted by a pair of police officers who met them at the Chatham County line on U.S. Hwy. 64 — to a round of applause and Kool & The Gang's "Celebration" ringing throughout the

room after they trounced the Enka Jets, 70-42, in the NCHSAA 3A state title game at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh earlier that evening. The second-seeded Chargers (30-1, 12-0 in Central 3A) used a

mixture of phenomenal post play and suffocating defense to bury the 19th-seeded Jets (16-15, 5-7 in The Mountain 3A/4A) in an unforgettable game where Northwood led from start to finish.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Myla Marve cuts a portion of the net during the Chargers' post-game celebration back in Pittsboro following their 3A women's basketball state title win over the Enka Jets, 70-42.

For the first time in school history, the Chargers were state champions. And they were deter-

mined to make the most of it. In a late-night celebration, See CHAMPS, page B5

Our 'expert' predicts March Madness

The news of Tom Brady's return may have spoiled Selection Sunday, but college basketball's month of prominence is upon us. Thursday begins a wild ride of sure locks, upset makers and of course, madness. Gonzaga earned the No. 1 overall seed along with Kansas, Baylor and Arizona. But some teams were not as lucky. Dayton and Texas A&M had their bubble popped while Notre Dame, Indiana, Wyoming and Rutgers snuck in as the last four teams in the tournament. With just days until tip-off, sports writer Max Baker shared some of his thoughts heading into the tournament.



MAX BAKER
 CN+R Intern

First-round upset pick

Anytime a team has a player nicknamed "Jelly," you pick them. I'm sorry, I don't make the rules. UAB guard Jordan "Jelly" Walker

is a name to watch for in March. He enters the tournament averaging more than 20 points per game. Last week, he was dominant when the Blazers needed him most. In three conference tournament games, he scored 26, 40 and 27 points in consecutive wins. In those final two games, he was 24-24 from the free throw line. If the Conference USA Player of the Year plays like this, it will be tough for any team to beat him. UAB will battle Houston in a 5-12 matchup. While this is often a trendy upset pick, I have not been impressed by Houston this year. After a run to the Final Four last year, they are not the same team. I like UAB to pull off the upset.

Sleeper teams to make a deep run

Due to COVID-19 providing an extra year of eligibility for college athletes, this year's tournament will feature more experienced teams than usual. The Richmond Spiders had four players take advantage of another year and that paid off. They went on a run in the Atlantic 10 tournament

and earned an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament. The only problem is, they're running into one of the hottest teams in the country right now in the Iowa Hawkeyes. If the Spiders can pull off the first round upset, I think they can make a deep tournament run. Another team to watch is Davidson. Yes, another Atlantic 10 team. The Wildcats lost just six games all season and Michigan St. transfer Foster Loyer will have a chance at revenge in the first round against the Spartans. Hyunjung Lee will be another player to watch that maybe you haven't heard of. Keep an eye on the two Atlantic 10 schools.

National Champion pick

My head tells me that Arizona is the best team in the country. They've been the most dominant Power Five team for most of the year and are playing some of their best basketball right now. But recently, I've been in a rut at picking the champion correctly. So that's why

I'm picking Gonzaga. That might make little sense, but I'm not trusting my gut when it comes to the national champion anymore. Gonzaga is no slouch pick either. They made the national championship last year and returned star forward Drew Timme and gained future lottery pick Chet Holmgren. The Zags lost just three games all season — all to top six seeds in the tournament — and are usually a consistent tournament producer. I'm taking Mark Few's squad to cut down the nets.

Bonus: Predictions for North Carolina-based schools

North Carolina — Round of 32 loss to No. 1 Baylor
 Duke — Round of 32 loss to No. 10 Davidson
 Davidson — Elite Eight loss to No. 2 Kentucky

Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and @maxbaker_15.

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

Last week was one that'll be forever cherished in Chatham County sports history, with Northwood earning the school's first-ever team state title when its women's basketball team defeated the Enka Jets, 70-42, in the 3A state title game on Saturday in Raleigh, ending their 52-year championship drought. Chatham Charter's men's basketball team was also on the cusp of a 1A state title, but fell just short to the Hayesville Yellow Jackets, 54-43. While it'll be hard to top last week, there are a plethora of sports going on around the county this week to help ease your way out of the hoops high we've all been on recently. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 16

Soccer: Woods Charter women at Clover Garden, 4 p.m.
Track & Field: Seaforth vs. Chatham Charter, 4 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter at Triangle Math & Science Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Central at Graham, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Seaforth men vs. Jordan-Matthews, 4:30 p.m.
Track & Field: Chatham Central at North Moore (Bartlett Yancey also attending), 4:30 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. Riverside, 5 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Central vs. Eastern Randolph, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Northwood at Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. East Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.
Softball: Chatham Central at Providence Grove, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 17

Tennis: Chatham Charter men vs. Cornerstone Charter, 4 p.m.
Track & Field: Northwood at Orange (Cedar Ridge also attending), 4 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter women vs. N.C. Leadership Academy, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Central vs. Uwharrie Charter, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Northwood men at Williams, 4:30 p.m.
Track & Field: Jordan-Matthews, Seaforth vs. Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference opponents, 4:30 p.m.
Lacrosse: Seaforth men vs. Cedar Ridge, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women at Randleman, 6 p.m.

Friday, March 18

Soccer: Chatham Charter women vs. Clover Garden, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Jordan-Matthews at Graham, 5 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood women at Union Pines, 5:30 p.m.
Softball: Chatham Charter at Southern Wake, 5:30 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Charter at Southern Wake, 6 p.m.
Baseball: Seaforth vs. Neuse Charter, 6 p.m.
Lacrosse: Seaforth men at Orange, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter women vs. Gray Stone Day, 6 p.m.
Softball: Northwood vs. Cedar Ridge, 6 p.m.
Softball: Seaforth vs. Chatham Central, 6 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Charter at Southern Wake, 6:30 p.m.
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews at North Moore, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Northwood vs. Williams, 7 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood men at Union Pines, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 19

Track & Field: Seaforth, Woods Charter at Cary Academy, time TBA

Softball: Northwood vs. Northern Guilford, 12 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Central vs. East Surry, 1 p.m.
Softball: Northwood vs. Southern Lee, 6 p.m.

LAST WEEK

Monday, March 7

Lacrosse: The Seaforth men earned their first win in program history against the Riverside-Durham Pirates, 19-5, at home.
Tennis: The Chatham Charter men fell to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 8-1, to remain winless on the season at 0-2.

Tennis: The Northwood men swept the Person Rockets, 8-0, to earn their first win of the season. Winning singles matches for the Chargers were junior Jio Sumogod (6-0, 6-0), junior Matteus Butler (6-2, 6-1), senior Mason Erman (6-2, 6-0), junior Ragul Ramesh (6-0, 6-0), junior Ben Starling (7-5, 6-4) and senior Colten Hodgkin (6-1, 6-0), while the duos of Sumogod/Butler (8-0) and Erman/Starling (8-0) won their doubles matches.

Tennis: The Seaforth men swept the North Moore Mustangs, 9-0, at home. Winning singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Walker Magrinat (6-3, 6-3), sophomore Felton Burleigh (6-3, 6-4), freshman Matthew Bowser (3-6, 6-2, 0-0 (10-8)), freshman Brennan Luster (6-4, 7-5), sophomore Logan Ching (6-3, 6-4) and freshman Gavin Maley (6-1, 7-5), while the duos of Magrinat/Burleigh (6-4), Luster/Ching (6-4) and Bowser/Maley (opp. retired), won their doubles matches.

Lacrosse: The Northwood women thrashed the Jordan Falcons, 16-2, at home. Leading the Chargers in the win were junior Sophia Cremeans (3 goals, 1 assist), senior Kendall Laberge (3 goals), junior Grace Costa (2 goals, 1 assist), sophomore Ella Boecke (2 goals, 1 assist) and junior Lille Blank (1 goal, 2 assists).
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women were shut out by the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 7-0, to stay winless on the season at 0-2-1.

Soccer: The Woods Charter women narrowly defeated the Seaforth Hawks, 3-2, on the road. Scoring for the Wolves were sophomore Leyla Noronha (2 goals) and junior Chloe Richard (1 goal), while freshman Caitlin Erman (1 goal) and sophomore Samantha Tucker (1 goal) added goals for the Hawks.

Softball: The Chatham Central women fell in a close game to the Orange Panthers, 6-5, at home.

Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women earned a walk-off win over the Northwood Chargers, 7-6, in eight innings.

Soccer: The Northwood women lost a defensive battle with the Northwest Guilford Vikings, 1-0, on the road.

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men were trounced by the Asheboro Blue Comets, 9-1, on the road.

Softball: The Chatham Charter women lost in walk-off fashion in eight innings against the Gray Stone Day Knights, 13-12.

Tuesday, March 8

Golf: The Woods Charter men placed second (264) in a match with Central Tar Heel 1A opponents (including Chatham Charter) at The Valley in Burlington. One of the top golfers on the day was Chatham Charter's Seph Tragerer (52, +17).

Soccer: The Chatham Charter women were shut out by the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 9-0, for the second game in a row.
Softball: The Chatham Charter women lost a

lopsided game, 10-2, to the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals. Leading the Knights on the evening were senior Olivia Cheek (1-for-3, 2B, RBI) and senior Ally Bare (1-for-2, 2B, RBI).

Tennis: The Northwood men lost to the Chapel Hill Tigers, 6-3, to fall to 1-3 on the season. Earning the lone singles win for the Chargers was senior Tate Clark (5-7, 6-2), while the duos of junior Jio Sumogod/junior Matteus Butler (8-4) and senior Colten Hodgkin/senior Cole Murray (8-2) won their doubles matches.

Tennis: The Seaforth men defeated the Chatham Central Bears, 7-2, on the road. Winning singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Walker Magrinat (7-5, 6-4), freshman Matthew Bowser (6-3, 7-5), sophomore Shivam Patel (6-3, 6-4), freshman Brennan Luster (6-0, 6-2) and sophomore Logan Ching (6-0, 6-1), while the duos of Magrinat/sophomore Felton Burleigh (8-3) and Ching/sophomore Gavin Maley (8-1) won their doubles matches. Earning the lone singles win for the Bears was senior Landon Hackney (6-4, 4-6, 10-8), while the duo of sophomore Seth Gilliland/senior Thomas Scott (9-7) won its doubles match.

Track & Field: The Seaforth Hawks competed in a meet against the Cummings Cavaliers and North Moore Mustangs, where they placed first in the women's rankings (60 points) and third in the men's rankings (44.50 points). Winning their respective women's events for the Hawks were Lily McFall (1st, girls shot put, 23-02.00, Katie Johnson (1st, girls 1600-meter run, 6:35.20) and Claire Morgan (1st, girls pole vault, 7-00.00), while the Girls 4x100 Meter Relay (58.0), Girls 4x200 Meter Relay (2:10.80), Girls 4x400 Meter Relay (5:15.60) teams all took first place in their races. Winning their respective men's events for the Hawks was Will Cuicchi (1st, boys 1600-meter run, 4:59.90), while the Boys 4x400 Meter Relay (4:11.00) and Boys 4x800 Meter Relay (9:49.30) teams won their races.

Baseball: The Northwood men defeated the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 3-1, to stay unbeaten on the season at 3-0. Leading the Chargers on the night were junior Zach Barnes (2-for-2, 2B, 3B, BB, 2 RBI) and junior Nate Ortiz (2-for-3).

Lacrosse: The Northwood men earned a close win over the Williams Bulldogs, 10-8, on the road.
Lacrosse: The Seaforth men were clobbered by the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 19-4, on the road.

