

INSIDE: Chatham 411, your essential community guide



Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | MARCH 24 - 30, 2022 | www.chathamnewsrecord.com | \$1

'A CLEAR MESSAGE' TO STUDENTS, STAFF

Chatham County Schools outlines disciplinary consequences for 'confirmed acts' of racism

Local leaders reflect on school system's response in aftermath of mock 'slave auction' incident

BY KEITH T. BARBER & BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

In the aftermath of a mock "slave auction" at J.S. Waters School earlier this month, Chatham County Schools has outlined new disciplinary consequences for students in grades 6-12 "who commit confirmed acts of bullying or harassment that include racist, homophobic or xenophobic speech."

In addition, school administration says staff members who violate the policy will be suspended immediately.

In a list of consequences provided to the News + Record late Monday, students found to have committed such acts will receive a minimum 10-day suspension.

The full list of consequences include:

- 1st offense — 10-day suspension; required participation in restorative circles upon return.
- 2nd offense — 10-day suspension with administrative school reassignment; required participation in restorative circles upon return.
- 3rd offense — 10-day suspension with recommendation for long-term suspension; re-

quired participation in restorative circles upon return.

Restorative circles are used in schools and other settings to build and restore relationships through equal opportunity sharing and listening. They're also used to teach participants how to negotiate conflict, practice respectful listening and healthy self-expression, according to the websites of a number of school-related organizations using them.

"The 10-day consequence for the first offense is intentional and meant to be a deterrent and send a clear message of our intolerance of this be-

havior in our school culture," states the disciplinary plan provided to the News + Record by Chatham County Schools.

"As outlined in the new regulation, restorative practices will be used to support both the victim and offender throughout the investigative and post incident periods. Current requirements for disciplining students with disabilities remain the same."

In addition, Chatham County Schools said that "any staff member who violates this regulation will be immediately suspended from service pending an investigation per

current school board policy. If allegations are substantiated, the employee will be subject to consequences outlined in the current policy, which is disciplinary actions up to and including a recommendation for termination/revocation of licensure."

CCS said its administration is working with community partners to develop additional training for all administrators, staff and teachers, as well as hold a series of focus groups and restorative circles within the system to provide an oppor-

See RACISM, page A6

ROGER'S SECOND ACT

Acclaimed museum director uses art collection to breathe new life into Galloway Ridge retirement community

BY TERI SAYLOR

News + Record Correspondent

PITTSBORO — If art has the power to stir emotions and soothe the soul, residents, staff and visitors at the Galloway Ridge Retirement Community at Fearington Village can find both stimulation and peace when they step into the gallery they call their own.

Led by resident Roger Berkowitz, the esteemed director emeritus of the Toledo Museum of Art, Galloway Ridge has cultivated a powerful — and expanding — art collection. Over the last two years, Berkowitz has acquired more than 150 pieces of original works by a cadre of notable artists from around the globe.

Berkowitz's vision began to materialize in early 2020 when he and a small art advisory committee embarked on a mission to establish a permanent art collection in the corridors and public spaces at Galloway Ridge.

"The main building was undergoing renovations, and the administrators asked me about acquiring some original works of art that could go in the lobby," Berkowitz said. "After we got started, it was clear that it made such a difference to have original works of art and not reproductions, which are far more common in these kinds of



Courtesy of Galloway Ridge

Galloway Ridge resident Roger Berkowitz poses in front of a painting by artist Michelle Possum Nungarrayi, which graces the entryway there. Entitled 'Grandmother's Country,' the painting is full of symbols representing important native traditions of indigenous Australians. Viewing the painting with Berkowitz is Brenda Schoonover, another Galloway resident.

facilities."

With Berkowitz leading the charge, the Galloway Ridge advisory committee began raising funds and selecting pieces of original art to replace every tired reproduction. The funding comes directly from Galloway Ridge residents.

From all over the world

Committed to the highest standards of quality, Berkowitz sources works from dealers and auction houses — and notably, Galloway Ridge residents who

See ART, page A3



Staff photo by Peyton Suckles

This dilapidated house on Hillsboro Street, just north of the roundabout in downtown Pittsboro, is an eyesore for residents and visitors entering from the north.