Baseball: The Chatham Central men shut out and no-hit the Seaforth Hawks, 10-0, to earn their first win of the season. Leading the Bears on the night were junior Hasten Paige (2-for-4, 2 BB, 2 RBI), sophomore Anthony Lopossy (0-for-2, 2 RBI; 4.0 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 8 K) and junior Travis Crissman (2-for-3, BB, 2 RBI; 2.0 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 5 K).

Softball: The Chatham Central women narrowly defeated the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 7-6, on the road. Leading the Bears on the night were senior Taylor Poe (1-for-4, 2 RBI), junior Jaylee Williams (1-for-4, 2B, RBI), freshman Caleigh Warf (1-for-3, RBI) and junior Mary Gaines (2-for-4, 2B, RBI; 7.0 IP, W, 9 H, 2 ER, K).

Softball: The Chatham Central women narrowly defeated the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 7-6, on the road. Leading the Bears on the night were senior Taylor Poe (1-for-4, 2 RBI), junior Jaylee Williams (1-for-4, 2B, RBI), freshman Caleigh Warf (1-for-3, RBI) and junior Mary Gaines (2-for-4, 2B, RBI; 7.0 IP, W, 9 H, 2 ER, K).

Wednesday, March 9

Softball: The Chatham Central women narrowly defeated the Eastern Randolph Wildcats, 7-6, on the road. Leading the Bears on the night were senior Taylor Poe (1-for-4, 2 RBI), junior Jaylee Williams (1-for-4, 2B, RBI), freshman Caleigh Warf (1-for-3, RBI) and junior Mary Gaines (2-for-4, 2B, RBI; 7.0 IP, W, 9 H, 2 ER, K).

Thursday, March 10

Track & Field: The Northwood Chargers participated in a meet against the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves and Western Alamance Warriors. Win-

ning their respective men's events for the Chargers were sophomore junior Christian Glick (1st, boys 800-meter run, 2:05.60), junior Matthew Sullivan (1st, boys 3200-meter run, 11:12.30), junior Ethan Wilson (1st, boys 110-meter hurdles, 20.04), freshman Luke Waldstein (1st, boys 300-meter hurdles, 49.74), Zachary (1st, boys high jump, 5-02.00), senior Jack Spatz (1st, boys long jump, 18-09.00), senior Jack Nicholson (1st, boys discus, 99-00.00) and senior George Gilson III (1st, boys shot put, 37-08.00). Winning their respective women's events for the Chargers were sophomore Rokia Sissoko (1st, girls 100-meter dash, 14.04; 1st, girls 200-meter dash, 30.64), senior Caroline Murrell (1st, girls 800-meter run, 2:31.50; 1st, girls 3200-meter run, 11:50.90) and senior Bentley Brooks (1st, girls discus, 83-00.00; 1st, girls shot put, 25-06.00).

Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews men downed the North Moore Mustangs, 6-3, to stay unbeaten on the season at 3-0. Earning singles wins for the Jets were junior Weldon Thornton (6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 0-0 (10-3)), junior Paul Lujan (3-6, 6-1, 0-0 (10-8)), junior Ronald Huang (6-2, 7-5) and junior Ricardo Rocha (6-1, 6-4), while the duos of Thornton/Huang (8-6) and senior Dawson Clark/junior Angel Gonzalez (8-4).

Lacrosse: The Northwood women crushed the Carrboro Jaguars, 19-7, to stay undefeated on the season at 4-0. Leading the Chargers on the night were junior Mia Collins (6 goals, 1 assist), senior Kendall Laberge (5 goals), sophomore Ryan Tinervin (3 goals, 2 assists) and junior Grace Costa (3 goals).

Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women fell to the Union Pines Vikings, 8-5, on the road. Leading the Jets on the night were

Macy Beavers (1-for-4, RBI), Suesanna Lee (0-for-1, RBI, 2 BB) and Korbyn Kirchner (0-for-3, RBI).

Baseball: The Northwood men fell to the Apex Cougars, 8-1, for their first loss of the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Mason Bae (1-for-3, RBI) and junior Seth Davis (1-for-2, 2B, BB).

Friday, March 11

Softball: The Chatham Charter women were clobbered by the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 13-3, at home. Leading the Knights on the evening were senior Taylor Jones (2-for-3, 2 RBI, 2B, HR) and freshman Ella Ingle (2-for-2, RBI, BB).

Baseball: The Chatham Central men dominated the Seaforth Hawks, 19-1, after a 10-run sixth inning put them well above the mercy-rule threshold. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Matthew Murchinson (3-for-3, HR, 2 BB, 6 RBI), junior Hasten Paige (2-for-2, 2B, 2 BB, 2 RBI), senior Colby Williamson (1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI) and senior Nick Jourdan (2-for-5, 2 RBI). Leading the Hawks on the night was sophomore Zeke Weathers (1-for-1, RBI).

Lacrosse: The Northwood men narrowly defeated the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 5-4, to improve to 3-1 on the year.

Softball: The Northwood women were shut out by the Orange Panthers, 12-0, at home.

Baseball: The Northwood men lost a lopsided game to the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 9-2, at home. Leading the Chargers on the night was senior Mason Bae (1-for-3, RBI).

Saturday, March 12

Basketball: The (1) Chatham Charter men fell just short against the (1) Hayesville Yellow Jackets, 54-43, in the NCHSAA 1A Men's Basketball State Championship at Reynolds

Coliseum in Raleigh. The Knights led by as many as 10 points in the second quarter, but the Yellow Jackets stormed back in the fourth period and eventually won it in overtime on the back of senior point guard Kolbe Ashe, who hit 13 free throws in the four-minute overtime period to seal the win. Chatham Charter finishes the season with a 33-2 overall record and their first state championship appearance in program history. Leading the Knights on the evening were freshman Beau Harvey (16 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 4 steals, 1 block; 1A East's Most Outstanding Player award winner), junior Adam Harvey (11 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 block) and junior Aamir Mapp (10 points, 5 rebounds, 1 steal).

Basketball: The (2) Northwood women crushed the (19) Enka Jets, 70-42, in the NCHSAA 3A Women's Basketball State Championship, played at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh. The Chargers led from start to finish, including an opening 11-0 run from the get-go, to earn their first state championship in school history. The win snaps a 52-year drought for team-sport state championships in Pittsboro. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Olivia Porter (18 points, 5 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals; Championship Game MVP award winner), junior Te'Keyah Bland (17 points, 8 rebounds, 5 blocks, 1 steal; East Region's Most Outstanding Player award winner) and senior Myla Marve (11 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals). Northwood ends the season with a 30-1 overall record.

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



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

March 17th through March 24th

Thursday, March 17th

- 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 18th

- 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 21st

- 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 22nd

- 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 23rd

- 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.

<p>Eastern Chatham Senior Center (ECSC) 365 NC-87 N Pittsboro, NC 27312 919-542-4512</p>	<p>Western Chatham Senior Center (WCSC) 112 Village Lake Road Siler City, NC 27344 919-742-3975</p>
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CHATHAM COUNTY REACTS

'I had goosebumps': Chargers' 3A state title win brings joy, relief to passionate Northwood community

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record
Correspondent

RALEIGH — It was long overdue, but more than a half-century following integration, Northwood High School captured its first state team championship title after already winning the heart of Chatham County.

The women's basketball squad thumped Enka, 70-42, in the NCHSAA 3A title tilt at Reynolds Coliseum last Saturday to claim its place in history with a powerful exclamation point, a 30-1 season and 21-game winning streak.

Friends, fans and families stood outside of Northwood High School in freezing temperatures, cheering and waving as the blue light special rolled past. A Chatham County sheriff's detail with sirens sounding and flashing lights splitting the darkness escorted the team home. They were VIP guests of honor at a pizza party in the gym where they made the magic happen all season long.

"I'm very happy to be part of history now, which is awesome," said Chatham County Sheriff's Sgt. Felix Jimenez, Northwood's school resource officer who was escorting the team bus. "I had goosebumps the whole ride here, just knowing who I was escorting: the champions."

Northwood Athletic Director Cameron Vernon introduced the conquering heroes to the tunes of Kool & The Gang song "Celebration."

One by one, the players entered the gym, smiling and basking in adoration.

"There's a party going on right here," the speakers belted. "A celebration, to last throughout the years."

The festive atmosphere featured giant posters of individual players, cutout masks of the players' faces, hugs and speeches. The championship banner was hung from a step-ladder the players ascended to cut keepsake pieces of the basketball net, with coach Kerri Snipes making the final snip to hearty applause. The net and trophy will be on display in a school showcase.

It was all fun and games in



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Northwood women's basketball team dances on their side of the court in celebration after the final buzzer sounds at the end of the Chargers' 72-40 win over the Enka Jets in the 3A state title game on Saturday, crowning them the first-ever championship team in school history.

the limelight, but those sweetly smiling young ladies were all business on the court mere hours earlier. They gave no quarter in their high-scoring, precision attack, making sure nothing would separate them from their rightful destiny.

As the game opened and the Northwood players were introduced, their fans let loose a great huzzah. When Enka's team was announced, the Chargers' student section lit up with levity, holding newspapers in front of their faces in faux disinterest.

Northwood set the tone from the opening whistle, demonstrating the tenacity of a pit bull on a ham bone. Skylar Adams launched a 3-pointer, Myla Marve and Te'Keyah Bland followed with buckets, Marve hit again and Natalie Bell joined the scoring parade for an immediate 11-0 lead that rocked the bewildered Jets.

At the 3:31 mark of the first quarter, Olivia Porter literally ran a circle around outmatched defenders, creating a lane and racing to the baseline to pop in a basket for a 16-6 lead. She was named the game's Most Valuable Player for her 18 points, 5 rebounds, defensive mayhem and savvy offensive generalship.

"I was in the zone," Porter said after the victory. "I didn't

want to lose, so I was going to do anything in my power to win and help my teammates win."

Enka coach Kyle Reagan couldn't believe what he was seeing.

"Porter is unbelievable. She shot 100% from the floor in the first half and it wasn't like we weren't freaking guarding her," he said in a post-game interview. "She just knocked the shots down coming off screens. She stayed active, very aggressive. They're very well coached, and extremely disciplined, offensively and defensively."

By halftime, Northwood was in front 46-21, and the sense of predestined history was palpable. The players clustered at the bench, smiling as they chest-bumped and exited the floor.

Whatever adjustments Enka discussed at halftime didn't work. The Chargers continued to pour it on.

Bland pumped in 7 points in the third quarter. That was sweet music to the "Bland Stand" down courtside. With every one of her baskets, her large gathering of relatives leapt to their feet in synchronous ovation and acclamation.

"I looked over and I saw them and I was like, 'Oh, wow. They arrived early to get close

to the floor,'" Bland said later. She said she got the warm fuzzies from "all the love and support. ... I didn't even know that many people were coming." For her 17 points and 8 rebounds, Bland was named Most Outstanding Player for the East Regional champions.

Northwood blew the roof off in the fourth quarter, amassing a 32-point lead at the 5:13 mark, its largest of the game. Twice in the waning minutes, the Chargers faithful gave standing ovations to honor their team, and Snipes emptied the bench to let all the reserves get a piece of the milestone action.

It was the first team title for Northwood since Horton and Pittsboro High Schools merged in 1970. The Chargers' men's team has made it to the finals four times, most recently last year, but have been unsuccessful in winning the championship each trip.

The Jordan-Matthews women were the last Chatham County team to win a title, which came exactly 10 years ago in 2012. Chatham Central's women's teams have won four crowns, and the Jordan-Matthews men achieved the feat once.