A PITTSBORO EYESORE

Town working to address properties violating housing standards

BY MARK BARROSO

Special to the News + Record

PITTSBORO — Visitors who enter Pittsboro from the north approach the quaint town passing single family homes with a "Mayberry" vibe and see a classic Southern courthouse in the distance.

Then they see something unexpected: the rotted carcass of a house on the east side of Hillsboro Street — with its peeling paint, broken windows and holes in the roof, it's as if the town has allowed roadkill to fester on its welcome mat.

"It's become a long-term eyesore," said Pitts-

See EYESORE, page A6

'THE WORST IS BEHIND US'

Health officials revise approach in new era of pandemic

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN

News + Record Staff

Gov. Roy Cooper addressed the state last Thursday with some updates regarding the COVID-19 pandemic in North Carolina. His message: We're entering a new phase in combating the virus, a phase working toward what existed before COVID-19.

"Two years ago, the world stopped because of an extraor-

dinary contagious virus we knew nothing about," Cooper said. "We can go forward with the belief that the worst is behind us, and as we look ahead, it's important to take stock of how far we have come."

North Carolina and Chatham County have taken on the pandemic by using various mitigation tools — such as vaccinations, accessibility to

See COVID, page A8

Hispanic Liaison launches COVID-19 program to 'reach the hard to reach'

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON

News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For the past month, lay health advisor Maria Herrera has spent over six hours each week knocking on doors in Love's Creek to share COVID-19 information, resolve doubts and help her neighbors get vaccinated.

It's her way of helping protect those who can't — including her mother, whose health risks and allergy to a vaccine ingredient prevent her from taking the shot.

"My mom lives in Mexico and so, she wants to come visit

See HEALTH, page A7



Courtesy of the Hispanic Liaison

COVID-19 Lay Health Advisors Lupe Tavera (right) and Ervin Martinez, her son, begin knocking on doors last month in Siler City's Santa Fe Circle and Country Living neighborhoods.

IN THE KNOW

Pittsboro's Miller aims to achieve Olympic dreams at Ohio's SPIRE Institute. PAGE B1

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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 **Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 28. The **Chatham County Board of Education** will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11, at the historic courthouse in Pittsboro.

OTHER

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. The **Friends of the Chatham Community Library Book sales** are back, in a new, version! To make shopping as safe as possible, we're changing our format to offer part of our inventory at each of several sales this spring/summer, allowing us to spread out the items and shoppers to select their purchases in a less crowded setting.

Mark your calendar for our first sale, which will feature our complete selection of fiction, mystery, and science fiction. The sale will be held at the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro on Friday, April 1 from 9 am to 5 pm, and on Saturday, April 2, from 9 am until 2 pm. All items, hardcover and paperback, will be \$2 each on both days. Discount for Friends members. Cash, check, charge accepted. More info and directions: <https://friendscl.org/Coming-Book-Sales>

Cambridge Hills Assistive Living Community and Family Dementia Support Group - Meeting will be held on April 6 at 1 p.m. or 6 p.m. at 140 Brookstone Lane, Pittsboro. Come and meet other family members who are on a similar journey. RSVP to: angelasilver-thread.com or 919-545-9573. You don't have to be on this journey alone.

The public is invited to attend the **Ribbon Cutting and Open House of The Farm at Piper Hill** on Wednesday, April 6th from 4 to 6 p.m. Their address is 2340 Jessie Bridges Road, Silk Hope. The Ribbon Cutting begins at 4 p.m.

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 - 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.bstrop93.org for more information.

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

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

How did you LAND here?