"This monkey that's been on our back for 52 years, we've had too many good teams, and this community is too great of

a place for us to go this long without a state championship," Vernon said. "I'm so happy it's over. I'm so happy for the community that it's over. I'm so happy for the school that it's over."

Vernon was the longtime coach of the women's team, but said he had no regrets about leaving the post one season short of the state championship run. He was Snipes' high school coach, and said he was happier to see her get the glory.

"It was the right time for her to step in and for me to step away," he said.

"We've been on a journey, but I couldn't be more proud of this team," Snipes said. "The effort that they put in all season was tremendous. They've done everything that I've asked for them to do. They've poured their hearts into it. They've made sacrifices."

Snipes recognized the many good Northwood teams of the past that have gotten close to capturing a crown but fell short. The significance of Saturday's victory was not lost on her, or her players.

"It really means a lot to be able to bring the first one home, and I hope they can enjoy that as well, not only bringing a state title home, but also being the first one is really impressive," Snipes said. She said it was a testament to their dedication and work ethic, and the leadership and production of her seniors: Caroline Allen, co-winner of the 3A Sportsmanship Award, Marve, Porter and Bell.

"I'm really happy for my senior friends on the team that they got to end their season like this. It's really great," said Northwood senior Evelyn Lippers.

Like many other Chargers fans, she was adorned with strings of green and gold beads, the school colors.

"It's just school spirit, school pride. Go Chargers," Lippers said. "We've been really excited for the girls team."

Longtime Northwood fan Jimmy Pharr wasn't surprised at all by the lopsided victory.

"We really considered the real championship game was if they could beat Terry Sanford.

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'THEY'LL BE BACK'

Among heartbroken Chatham Charter faithful, optimism still remains following 1A title-game loss

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record
Correspondent

RALEIGH — Hayesville men's basketball coach Michael Cottrell praised the Lord after his Yellow Jackets gave Chatham Charter hell in the NCHSAA 1A Men's Basketball State Championship Game.

It was the Knights' game to lose after leading for 24 minutes, and lose they did, in a stunning collapse that led to a 54-43 overtime defeat on Saturday in Raleigh. Undefeated Hayesville surged late in the fourth quarter for a 37-37 tie, then tore the heart out of the Knights and their horrified fan base with a 17-6 eruption in OT, with 15 of those 17 points coming from free throws.

Chatham Charter had a significant presence in Reynolds Coliseum waiting to crown a king. There was a sea of purple t-shirts in the upper decks and court side emblazoned with the exhortation "Let's Go Knights." The faithful waved glittering purple pom-poms and loudly voiced approval with each shot that ripped the nets, every steal and turnover that went in the Knights' favor.

But Hayesville, a tiny mountain town of fewer than 500 residents, ri-



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter junior Adam Harvey (20) fights through contact under the basket in during the overtime period of the Knights' 54-43 loss to the Hayesville Yellow Jackets in the 1A men's basketball state championship game in Raleigh on Saturday. Harvey, who came in averaging 22 points per game this postseason, scored 11 in defeat as Hayesville's defense prevailed.

valued the Chatham Charter crowd. They brought a boisterous bunch of fans who traveled the 350 miles from the Clay County seat to root their

hometown heroes on to the second men's championship in school history. The last title was in 2004.

"Hayesville's a special place" Cottrell said in a

post-game press conference. "We've got a very, very deep tradition in basketball and all our other sports."

That includes six straight women's state championships from 1988-93. Cottrell's sister played on four of those teams.

"It's really hard to get back here, but that tradition runs deep," Cottrell said, extending credit beyond the players and fans. "I'll start by saying we give glory to God."

And he gave the Knights their due, saying they had "a great game plan" that threw his players out of rhythm until they solved the riddle late in the game.

Chatham Charter was trying to bring its first state basketball title back to Siler City in just its eighth year of fielding a team. Their fans were true believers, certain that fortune was smiling on them. They felt it in their marrow for three quarters and change until Hayesville launched its late shock-and-awe attack.

Knights fans exuded confidence as their players emerged from the tunnel onto the floor to start the game. They cheered and held aloft homemade signs singling out their favorite players, such as "You can't stop Adam Harvey."

The purple pom-poms fluttered like a gale-force wind blasting through a willow grove.

"Pucker up and kiss your winning streak goodbye," one sign read. "Your mom called. You left your game at home," read another.

The student section definitely had game. They did their best to distract the Yellow Jackets as they attempted free throws. They hurled the compulsory catcall "Air Ball," when a Hayesville shot connected with, well, nothing near the backboard or rim.

With both teams relying on their defensive prowess, any expectation of a high-scoring affair went out the window. Each team hit double figures only twice in the five periods.

When freshman guard Beau Harvey scored the first bucket of the game at the 6:04 mark in the first quarter, the Knights' supporters approved by thunderous acclamation. They went wild after a steal and another Beau Harvey score at the 5:46 mark. And when he fired up a 3-pointer from the top of the key to give Chatham Charter a 7-0 lead just 3 minutes, 40 seconds into the game, absolute merriment and the sense of impending triumph was in the air.

For his 16-point,

8-rebound performance, Beau Harvey was named Most Outstanding Player for the East Regional champs. His brother Adam was presented with the Sportsmanship Award before tip-off.

Throughout the game, the fan sections competed with one another. When the Knights' Adam Harvey missed the front end of a free throw at the 2:40 mark in the first, the Hayesville side applauded his misfortune. When he dropped in the second shot, the Chatham Charter crowd rebutted with throaty pleasure.

During a timeout at the 3:18 mark of the second quarter after Chatham Charter boosted its lead to 15-11, Knights fans taunted a hushed Hayesville crowd that moments earlier was alive with hope: "We can't hear you, we can't hear you."

With 1:20 remaining in the first half, Chatham Charter fans chanted the classic, "Here we go Knights, here we go!"

Adam Harvey, who was struggling — he finished the game with 11 points but shot just 4-of-20 from the field, including 0-of-2 from behind the arc — responded to the encouragement with a slump-breaking basket that gave his team a 10-point lead, its largest

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CHARTER

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conference when asked about his ice-in-his-veins performance down the stretch. “I’m going to do it and I know my teammates will, too.”

Where the Yellow Jackets won the game on free throws, the Knights may have lost it with their inconsistent shot-making from the line.

Chatham Charter was a measly 8-of-16 (50%) from the charity stripe — all in regulation, having not attempted a single free throw in overtime — and, mathematically, had even one of those other eight free throws fallen, they may have walked off the court as state champions.

But in a gym that seats nearly 13,000 people compared to the smaller gym in Siler City at a school of around 200 students that the Knights are used to, the atmosphere and depth perception are vastly different.

“It’s tough to prepare for this type of environment,” Messier said. “Here we are on this court with nothing behind (the goal except for) fans, we don’t have courts like that, we don’t play on courts like that. So I do think that affected us a little bit in the moment. ... Down the stretch with free throws, you’d like to make them, it’s our goal to make them, they just didn’t go down.”

While Ashe’s late-game free throws made the final score — an 11-point Hayesville win — look a little more lopsided than it truly was, Messier appeared pleased with the way his team played, especially with his squad being much younger than teams which typically play at this stage.

Out of the 16 teams that played for a state title across four classifications, regardless of gender, Chatham Charter was the only team solely made up of underclassmen — making it to the championship game without a single senior on its roster.

Though if you hadn’t glanced at the roster or the box score, it would have been easy to confuse Knights freshman Beau Harvey for a seasoned veteran.

Harvey, who has acted as the team’s floor general this year, had himself a day against Hayesville, scoring 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting, racking up 8 rebounds, 3 assists and 4 steals in the process.

His performance was enough to earn him the East Region’s Most Outstanding Player award and, for a fleeting moment, looked like it would help



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter freshman Brennen Oldham (42) attempts to score over Hayesville senior Jake McTaggart (23) in the paint during the Knights’ 54-43 loss to the Yellow Jackets in the 1A men’s basketball state championship game in Raleigh on Saturday. Oldham (12 rebounds, 4 blocks) was a force down low during the season finale of his freshman campaign.

will them to a state title.

He scored the first 7 points for the Knights, including a 3-pointer that visibly energized him and his teammates as they took hold of a 7-0 lead to start the game.

As much as Harvey thrived offensively in the first half, knocking down 5-of-6 shots for 12 points before the halftime break, he and the rest of the group looked even better on the defensive end.

In the first quarter, Hayesville’s offense was abysmal thanks to the pressure of the Knights’ defense — with Chatham Charter doing a great job of sticking to the Yellow Jackets’ primary scoring duo, Ashe and senior Jake McTaggart.

Between the two of them, they were a combined 1-for-4 for 4 points in the first quarter, followed up by a 2-for-6 (6 points) shooting performance in the second.

Entering Saturday’s contest, the hype surrounding McTaggart — an athletic 6-foot-6 forward who’s already committed to UNC-Charlotte to play tight end for the 49ers’ football team — was off the charts, coming

off of a 32-point performance against Winston-Salem Prep in the West Regional Final.

But early in the game, that hype didn’t seem to faze Knights freshman Brennen Oldham, a 6-foot-6 big man himself, who wasn’t afraid to get physical with McTaggart down low.

He bumped bodies with him, boxed him out, blocked a couple of his shots and stuck to him like glue, frustrating him early and getting under his skin with his refusal to back down, aided by a little bit of trash talk.

It often got chippy between McTaggart and Oldham, who bantered back-and-forth with one another as Oldham was the subject of unfavorable boos from the Yellow Jackets portion of the crowd more than once.

However, Oldham appeared to embrace his villain role as he continued to battle with McTaggart, going as far as to out-rebound him (7 to 6) in the first half.

“We have a culture that we’ve established and defense is our thing,” Messier said when asked about getting his program to this level. “Early on, we held them to 14 points at the half, so defense was our thing.”

But just before the halftime break, McTaggart scored an and-one bucket in the paint, tacking on the free throw to cut his team’s deficit to 7 points, 21-14.

And in the third quarter, the Knights continued to hold their own, responding to the positive offensive plays from Hayesville with some playmaking of their own.

When Yellow Jackets junior Logan Caldwell drilled a 3-pointer on a nice assist from Ashe to cut the deficit to 4 points, 21-17, Knights junior Adam Harvey responded with a floater to extend their lead.

The same goes for when Ashe scored on a put-back late in the period, to which Beau Harvey immediately followed up with a fearless driving layup of his own to make it a 5-point game.

While the Knights were outscored in the third, 9-7, the overall score was still in their favor, 28-23, as their defense continued to play lights out and their offense was doing just enough to keep them afloat.

However, that’d all come to a head in the fourth quarter, when the Yellow Jackets’ seniors came alive.

McTaggart led off the fourth with a baseline jumper to

make it a one-possession game, followed by Ashe scoring an and-one bucket in transition on a blocking foul by Knights junior Jackson Brown, who unsuccessfully attempted to take a charge.

Ashe promptly hit the free throw and tied the game for the first time since it was 0-0 at tipoff.

After a couple of missed shots on the Knights’ end, Ashe jogged down the floor, stopped at the right elbow and pulled up in front of Oldham, knocking down an easy jumper to give Hayesville its first lead of the game, 30-28. He was clearly in the zone.

It was a disaster of a start for the Knights, who struggled to find their rhythm offensively for most of the night, but especially late in the game.

Ashe’s shot began a stretch with three more ties and two more lead changes as the two top-seeded teams in the 1A classification battled it out for supremacy.

And with the game knotted at 34-34 with 1:17 to play, Ashe took control again, knocking down a turnaround fade-away jumper just inside the free-throw line to put his team ahead, 36-34.

McTaggart blocked a shot by Mapp on the ensuing possession, leading to him drawing a foul and splitting the free throws to give the Yellow Jackets a 37-34 lead with under a minute to play.

Mapp was called for an offensive foul on the Knights’ next possession, but Oldham knocked the ball away from Yellow Jackets junior Kyle Lunsford on the inbound, which was scooped up by Adam Harvey and eventually found its way back into Oldham’s hands, who was sent to the line on a foul with 40.3 seconds to go.

Oldham made one of two free throws to make it 37-35, but as Ashe brought the ball up the court, Brown was called for a foul that sent the senior point guard to the free-throw line — where he surprisingly whiffed on both of them, keeping the Knights alive.

On the other end of the floor, Beau Harvey — who was being trapped by a pair of defenders near mid-court — found Mapp wide open in the paint with a beautiful pass, who scored the game-tying layup.

Hayesville Head Coach Michael Cottrell opted not to call a timeout on his team’s next possession, where Ashe found sophomore Taylor McClure down low, but his potential go-ahead shot was swatted away by Oldham, who came up with

one of the biggest defensive plays of the season.

“It was really exciting to be in this environment and (get) the biggest block of the game,” Oldham said after the loss.

The block led to a foul against Beau Harvey, who was attempting to push the ball up the court as time expired, which would have sent him to the free-throw line with a chance to win it, but the officials (correctly) said the buzzer came before the whistle, sending the game into extras.

In the overtime period, the Knights scored just 6 points, both 3-pointers from Mapp, as Ashe’s free throws propelled the Yellow Jackets into the history books.

It was a tough day for Chatham Charter offensively, shooting 16-of-58 (28%) from the field, including 3-of-14 (21%) from behind the arc.

Adam Harvey, who was averaging 22 points per game in the postseason, had a difficult day scoring the ball, putting up 11 points on 4-of-20 (20%) shooting.

“As they continue to mature, the offense is going to come,” Messier said. “Hayesville’s defense had a lot to do (with our shooting numbers), especially with that physicality.”

And as well as the Knights’ defense did at stopping the Yellow Jackets’ power duo in the first half, the two Hayesville seniors finished the game with a combined 47 points — accounting for 87% of their team’s overall scoring.

But, for a team as youthful as the Knights, there’s plenty of room to use this season — one where they ran the table in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference, won 33 games and made it further than any other Chatham Charter team before them — as a stepping stone for what’s to come.

As Messier puts it, this loss only makes them hungrier.

“This hurts for these young men, but this is something we’re going to use to get us back to this point,” he said. “We’re going to use this to fuel the fire when we get to our summer workouts. We’re going to take some time off and just come back even hungrier with some experience. ... As we get back in that weight room and we get these guys a little bit stronger, a little bit bigger, I have confidence that we’re going to have an opportunity to make another run next year.”

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OPTIMISM

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of the day.

But the good-natured rivalry gave way to more tense finger-pointing emotions among some as the game wore on and tolerance for jabs and insults wore thin.

The Knights led 21-14 at the half, and 28-23 after three quarters. For all appearances, Chatham Charter was comfortably in control. But without notice, the Yellow Jackets went on a fourth-quarter run, and when they took their first lead of the game, 30-28 with 6:10 remaining, their fans were euphoric.

A hush fell over the Chatham Charter crowd. Worried looks were expressed on every face, and a foreboding presence permeated their section. Was what seemed to be a certain victory evaporating before their eyes?

Not yet. The house was rocking as the score was tied five times and the lead changed three times. When Hayesville took the lead with 41 seconds left in the game, the Yellow Jackets players waved their arms, imploring their fans to pump up the volume. They eagerly complied.

But with under 30 seconds to play, Knights junior Aamir Mapp, who had 10 points in the game, knotted the score at 37.

On the other end of the floor, freshman Brennen Oldham saved the Knights from a regula-

tion loss when he blocked Yellow Jackets sophomore Taylor McClure’s potential buzzer-beating layup to send the game into overtime.

“It was really exciting to be in this environment and (get) the biggest block of the game,” said Oldham, who slapped away five shots.

He thought the last-second heroics would return the momentum to the Knights going into overtime.

Hayesville had other ideas. They dominated OT with a 17-6 onslaught. “This hurts for these young men, but this is something we’re going to use to get us back to this point,” said Knights coach Jason Messier.

“We’re going to use this to fuel the fire when we get to our summer workouts. ... We had a chance to win this game. We can go back and sulk and not work or we’re going to get hungry. ... We’re fully capable of getting back here again” now that a winning culture has been created.

The team returns all of its players next season.

Tamaya Walden knows the sting of losing in the hunt for a championship. She was a junior point guard for the Chatham Charter women’s basketball team this past season, who were bounced in the second round of the playoffs in the Clover Garden Grizzlies. Watching the men’s team lose rekindled the helpless emotion of falling short.

Walden said the entire school community was

excited in anticipation of Saturday’s championship game.

“I’m really glad they got this far,” Walden said. “I think we fell apart in the fourth quarter between fouls and missing free throws in the beginning, but they still fought through. I’m glad they made it into overtime.”

“I’m really proud of these boys. They worked really hard,” she continued. “They’re like brothers to me. It’s sad to see them lose, but they’ll be back next year. I know that for a fact.”

Virgil Allen of the Siler City area came to support the Knights because one of his granddaughters was in the first graduating class at Chatham Charter and another is a sophomore there.

“This is the first game I saw them play. I didn’t know they had that good of a team,” Allen said. “It was a good ballgame. I thought they had it. Hayesville just wouldn’t give up.”

He was particularly impressed by how many people drove the six hours from the mountains of Clay County. But he also gave a tip of the hat to the Chatham County contingent.

“I’ve never seen such a crowd down here,” Allen said. “It means a lot” to Siler City and Chatham County to have a team in a state championship thriller.

“I think the boys really appreciated this big crowd coming here

from Siler City, Chatham County,” said Chris Brown of Siler City, father of Knights junior guard Jackson Brown. “They were really pumped up about it.”

He coached his son, Adam and Beau Harvey and Mapp in AAU basketball, all of whom have been playing together since 4th grade.

“You’ve got to give it to the other team. They hit the free throws when they needed to hit the free throws. Our boys played hard to get it into overtime,” Brown said.

He believed the pressure of the moment worked against the young Knights squad when Hayesville staged its comeback. He said Hayesville had two senior leaders who stepped up and showed leadership down the stretch, a determining factor in the outcome.

The playoff season has been filled with anxiety, he said.

“I think it was harder on me than it was on my son,” Brown said. “I couldn’t sleep last night, tossing and turning, thinking about the game and that kind of stuff. But honestly, I can breathe now and just move on to baseball.”

But not before putting the year into perspective for his son.

“I’ll just be positive. Tell him, ‘Good year, good game,’ they’ve got next year,” Brown said. “It’s not the end of the world. It’s just a game.”

As Brown was pur-

chasing apparel memorabilia upstairs in Reynolds, a throng of Hayesville fans awaited their players’ emergence from the locker room. They whooped, whistled and clapped as the team filed by, celebrating their magical 28-0 championship season.

Down on the floor of the coliseum, a crumpled sign was discarded amid popcorn boxes and other refuse. Written on it were the words of unfulfilled prophecy: “Pucker up and kiss your winning streak goodbye.”

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CHAMPS

Continued from page B1

tion in Pittsboro, a couple hundred members of the Northwood community got together to dance, take photos, eat pizza and, most importantly, watch the players and coaches cut down the net on one of the gym's two main hoops — an impromptu decision influenced by a member of the crowd, who didn't have to say much to convince Athletic Director Cameron Vernon to grab a ladder.

It was evidence of the tight-knit, passionate community that Northwood's fostered over the last five decades — one hungry for a state title in a team sport for 52 years.

"It's just a testament to the work ethic that these young ladies have," Kerri Snipes, the Chargers' first-year head coach, said in her press conference after the win. "They've been dedicated throughout, they've trusted each other, they've trusted me as a first-year coach. ... We've had the support throughout the whole season, from our fans, from our community, from our school — and it really means a lot to bring the first one home.

"I hope that (our players) can enjoy that, as well," she added, "not only bringing a state title home, but to also be the first one is really impressive."

The mid-sized gym offered a stark contrast from the loud, nearly jam-packed arena 32 miles down the road, where just 3½ hours earlier, Northwood took the floor for its first-ever women's basketball state championship game.

Despite the size of the arena, the volume of the fans and the magnitude of the moment, the Chargers never faltered, putting together a championship-worthy performance to catapult them into the history books.

Nearly flawless

Northwood fought and scrapped its way to a victory thanks to all of its components coming together in near-perfect fashion, including its play in the paint, its pressure-filled defense and its offensive playmaking, which truly shined in the first half.

The Chargers outperformed the Jets in nearly every statistical category in the blowout win. They out-rebounded the Jets, 37 to 18, primarily in part because of the stellar play of junior Te'Keyah Bland (17 points and 8 rebounds, named the East's Most Outstanding Player), who was a game-wrecker for Northwood on both ends of the floor.

Marve, a 5-foot-5 guard, thrived in the paint, too, despite her size, nabbing 7 rebounds of her own and scoring 11 points on 5-for-8 shooting.

"We've had (Myla) fit into more of a post position a little bit for us," Snipes said, "and she's done a great job of stepping in and being flexible and playing guard or post or whatever we've needed her to do.

"Gosh, tonight we got the most rebounds we've had all season, which was



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Olivia Porter (in green) splits two defenders on her way to the basket the Chargers' 72-40 win over the Enka Jets in the 3A women's basketball state championship game in Raleigh on Saturday. Porter (18 points, 5 rebounds) was named the Kay Yow Most Valuable Player after her performance in the victory.

really impressive for us," she added, seemingly in awe of the way her team performed. "Te'Keyah played really well and crashed the boards hard. It's just one of those things that I'm really proud of because we've kind of been harping on that all season: get rebounds and play good defense."

The Chargers also dominated in points in the paint (42 to the Jets' 20), second-chance points (19 to 0) and blocked shots (6 to 3).

Bland added 5 blocks to her stat line, while senior Caroline Allen — a 6-foot-1 center who was crucial to the Chargers' creation of a stone wall inside — nabbed one of her own.

In addition to Northwood's control of the paint, however, the Chargers thrived when it came to putting pressure on Enka's ballhandlers, most notably during its full-court press early on.

Northwood senior Olivia Porter, who was named the Kay Yow Most Valuable Player for her contributions, led the defensive charge, collecting 3 steals as she seemed to constantly have her hand on the ball, getting in the way of all sorts of driving and passing lanes.

While most teams may look at the Chargers' surplus of talented guards and see a logjam at the position, Snipes has embraced it, slotting them into roles that help maximize their potential.

That includes Porter's fellow guards in senior Natalie Bell (3 steals), sophomore Skylar Adams (7 points, 4 assists), junior Gianna McManaman (7 points, 2 steals) and Marve, all of which had a heckuva day on the defensive end as Northwood's press continuously forced Enka into mistakes — totaling 21 turnovers in all.

The Jets were led by the fearsome pair of senior Bentlee Chockley and junior Hadleigh Dill, who entered the championship game each averaging more than 18 points per game throughout the postseason.

But in typical Northwood fashion, its defense held the duo to just 26 combined points — Chockley with 14 and Dill with 12, which still totaled over half of Enka's scoring — on 7-of-22

(31.8%) shooting, forcing them to make mistakes left and right, including 12 turnovers (6 each).

In short, it was a defensive masterclass for the Chargers, the perfect culmination of everything they'd worked on since the start of the season coming together to create a perfect storm.

And the Jets simply weren't ready for it.

Spoiling Cinderella's story

In the lead up to Saturday's state title game, there were legitimate questions about Enka's potential label as a "team of destiny."

Yet, while the Jets may not have been destined to lift the trophy this season, there was little doubt that they'd rightly earned the Cinderella moniker.

After all, they were a team which stumbled into the postseason after losing four of their last five games, including a 5-point loss in first round of the conference tournament to the T.C. Roberson Rams.

They were seeded 19th in the West with an 11-14 record.

But just as Cinderella did in her famed tale, they disobeyed the powers that be and carved their own journey — one that saw them win five straight road games, jump-started by a 16-point fourth-quarter comeback in the first round against the No. 14 Hickory Red Tornadoes, en route to their first state championship appearance since 1983.

It was only a matter of time, however, before the Jets flew into a storm they simply couldn't navigate out of.

Enter the Chargers on Saturday night.

"We knew they (the Chargers) were good, you can't take anything away from them, but they were a lot better than I thought they were," Kyle Reagan, Enka's head coach, said in his post-game press conference, shaking his head. "They're talented, from the guards to the post. ... They're very well coached and extremely disciplined, offensively and defensively."

Northwood had cruised through the 3A classification, including its own conference, for much of the season, earning



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood junior Te'Keyah Bland (in green) shoots over Enka junior Hadleigh Dill (in white) in the post during the the Chargers' 72-40 win over the Jets in the 3A women's basketball state championship game in Raleigh on Saturday. Bland (17 points, 8 rebounds, 5 blocks) was named the East Region's Most Outstanding Player after the game.

30-plus- and 40-plus-point victories left and right.

In the first round against the No. 31 Swansboro Pirates and third round against the No. 7 West Carteret Patriots, the Chargers won by margins of 57 and 53 points, respectively.

Their clash with the top-seeded Terry Sanford Bulldogs in the East Regional Final a week earlier — which Northwood hung on to win by 1 point, 51-50 — acted as their toughest 3A test all season.

The Chargers, entering the championship game, were the purest definition of a buzz saw: a hungry squad with a lock-down defense that simply eats inferior teams alive.

And Enka just happened to be another victim.

Makings of a champion

It didn't take Northwood long to set the tone.

On the team's second possession, Adams drained a 3-pointer for the first points in championship history for the Chargers, which was immediately followed up by a steal from Bell on the ensuing full-court press, leading to an easy transition bucket from Marve.

Then, on the very next Jets possession, Adams stepped in front of Enka freshman Gracie Merrell as she attempted a push pass across half court, disrupting its trajectory and causing it to land right in front of Bland, who scooped it up and eventually scored on the other end.

A pair of layups by Marve and Bell gave the Chargers an 11-0 lead with 5:52 to play in the first quarter.

In that same span, the Jets had four turnovers, all of which led to Northwood points.

A classic saying around Pittsboro is the idea that "defense turns into offense," which couldn't have been clearer for a Chargers team that scored a whopping 28 points off of the Jets' 21 turnovers.

Then, the first quarter turned into a clash of the titans — Porter vs. Dill.

Dill scored twice in the paint for the Jets to finally get them on the board with 5:30 to go in the opening period, but Porter drilled a 3-pointer on the other end, making it 14-4, in an attempt to shift momentum right back to the Chargers.

Porter and Dill combined to score 13 of 14 points, with a single Marve free throw acting as the lone point scored elsewhere, during the middle of the first quarter as the two went at it.

By the time Porter scored her final point of the quarter, a put-back bucket on a missed free throw, the Chargers had a 19-6 lead and were in full control.

Porter's first-half performance was indicative of just how well the Chargers were playing offensively to start the game.

In the first half alone, Northwood shot 63% from the field and racked up 46 points of offense — more than Enka would score for the entire game. The Chargers didn't have a single turnover in the opening quarter.

As the leader of the pack, Porter was 6-of-6 with 14 points in the first half, including 2-of-2 from behind the arc.

The Chargers led, 46-21, at the halfway point. "Porter is unbeliev-

able," Reagan said with a small smile on his face. "She shot 100% from the floor in the first half and it wasn't like we weren't freaking guarding her. She was knocking shots down, coming off of screens. She stayed active and very aggressive.

"Any time you allow a team to shoot 63% from the floor in the first half and score 26 points in the paint, you're probably going to get your tail whooped a little bit early on," he added, "but I never thought it was over, I'll tell you that right now. I had full confidence in my squad. ... We came out with a lot of fight and a lot of effort early on (in the second half), but the ball just didn't bounce our way."

However, the second half was much of the same: dominance on both ends from the Chargers.

Northwood, which has had a history of struggling in the third quarter throughout the postseason, squeaked out an 11-9 third period behind 7 points from Bland.

By the time the fourth quarter rolled around, Northwood had a 57-30 lead and the crowd inside of Reynolds Coliseum was off the charts.

The Chargers were eight minutes away from their first state title.

Northwood hopped out to its largest lead of the game, 63-31, on a gorgeous eurostep from McManaman with 5:13 to play, and four minutes later, the Chargers' starters exited the game to a standing ovation from the sea of green-and-white in the stands.

When the final buzzer finally sang — the result having been a foregone conclusion for much of the second half — the players crowded around each other where they hugged, danced and breathed one large sigh of relief.

They'd done it. They were officially state champions.

The dust finally settled around 11 p.m. that night back in Pittsboro, when, one by one, the Chargers took turns climbing up the ladder and cutting off a small chunk of the net before turning to the crowd, holding up the net fragment and smiling for photos.

It was the moment that many of these players — including Porter, whose Auburn High School team lost in the semifinals in Alabama's state tournament last year — longed for after the heart-breaking defeat in the Final Four last season.

"We've been on a journey," Snipes said with a laugh to open her press conference following the win, "but I couldn't be more proud of this team. The effort that they've put in all season has been tremendous. ... They've poured their hearts into it, they've made sacrifices.

"The seniors (Allen, Bell, Marve, Porter) have led us to this point," she added. "Some of them have been in these positions before and I'm so happy for them and so happy for the leadership they've shown."

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

TITLE

Continued from page B3

That was the first game they weren't favored in, and a lot of people felt the winner of that game was going to win the whole thing, and that happened," Pharr said. The Chargers squeaked by Terry Sanford, 51-50, in the Final Four game.

"This team is the best defensive team I've ever seen. They can steal the ball and force bad passes like nobody I've ever seen," and has deadly 3-point shooting consistency that amazes him, Pharr said.

He also put in a plug for the cheer-leading team. His granddaughter, Michaela Bowling, is a sophomore cheerleader, and he was proudly wearing a sweatshirt that read, "My favorite cheerleader calls me grandpa."

"It's one of the best cheerleading squads I've ever seen," Pharr said. "They've got their act together over here this year."

Wanda Bland, Te'Keyah Bland's mother, said she was proud of her daughter for coming off of major reconstructive shin surgery at the beginning of the season to winning the Most Outstanding Player award in the state

championship.

She admitted she was the leader of the Bland Stand, taking part in the whooping and hollering, jumping up and down.

"We sure was, for No. 12, my baby," said Bland, a 1981 Northwood graduate who was named the school's female athlete of the year, an honor her oldest daughter, a 2009 graduate, also received. She laughed when asked if anyone pulled any muscles during the animated revelry.

"No sir," she said.

"Northwood has been doing a lot the whole year. They are a great team. They're a very great team, and

they play good ball together and they deserve this," Bland said. "They made history tonight. Mmm hmmm."

The groundbreaking title will be memorialized in a permanent N.C. Department of Transportation highway marker at the town limits, as suggested by Town Commissioner Jay Farrell, Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Allen said.

Allen signed a declaration Monday ending the pandemic state of emergency, and in the near future, the players and coaches will be invited to the reopened Town Hall to be formally recognized with a celebratory proclamation.

Jordan-Matthews High School future business leaders win big at NC DECA Conference

BY STEVE WOOLFORD
Special to the News + Record

Twelve Jordan-Matthews High School students won the chance to represent their school in the upcoming national DECA Competition in February.

They were part of a team that traveled to Greensboro from Feb. 24 to Feb. 26 to compete at the state level. Ten of the qualifiers will be traveling to the national competition in Atlanta this April. The competitions included written tests, presentations and live role plays where students presented and defended their business plans on the spot.

DECA trains young people in high schools around the globe in marketing, finance, hospitality and tourism, business management, and administration. The club prepares these students to become the community and business leaders of tomorrow. Many students have found their passions and career paths by participating in DECA.

North Carolina DECA has over 7,000 members representing over approximately 150 chapters, which makes the state level especially competitive for small schools like Jordan-Matthews.



Submitted photo

Jordan-Matthews student winners and their advisors at the state DECA competition include, from left: advisor Rachel Daniel, Sarah Dekaney, Brock Rohaly, Geneva Woolford, Erin Maddox, Courtney Moffitt, Peyton Snell, Brady Andrew, Emma Wieber, Ben Dekaney, Colby Daniel, advisor Luke Nicks. Not pictured: Evelin Muñoz Tebalan and Macy Beavers.

“I am so proud of these kids,” said team advisor Rachel Daniel. “We really didn’t know what we would be getting into coming back to state competition after the pandemic. This school year has been so hectic, but the kids really stepped up to organize practice materials

and find time to practice with everything else they have going on to make this one of our most successful years yet.”

At the state awards session, 13 J-M students got on stage for different events. Calvin Conroy was a finalist in the Accounting Applications

event. Brock Rohaly won the first trophy of the day, 2nd place in Business Finance, while Geneva Woolford and Evelin Muñoz Tebalan brought home 6th place in Food Marketing & Human Resources Management, respectively. Sarah Dekaney and Macy

Beavers took 5th place in the Marketing Management Team event. Courtney Moffitt, Erin Maddox and Peyton Snell won 3rd place for their Business Solutions paper and presentation. First place in Buying and Merchandising Team went to Colby Daniel and Ben Dekaney. In the final event of the competition, Emma Wieber and Brady Andrew captured 1st place in the Travel and Tourism Team event.

“A lot of us are seniors who have been in DECA since our freshman year,” said club president Geneva Woolford, “and it really means a lot to go to nationals in our final year.”

“We’ve worked so hard for years, cultivating our marketing skills and studying for the tests,” said Emma Wieber, who also serves as the regional vice president. “Winning at states is a result of all that hard work, and going to nationals is an immense triumph for all of us.”

Jordan-Matthews students going to nationals are already busy preparing to compete. They also launched a campaign to raise money for the trip by selling raffle tickets and putting together a GoFundMe page at bit.ly/3t2helh (DECA nationals by Geneva Woolford) to advertise their ongoing success.

NEWS BRIEFS

Public should be cautious, drive safely during Daylight Saving Time

RALEIGH — Daylight saving time began at 2 a.m. on Sunday, and motorists need to be well rested and prepared to drive cautiously.

Motorists should also prepare for morning commutes to be darker, as the sun rises and sets later in the day.

To stay safe while driving in the dark, follow these important reminders:

- Ensure your vehicle’s exterior and

interior lights are working properly.

- Stay alert for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Keep your windshield clean to improve visibility.
- Be well rested and never drive drowsy.

For more safe driving tips, visit NC-DOT’s night driving webpage.

Rep. Reives applauds federal funding for Pittsboro

The United States House of Repre-

sentatives and Senate approved an omnibus appropriations bill that now awaits President Biden’s signature. The legislation included millions in funding for Chatham County and the surrounding area, secured by Rep. David Price.

Specifically, the legislation will bring more than \$2.2 million for Pittsboro to upgrade its water treatment plant. Polyfluoroalkylsubstances (PFAS) have been a recurring issue for Pittsboro and the broader community in Chatham. This investment will help jumpstart

efforts to improve drinking water.

“I applaud Rep. David Price and his commitment to Chatham County,” Rep. Robert Reives II said. “For too long, water quality in Pittsboro has been an issue. We all know someone who has had to resort to bottled water because the water from the tap was not good enough to drink. This investment is going to help us improve our water quality and ensure that basic necessities are met in Chatham County.”

—CN+R staff reports



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Asians sue UNC over admissions, as universities in China deal with affirmative action, too

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO
Special to the News + Record

Journalism professor Buck Ryan in Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao in Wuhan, China, are back pursuing cross-cultural understanding through current events — this time the discrimination lawsuit filed on behalf of Asian students against UNC.

“So, Lei, what will it be for Ruby: Harvard or UNC?”
“Buck, you’re reading my mind! I’m never very far from discussing college with my daughter.”
“Well, Lei, the whole process just got a little trickier. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case of Asian students claiming discrimination in admissions at Harvard and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.”
“Oh, boy, that’s serious.

(T)he latest Gaokao criminal cases involve perpetrators using high-tech radio devices or cameras hidden inside pens or watches — a 007 vibe there. They transmit answers to the test takers. Now all test site signals are blocked.

LEI JIAO, English lecturer in China

You have to push Chinese people pretty far before they fight back.”
“What would they do instead?”
“I’ve heard of Chinese students wanting to change their names on college applications to sound Hispanic or African American.”
“What? That’s cheating!”
“Save the lecture, Buck. I know about the Desperate Housewife who went to prison.”
“Oh, Lei, you mean ‘Desperate Housewives’ star Felicity Huffman who served 14 days in prison in 2019 for paying \$15,000 to rig her daughter’s SAT scores.”

“Right, Buck. She was the first of more than 30 parents to be sentenced in the college admissions scandal.”
“Imagine what Huffman is thinking now, Lei. I hear at least 1,785 U.S. colleges and universities — including UNC — will no longer require ACT or SAT scores from applicants seeking to enroll in fall 2022.”
“That’s a big change.”
“Yes, Lei, and a money-saving one, too. Taking the SAT or ACT can cost \$55 to \$85.”
“What about a college application — what does that cost?”
“The average fee is \$45, but some colleges can charge \$75 to \$100. UNC charges \$85.”
“No way, Buck. In China if you are applying for college, it’s free.”
“Free! How un-American.”
“LOL. Something bothers me, Buck. If they drop the ACT or SAT, I wonder what the new standard of enrollment is and if it’ll be more unfair for Chinese applicants.”
“What do you mean, Lei?”
“You’ve undercut a Chinese student’s biggest advantage in the admissions process.”
“Hmm.”
“A high standardized exam score is the golden ticket to university ad-

missions in China.”
“Lei, you mean the Gaokao (gow-kow), the National College Entrance Exam, right?”
“Yes, Buck, it’s a two-day high-anxiety national event in China. Every June, police escorts stand ready to get students to their test sites on time in case of an emergency. All noises around test sites, like construction or traffic, are banned.”
“Hard to imagine, Lei.”
“Yes, Buck, it’s so serious the students’ parents wear red underwear for good luck.”
“Ha! We have had cheating scandals where teachers correct students’ answers to raise overall scores for the school. Anything like that happen with the Gaokao?”
“That’s child’s play, Buck. Here cheaters get charged with ‘illegally obtaining national secrets.’”
“What?”
“Yes, the latest Gaokao criminal cases involve perpetrators using high-tech radio devices or cameras hidden inside pens or watches — a 007 vibe there. They transmit answers to the test takers. Now all test site signals are blocked.”
“So what happened to those cheaters?”
“Prison.”
“Lei, our two cultures do have something in common!”
“The Gaokao is very serious business, Buck. There’s nothing so life-or-death like it in the U.S.”
“Why such a big deal?”
“It simplifies the college admissions process, and it’s our way of playing fair for students, parents and their families. It’s the great equalizer for the 10.8 million students who will take the exam.”
“But, Lei, studies show that a high school grade-point average is a better predictor of success in college than a high standardized test score.”
“Well, Buck, grades are important, but only as the path to a high Gaokao test score. That’s what determines the level of university you can attend.”
“What about an amazing array of extracurricular activities, such as leadership roles in clubs or volunteer organizations, maybe award-winning performances in theater?”
“Nope.”
“A brilliant essay?”
“Nada.”
“Hmm, what about the star athlete who’s dumb as a rock?”
“Well, you got me there, Buck. A few students who excel in sports can enjoy preferential policies and get admitted with substantially lower grades.”
“Is that something new? I’ve heard China is putting more emphasis on winning at sports internationally.”
“Yes, Buck. At the Winter Olympics, China fielded 174 athletes to the 224 from the U.S., which brought the largest delegation to Beijing. We have some catching up to do.”
“Back to college admissions. Does minority status matter?”
“Well, Buck, that’s where it gets interesting. I guess you can say we have affirmative action here, too.”
“What do you mean, Lei?”
“Ruby can add 5 points to her standardized test score because we are part of the Hui minority.”
“Oh, so it still comes down to the test score, eh? Wait, Lei, I thought you were Han.”
“Buck, that’s because 92% of Chinese people are Han. There are a total of 56 ethnic groups in China. That means 55,

including the Hui, fit into that sliver of 8% or so.”
“So minority groups get cut a break academically in China?”
“Yes, Buck. For example, I have students from Tibet and Xinjiang Province who need to score only 40% to get a passing grade in my English class.”
“What’s a passing grade for the other students?”
“Sixty percent.”
“Gee, that’s a big difference.”
“Yes, Buck. But so is the range of my students. I may have one from Tibet who can hardly speak a word of English and another student from Shanghai who has been to America several times.”
“I can see that diversity.”
“Our government’s policies recognize that we have disadvantaged students who grew up in regions without the best schools and whose parents could not afford tutors.”
“Lei, I heard the government stepped in to level the playing field even more in July last year. There was a big crackdown on after-school private education academies, right?”
“Not just them, Buck. It was called ‘Double Reduction.’”
“Double?”
“Yes, Buck, less oppressive homework and fewer for-profit schools with tutoring programs. The government released some steam from the pressure valve that regulates our compulsory (free) education system, which runs from 1st grade to 9th grade.”
“You mean the government came to Ruby’s rescue?”
“You bet.”
“So did the government reduce standards?”
“Buck, this is China. What do you think?”
“Sorry, Lei. So the standards remain high, but ... how would you put it?”
“We were driving our kids crazy with excessive academic burdens on primary and middle school students. And we overloaded parents, driving them to financial and mental exhaustion.”
“So it’s better now?”
“Yes, for many kids and their parents, though we still have a lot of people — me included — who test positive for ‘tiger mom.’”
“I can see why Asian students are suing Harvard and UNC — they see it as a high-stakes game, they have studied hard to be overqualified, then they get rejected for admission for whatever reason.”
“Buck, it looks like they think it’s the color of their skin, not the content of their character.”
“Yes, Lei, in the UNC case, the plaintiffs argue that the university discriminates against white and Asian applicants by giving preference instead to Black, Hispanic and Native American students.”
“How much preference?”
“Well, Lei, one study suggested that a male applicant from North Carolina would have a 25% chance of getting into UNC if he were Asian American, a 67% chance if he were Latino and about a 90% chance if he were African American.”
“What does the university say?”
“UNC responds that its admissions policies foster educational diversity and are lawful under long-standing Supreme Court precedents.”
“Is there much talk in China about diversity, equity and inclusion?”

“No, Buck. We have our diversity from rural to urban areas across all 34 provinces, municipalities, and autonomous and special administrative regions. But we are basically a one-race, one-culture country that values unity most of all. Race and ethnicity factor little in our social lives.”
“I can usually count on you, Lei, for something poetic.”
“OK, Buck, we believe we are branches growing from identical roots with a trunk formed from the same ancestry, history and collective memory.”
“Now I get it! So, Lei, has the lawsuit changed your mind about Harvard or UNC?”
“Not really, Buck. The allure of an American university has faded for many parents in China. Last year enrollment of Chinese students at U.S. universities dropped 55,233 from a peak of 372,532 in 2019-20.”
“Why is that?”
“Well, the pandemic, of course. But there’s another fear for parents — the diploma can no longer guarantee a well-paying job when their kids come back to China to find work.”
“Oh.”
“Of course, the tense relations between our two countries don’t help. Honestly, there are safety concerns, particularly with the anti-Asian sentiments and even violence we see in the news.”
“Double-oh.”
“Buck, you mean ouch! U.S. universities were seeing students from China, paying full out-of-state tuition, as a cash cow, bringing in billions of dollars. Now those universities are taking a financial hit, losing money for research and scholarships.”
“How about for you and Ruby?”
“Like a lot of Chinese parents, I am looking more at universities in Britain or Canada, or maybe Australia. All the costs wrapped up in the U.S. experience don’t look like a good investment right now.”
“Is that something new for you, Lei?”
“Yes, Buck. There once was a time when I dreamt about sending Ruby to Harvard or a great public university like UNC.”
“Not anymore?”
“Well, Buck, there’s time. If the U.S. Supreme Court takes up the discrimination case in October, there may not be a decision until spring or summer of 2023.”
“How is Ruby handling it all?”
“Ruby is only 15 years old. Right now, she’s hoping to test into a top senior high school.”
“How do you know which one is top?”
“Forget the lawsuits, Buck. This one is easy — we’re courting the school whose students score highest on the Gaokao.”

About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, and Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, collaborate on articles to advance cross-cultural understanding. Ryan, who is doing a “participatory case study” of the News + Record, has been a visiting scholar at three universities in China, including Jiao’s WUT.

You can read their last current events exchange over “Democracy in Peril” at:

<https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/if-you-think-democracy-is-in-peril-take-a-breath-and-study-us-history,12087>



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

HSA: A healthy way to save for retirement

Many expenses in life are unpredictable. But there are two things you know you’ll have to pay for: medical bills and retirement. You’ll probably need to take a variety of steps to meet these costs, but one financial instrument that can help is a health savings account (HSA). If you’re not familiar with an HSA, here are the basics:

- **Eligibility** – If you are enrolled in a qualified high-deductible health plan (HDHP), you can generally contribute to an HSA. While HSAs are typically offered through employers, you can still open one if your employer doesn’t provide it, or if you’re self-employed, although you must have HDHP coverage. You also can’t be enrolled in another health insurance plan, other than those permitted, such as dental, vision, long-term care and disability insurance, and you can’t be enrolled in Medicare. Also, you can’t be claimed as a dependent on another person’s tax return.
- **Contribution limits** – In 2022, you can put in up to \$3,650 to an HSA if you have single coverage, or \$7,300 for family coverage. And if you’re 55 or older, you can put in an extra \$1,000 per year.
- **Tax benefits** – An HSA has triple tax advantages: Your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they can reduce your taxable income for the year; your earnings grow tax-free; and your withdrawals are tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified medical expenses. (Withdrawals taken before age 65 that aren’t used for qualified medical expenses are taxable and subject to a 20% penalty; once you reach 65, the penalty no longer applies, although withdrawals are still taxable.)

In addition to its providing tax benefits, an HSA can help you in other ways.

Perhaps most significantly, your HSA can be an additional financial resource for your retirement. That’s because the money in your HSA can be carried over from year to year – you aren’t obligated to “use it or lose it.” So, the money not spent on annual medical expenses can continue to grow tax-deferred. Plus, an HSA is “portable” – it moves with you when you leave a job. Furthermore, unlike a 401(k) or a traditional IRA, an HSA does not require you to begin taking withdrawals once you reach 72 – you can leave your account untouched for essentially as long as you’d like. And while you may need to use your HSA funds to meet your medical expenses in retirement – which can be considerable, even with Medicare – you can use what you don’t spend on medical costs for your other needs without penalty, once you reach age 65. (As mentioned above, any HSA withdrawals not used for qualified medical costs are taxable.)

Here’s one other point to keep in mind: Your HSA likely contains investment options, along with a cash account. If you put all your funds in the cash account, as many people do, you might be depriving yourself of the growth opportunities provided by the investment options. On the other hand, of course, these investments generally carry more risk. One possible way to benefit from both parts of your HSA is to keep enough cash to cover your health insurance’s out-of-pocket maximum and invest the rest.

As you can see, an HSA can help you in numerous ways. If you have access to one, consider taking advantage of it.

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

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On March 7, Timothy Edward Dixon, 43, of 609 Rauhut St., Burlington, was arrested by Deputy Justina Knox for larceny of a motor vehicle. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 7.

On March 7, Ruben Anthony Pineda, 25, of 11280 NC 902 Hwy., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$4,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on March 17.

Mr. Pineda was also arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Guilford County District Court in High Point on March 28.

On March 7, Matthew Craig Baldwin, 35, of 887 Wildlife Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for misdemeanor probation violation. He was issued a \$2,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 24.

On March 8, Sherry

Nicole Penland, 52, of 418 Thomas Mill Dr., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for driving while impaired, carrying a concealed gun, felony possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a Schedule II controlled substance, simple possession of a Schedule IV controlled substance, maintaining a vehicle/dwelling/place for controlled substances, unsafe movement and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 6.

On March 9, Michelle Nichole Jenks, 31, of 268 Kelly Ln., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for larceny of a motor vehicle and obtaining property under false pretense. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 21.

On March 9, Kristopher Ray Jeffries, 31, of 268 Kelly Ln., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for larceny of a motor vehicle and obtaining property under false pretense. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 21.

On March 10, Michael David Teague, 46, of 884 Pearleman Teague Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for violation of release conditions. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 27.

On March 10, Angela Gay Beal, 37, of 884 Pearleman Teague Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for larceny of a motor vehicle and attempting to obtain property under false pretense. She was issued a \$750 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 21.

On March 10, Donald Erik Riggsbee, 66, of 105 Twin Oaks Ct., Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Shannon Parker for assault on a female and sexual battery. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 23.

On March 11, Oliver Robert Arz, 47, of 2340 Jessie Bridges Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Clark for murder. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham

County District Court in Pittsboro on March 21.

On March 11, Phillip Michael Griffith, 33, of 265 Stagecoach Rd., Siler City, was arrested by SSgt. Ashely Ellington for failure to appear related to child support. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 8.

On March 11, April Bernarda Hooker, 47, of 2216 Wrenn St., Burlington, was arrested by Deputy Tyler Welch for assault with a deadly weapon and simple assault. She was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in

Alamance County Court in Graham on March 30.

On March 12, John-Paul Omichinsk, 38, of 100 Stanley Apt. 101, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Andrew Gray for assault on a female and interfering with emergency communications. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 23.

On March 13, Justin Ryan Green, 21, of 7155 Pleasant Hill Church Rd., Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Johnathan Frazier for Possession with Intent to Manufacture/Sell/

Deliver a Schedule VI controlled substance, simple possession of a Schedule VI controlled substance, driving while license revoked, carrying a concealed weapon, possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of marijuana up to ½ ounce. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 21.

On March 13, Erin Jo Moore, 40, of 1520 Campbell Rd., Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. She was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on March 21.

**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. Intervenor 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

Volunteer organization sets local fishing festival for wounded veterans

CN+R Staff Report

It's approximately 7,000 miles between the Middle East and Chatham County's Jordan Lake — and even further from Vietnam — but a North Carolina volunteer group is working hard to ensure that American soldiers wounded while fighting in the former places can soon spend a day fishing on the latter.

The organization is Operation North State (ONS), an all-volunteer outfit founded in 2010 by retired Winston-Salem businessman Terry Snyder, who's not a veteran himself.

"One day," he said, "some buddies and I were sitting around talking about how little is being done for wounded vets, and the light sort of came on, and we said, 'Why don't we do something?'"

From that inspiration came ONS.

While ONS sponsors a wide range of activities and outings, its signature events are the nine "Top Shelf Fishing Festivals" held at the coast and six lakes scattered across Piedmont North Carolina, including this year's Jordan Lake event, set for Thursday, March 31 at Farrington Point — 605 Farrington Point Road off SR 1008, locally known as Farrington Road.

The event gets underway, rain or shine, at 6:15 a.m. and runs until 5:30 p.m. It's a free event for the wounded and disabled vets and their caregivers with no registration fee for host boaters. Rods, reels, life vests and bait are provided to the vets, but there's still one more need.

"We need more host boaters," Snyder said. "We've got 50 vets signed up, and about half that many host boaters. Plus, we've got a waiting list of 15 or so vets who want to come. Local fishermen who would like to spend a day on the lake with an American hero can

contact me to sign up."

He can be reached at 336-764-5967 or 336-406-3459. Snacks are provided throughout the day, and the festival closes with dinner for all at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

Since its creation, ONS has sponsored numerous activities for wounded and disabled veterans, men and women, from all branches of the service. A recent tabulation shows that on average 2,200 wounded vets receive some type of goods or services annually from ONS, which operates without salaries and uses donated office and warehouse space, computer and phone expenses, and has one donated vehicle. Its only expenditures are roughly \$2,000 for pro-

gram expenses and incidentals, such as stamps.

ONS operates entirely on donations of cash or in-kind gifts for the many programs it offers wounded and disabled veterans. Those services include golf outings, known as "Foursomes for Heroes," bike riding and "Buddyball," where coaches and athletes donate time to work with the children of disabled vets when their parents are unable.

Individuals wanting to learn more about ONS or to volunteer to help wounded and disabled service personnel may contact Snyder at his telephone numbers, or visit the organization's website at operationnorthstate.com.

CHATHAM IS BOLD!



PREVENTION IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Ravikant Varanasi, MD, AGAF
Pinehurst Medical Clinic Gastroenterology

If you had about a 5% chance of developing a potentially fatal disease, wouldn't you want to do something about it?

Colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States, with over 50,000 people losing their lives annually. Though screening could prevent approximately 60% of these deaths, about one out of every three Americans is not up to date with colon cancer screening.

We often hear the news of someone famous being diagnosed with colon cancer. President Ronald Reagan and baseball great Darryl Strawberry both survived colon cancer. But many celebrities, including cartoonist Charles M. Schulz, actress Elizabeth Montgomery, and the talented actor Chadwick Boseman, have succumbed to the disease.

Over the last several years, celebrities like Katie Couric and Will Smith have advocated for colon cancer screening and the importance of screening colonoscopy. Multitarget stool DNA testing is also more common, and it is now unusual to watch television without seeing a commercial featuring a talking Cologuard® box with arms and legs sitting on a toilet. Yet, despite increased awareness, many people would still rather avoid the subject of colon cancer prevention.

Since 2000, March has been designated as National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, which means there is no better time to talk about the importance of colon cancer screening. The good news is that **colon cancer can be prevented**. Most colon cancers begin as polyps, small growths on the inside surface of the colon. Polyps come in different shapes and sizes and have different microscopic characteristics. Certain polyps, such as adenomas and serrated polyps, have the potential to turn into cancer over several years.

The growth of polyps and transformation into cancer is often silent, as colon polyps seldom cause any symptoms. So even though one may feel well and be in good health, a colon polyp could be growing and surreptitiously transforming into a life-threatening malignancy.

Fortunately, getting screened can significantly reduce your risk of getting colon cancer. Because a polyp usually takes several years to turn into cancer, colonoscopy with polypectomy (polyp removal) can effectively prevent the disease. Additionally, timely diagnosis of colon cancer is essential, as treatment of early-stage colon cancer offers a greater than 90% chance of survival five years after the diagnosis.

No one will argue that getting a colonoscopy is enjoyable, and the doctor's office is everyone's least favorite place to visit. But after the twenty-minute exam is over, most people marvel about how easy the procedure was and how they should have never worried about it in the first place.

The day before the procedure, a clear liquid diet is consumed, culminating with drinking a laxative the evening before and morning of the examination. While this is usually the most disagreeable part of the process, it is also the most important. The cleaner your bowel preparation is the better your colon examination. There are several different bowel preparations available, and you can discuss the options with your doctor. Do not allow fear or dread of the cleansing process to increase your risk of dying from a preventable disease. Since the procedure is done while you are sedated, the exam itself is painless and basically feels like a short nap. In addition to the cleanliness of your colon, another critically important factor that determines the quality of your colon examination is your doctor. All doctors who perform colonoscopy should be aware of their ADR or adenoma detection rate. This doctor's "report card" is the rate at which one or more precancerous polyps are found during a screening colonoscopy in patients 50 years and older. Current standards suggest a minimum ADR of 30% for male patients and 20% for female patients, but you can expect higher rates from your doctor. Don't be afraid to ask your doctor what his or her ADR is. Wouldn't you want your house inspected by someone who is likely to find a preventable problem so you don't have to make costly repairs later? Your colon health should be no different. Studies have shown that for every 1% increase in a physician's ADR, the risk of colon cancer decreases by 3% for the patient over the next year. So if you are getting a screening colonoscopy, it is important that it be done well.

The American Cancer Society recommends that all individuals age 45 and older get screened for colon cancer. However, you might need a screening exam at a younger age if you have a family history of colon polyps or cancer, a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, or other medical conditions. Your personal medical and family history will determine when and which type of colon cancer screening test is best for you. Screening tests for colon cancer are covered by insurance.

There are many resourceful websites where you can get additional information, including the American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org) and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy colorectal cancer awareness website (www.screen4coloncancer.org).

If you have not done so already, talk to your doctor about getting screened for colorectal cancer. Screening colonoscopy is an easy, safe, and proven way of reducing your chance of dying from a common but preventable disease. Having a colonoscopy will give you peace of mind. And it may just save your life.

Dr. Varanasi is a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association and accepts new patients at his office locations in Pittsboro, Sanford, and Pinehurst. To make an appointment, please call (919) 292-6110.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Playing Latin jazz at Jordan-Matthews

Trumpet player Al Strong, saxophonist Gregg Gelb and drummer Ramon Ortiz perform Latin jazz as part of a sextet during a free public concert last Friday night inside Jordan-Matthews High School.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Pianist Steve Anderson, bassist Andy Kleindienst, trumpet player Al Strong, saxophonist Gregg Gelb, drummer Ramon Ortiz and cross-cultural percussionist Beverly Botsford perform Latin jazz during a free public concert last Friday night inside Jordan-Matthews High School.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Jazz pianist Steve Anderson plays with Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet inside Jordan-Matthews last Friday night.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Al Strong plays with the trumpet as part of a sextet during a free public concert last Friday night inside Jordan-Matthews High School. The concert lasted about 75 minutes, during which a group of student musicians joined the band on stage for Tito Puente's 'Oye Cómo Va' (1962).



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Student trombonist Andrey Urena Secena prepares to play on stage with Gregg Gelb and La Fiesta Latin Jazz Sextet and other student musicians last Friday night. According to the concert organizer, JMArts, he and his fellow players received a standing ovation for their rendition of 'Oye Cómo Va.'

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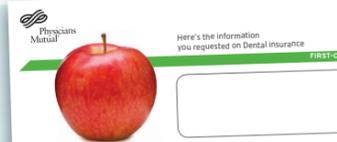
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PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners express frustration with proposed road in North Woods, end COVID-19 state of emergency

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Commissioners ended the town's COVID-19 state of emergency, announced a new Public Information Officer and voted to dispute a road proposal bisecting Pittsboro's North Woods community during their Monday meeting.

After almost four years of conversations and studies, the North Carolina Department of Transportation approached the board on Monday about a proposed road — North Chatham Park Way — for Chatham Park's Northern Village development. Known as Alternate 6, NCDOT's proposed road would divide the North Woods neighborhood — an outcome commissioners vehemently opposed.

The board voted in December to ask NCDOT to conduct a study to find a different route — known as Alternate 8 — to the proposed road that would avoid bisecting the historic community. While Alternate 8 allowed the road to bypass North Woods, NCDOT concluded that Alternate 6 would be the most cost effective and involve less environmental impact than Alternate 8.

Commissioners criticized the decision, especially after months of discussion and emphasis on avoiding Alternate 6.

New board member James Vose spoke to his frustrations, saying that no matter what the town did, it appears NCDOT will be able to do whatever it wishes.

"We're discussing this northern alignment as if we had any say in its outcome," Vose said. "Regardless of my personal feelings on the subject, it is my understanding that

a unanimous vote by this board to divert to Alternative 8 would change absolutely nothing — this decision was made for us by NCDOT."

Ultimately, the board voted to not concur with NCDOT's opinion, effectively stating Pittsboro officials did not agree with the decision to bisect the 40 year-old neighborhood.

NCDOT's Patrick Norman told commissioners Monday that the department wants to work in partnership with the town, but if that's not possible, NCDOT will continue the project as planned.

"Yes, there are considerations and we want to be partners, but there is also a large financial contribution that has to be considered," Norman said. "If that contribution is not able to be covered, then we have to look at what our options are, and that could mean removing the project."

The financial contribution Norman referred to amounts to \$9 million and would come from Chatham Park Investors. However, Chatham Park investors have not given the \$9 million to Pittsboro, and as commissioners learned Monday, investors have tied the funds to the proposal — Alternative 6 — NCDOT decided to pursue.

"The agreement that was put in place back in 2018 between Chatham Park and the town of Pittsboro in coordination with the department was (that) Chatham Park would provide the funds to the town to provide to NCDOT," Norman said.

"Without that contribution, the project could be removed completely, and you could lose the \$4.5 million bonus allocation that would be coming back to the town."

According to commissioner John Bonitz, the town and Chatham Park Investors have not entered into a formal agreement regarding the \$9 million contribution. Rather, the town acknowledged a letter from investors and sent clarifications multiple times stating the town and investors had not reached an agreement.

"You have relied on documents that have not been formally approved by the board," Bonitz said. "There is some ambiguity in the record of the suggested pathways before alignments were created, and some of that ambiguity did point to Chatham Park land."

Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin also expressed her disappointment in NCDOT's decision and in Chatham Park's direct involvement in the alignment proposal.

"I had no idea that the bonus allocation, as well as the contribution from Chatham Park would be linked in the matter that it is," Baldwin said. "Pittsboro is not in a position to fund such a thing as this — we could not utilize that type of money."

Mark Pavao, a resident of the North Woods neighborhood, said he was glad the board stood up to NCDOT and Chatham Park Investors by formally disagreeing with the department's decision.

"For me and for my neighbors, that's a moral victory," Pavao said. "It's a moral victory that basically says the coordination between Chatham Park investors and NCDOT to build this road through North Woods is not right, and at the end of the discussion, the board of commissioners were not willing to

Chatham Park investors have not given the \$9 million to Pittsboro, and as commissioners learned Monday, investors have tied the funds to the proposal — Alternative 6 — NCDOT decided to pursue.

sign up and endorse the outcome of that coordination."

Pavao said the outcome is inevitable; he and his neighbors now wait as NCDOT prepares to start working on the North Chatham Park Way, which will divide the historic community he lives in.

"At this point, it's clear that NCDOT is going to do what they're going to do," he said. "A 40-year-old neighborhood is going to be destroyed. So we will watch it happen — we will document it, we will publicize it and we will basically create a living museum so that people can see what happens when development is not well managed."

Other business

Pittsboro now has a public information officer, Colby Sawyer, town manager Chris Kennedy announced Monday.

Sawyer has worked for Chatham County as a manager in the Emergency Services Department. Kennedy said Sawyer will not only operate as the town's PIO, but he will also work as the town's emergency management coordinator.

"He'll help us with a lot of our field work," Kennedy told commissioners. "When you look at the information that goes into press releases, a lot of it is emergency related, so going through the applicant pool and having some conversations with Mr. Sawyer, I felt he would be a good fit for us."

Sawyer is set to start on April 11.

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry announced she had signed off on ending the town's COVID-19 State of Emergency, which former mayor Jim Nass had declared on March 17, 2020.

"It declares that the COVID emergency is no longer necessary, and is rescinded and terminated as of the effective date, which was this afternoon," Perry said.

Perry also asked town staff and the board to con-

sider reopening town hall for the public to handle their payments for town utilities, such as water or sewage. This would be the first time town hall would be open to the public since March 2020.

Perry also said she'd like commissioner meetings to resume meeting in person, as part of the town's return to normalcy.

"We need to be moving ahead with that kind of representation of our constituency," she said, "and therefore, we look forward to discussing that and beginning to meet in person."

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

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OH, THESE BABY PICTURES OF GERALD ARE PRECIOUS.

IT SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY HE WAS THIS LITTLE BABY SLEEPING IN MY ARMS.

NOW HE'S THIS GROWING BOY FULL OF ENERGY AND YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE!

A POLITE WAY OF SAYING "EVERYTHING HE TOUCHES HE BREAKS OR LOSES."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

UGH... DEAR, THIS MORNING I'M DEFINITELY FEELING MY AGE ... IF MY AGE WAS AROUND 85 OR SO.

GRIN and BEAR IT

"It was named Car of the Year by Tow Truck Magazine!"

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

LET'S SEE, WHICH OF THESE 10,000 DOGS CRAMMED INTO THIS ONE TINY FOLDER DO I WANT?

FIRST, MY PASSWORD: "SELTZER"

CLOWN COMPUTING

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

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PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ACROSS

1 Guy in the Beatles' "I Am the Walrus"

7 Brand of bottled water

13 Holy places

20 Yacht basin

21 Old Missouri natives

22 Arranged, as a page for printing

23 2001 Josh Hartnett war film

25 Not macho

26 "— little!"

27 Vegas action

28 Darkens in the sun

30 Hammer, e.g.

32 1971 Malcolm McDowell crime film

37 They're fed after parking

40 "Energy healing" technique

41 Artist Neiman and Jim Croce's Brown

42 1973 Charlton Heston thriller

46 Beginner, in gaming lingo

47 Use sandpaper on, informally

48 Ed. supporter

50 Brain wave tests, in brief

54 "— Ball (carnival game)

57 Lubbock-to-Laredo dir.

58 1986 Isabella Rossellini neo-noir film

61 WWW page

64 Musical inaptitude

67 Having arrived tardily

68 Choose (to)

69 1984 Gene Wilder romantic comedy

72 "— said before ..."

73 "The Lion in Winter" actor

75 Dawned

76 Certain English student

78 1984 Prince musical film

80 Psychic "gift"

82 Table scraps

83 Graf — (German warship)

84 Potent compound in marijuana: Abbr.

85 Sequence of episodes on the tube

89 Test of speed

92 1986 Molly Ringwald Cinderella story

96 6x9-inch book

99 Attach with cord, e.g.

101 Actor Patrick

102 1992 Wesley Snipes sports film

107 ABA mem.

108 Sol-do linkup

109 Meat spread

110 "Starpeace" singer Yoko

111 — voce (quietly)

113 Smart speaker from Amazon

115 Photos not in shades of gray ... or what eight answers in this puzzle are?

120 Precisely, with "on"

121 Retaliate

122 Czar called "the Great"

DOWN

1 Tokens

2 Telescope pioneer

3 Newton topic

4 Rats' relatives

5 Crooner Paul

6 "Prob'ly not"

7 Carpentry rod

8 Invite out for

9 Hardly happy

10 Of yore

11 Unfamiliar film

12 Falls to be satisfactory

13 Skulked

14 Sci-fi role for Harrison Ford

15 Cup edge

16 Muckraker who took on Standard Oil

17 "That's all wrong!"

18 Funeral speech

19 Fashion trends

24 Jackson 5 hit

29 Meyers of "Dutch"

32 Comes — surprise

33 Tribe of Canada

34 Piercing

35 Come in first

36 Vintage auto

38 Someone — problem

39 Sleep stage

43 "I fail — the humor"

44 Some sporty autos

45 Orating skill

46 No, in Selkirk

48 Least ornate

49 Zig or zag

51 Major Taiwanese carrier

52 Implies

53 Pub mugs

54 Nosy sorts

55 Sustained

56 Automaker Bugatti

58 Part of N.B.

59 Lead-in to Cong or Minh

60 Lead-in to skeleton

62 "— cost you!"

63 You, quaintly

65 "Sign me up!"

66 Rapper Lil — X

70 Infant's cry

71 Reimburse

74 Surgeries

77 Like sexist jokes

79 Road map abbr.

81 Tennis unit

85 1982 film and arcade game

86 Steam hole

87 Ninny

88 Bump — log

90 Road map abbr.

91 Write music

92 Pod veggie

93 Like Charlie Brown's kite, inevitably

94 Seize users, e.g.

95 Result of a very-low-carb diet

96 Hooting baby birds

97 Latin dance

98 Gives 10%

99 Blast creator

100 Polar topper

103 Diner patron

104 1995-2011 Yankee Posada

105 Release, as from a corral

106 "Excusez—"

111 Holy Milies.

112 Excuses

114 "— have to?"

116 Female gametes

117 Allow to

118 Ottawa loc.

119 1040 pro

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Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

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S	A	M	B	E	R	G				C	R	E	E	S			S	U	I	T	E						
T	R	I	O							F	I	N	D	I	N	G	D	O	R	Y		A	L	E	E		
A	D	D	U	P						Y	A	D	I	G			E	A	R	N	E	S	T				
C	O	A	T	L	I	N	E	R		S	O	D	A	L	Y	E											
I	R	S								E	P	I	T	A	P	H		O	B	I		G	U	S	T	O	
										G	A	O	L			H	E	D	G	E	C	L	I	P	P	E	R
A	L	U	M							G	U	I	D	O			A	S	T	U	T	E					
C	O	N	C	H	S	H	E	L	L						E	L	A	T	E			O	D	E	S		
C	U	E								A	T	O	M	S		E	S	O	T	E	R	I	C				
O	V	A	R	I	E	S				T	A	N	K														
R	E	S	E	R	V	E				E	R	N	I	E													
D	R	E	S	S	E	D				R	Y	A	N	S													

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9			5	1		
	6	4	2					3
3					6			8
1				9		6	4	
	3				8			7
		8	5			2		
	8			1			7	
9					7			6
		5	4	3		8		

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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MAGIC MAZE ● PLACES IN THE U.S. WITH BIRD NAMES

J B R A K C O L F E L T T I L
 L L J H F D B O X T L I A U Q
 B A C Y X V I T S R P K O A K
 M C R K I G R E D P D A I B A
 Z K A X W U D T D R R N J Q N
 O H N N L J S I G I A E A F A
 K A E L G A E D C W K K Y A C
 Y W M X W V Y T S S E C M F I
 R K T I W R E V O L P I E P L
 O C D I D R I B E T I H W P E
 N O L K N T N W O T K C U D P

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: Colorado Town : A Male Duck

- Birdseye, IN Ducktown, TN Osprey, FL Quail, TX
- Black Hawk, CO Eagle, AK Peck, ID Swan, IA
- Chicken, AK Jay, ME Pelican, AK White Bird, ID
- Crane, MT Little Flock, AR Plover, WI

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