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

- LAND (Representing Sellers) 39 Units**
- 0 Lamont Norwood (96.37 Acres)
 - 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
 - 911 Golfers View (.586 Acres)
 - 00 Jim Gilliland Road (35.4 Acres)
 - 000 Jim Gilliland Road (18.598 Acres)
 - 1431 NC 42 Hwy (23.26 Acres)
 - 8457 Pike Road (22.43 Acres)
 - 3097 N NC 87 (2.845 Acres)
 - 0 Caviness Town Road (7.41 Acres)
 - 0 Pleasant Hill Church Road (90.788 Acres)
 - 69 Hazelwood (.62 Acres)
 - 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
 - 59 Colonial Trail (.476 Acres)
 - 0 Diane Street (9.21 Acres)
 - 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
 - 3095 N NC 87 (2.269 Acres)
 - 2453 Marthas Chapel Road (2.052 Acres)
 - 419 Hickory Pond Road (3.208 Acres)
 - 435 Hickory Pond Road (2.72 Acres)
 - 275 George Brooks Drive (184 Acres)
 - 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
 - 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
 - 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
 - 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
 - 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
 - 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
 - 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
 - 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
 - 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
 - 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
 - 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
 - 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
 - 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
 - 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
 - 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
 - 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
 - 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
 - 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
 - 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

- 388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)
- 0 Mays Chapel Road (365 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

COMMERCIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units

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

COMMERCIAL (Representing Buyers) 1 Units

- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)

- RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 22 Units**
- 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
 - 570 Abeyance Road (Moncure)
 - 2221 Brisbayne Circle (Raleigh)
 - 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
 - 52 Gentle Winds Drive (Pittsboro)
 - 1475 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
 - 550 Calle Lane (Bear Creek)
 - 3871 S. Plank Road (Sanford)
 - 76 Millbrook Drive (Pittsboro)
 - 5144 Rives Chapel Church Road (Siler City)
 - 200 Valley View Lane (Pittsboro)
 - 1822 Chandellay Drive (Durham)
 - 5631 Swanns Station Road (Sanford)
 - 4233 NC Highway 902 (Pittsboro)
 - 130 Estes Drive (Chapel Hill)
 - 117 Foxwood (Sanford)
 - 1136 Sanford Road (Pittsboro)
 - 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
 - 1429 Van Thomas Road (Pittsboro)
 - 1315 Hoyt Scott Road (Bear Creek)
 - 745 Merl McManus Road (Bear Creek)
 - 2349 S. Main Street (Goldston)

- RESIDENTIAL (Representing Buyers) 7 Units**
- 168 Culberson Drive (Siler City)
 - 427 Fenton Place (Charlotte)
 - 4513 Bumphus Road (Chapel Hill)
 - 107 Hawks Spiral Way (Pittsboro)
 - 85 Herndon Creek Way (Chapel Hill)
 - 729 Hope Hills Drive (Siler City)
 - 6490 Snow Camp Road (Snow Camp)

PROPERTIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONTRACT

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

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



Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week
<https://youtu.be/Xfb3bYVWv2s>

VIDEO TOPIC: Restrictive / Protective Covenants and Deed Restrictions in North Carolina



Email your questions to eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com
 For RWCP Property Management Call **Jennifer 919-545-9405**
 RWCP is hiring Sales Agents. Call **919-545-9911**

NEW BRIEFS

Arthritis Foundation exercise class registration opens

The Chatham County Council on Aging will hold two separate Arthritis Foundation Exercise Classes that will meet twice a week.

In-person and virtual options will take place Mondays and Fridays from April 18-June 13 at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills, 480 Hillsboro St., Suite 530 in Pittsboro beginning at 10 a.m.

The class will not meet on Monday, May 30.

In-person participants must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or follow COA COVID-19 protocols.

In addition, the COA will offer an aquatic-based course from June 17-Aug. 12 that will be held on Mondays and Fridays.

Each session will last an hour, from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. at Pittsboro Swimming Association, located at 125 Camp Drive. Space is limited and available by RSVP only.

For more information on virtual

options or to register, contact Jackie Green, Eastern Chatham Senior Center Activities and Wellness Specialist, at 919-542-4512, ext. 232, or email jackie.green@chathamcoa.org.

Health and Wellness Expo to go all virtual

The Chatham County Council on Aging, in conjunction with the Chatham Health Alliance and the UNC School of Nursing will hold the 2022 Virtual Health & Wellness Expo beginning March 21 and running through April 18.

Weekly Zoom sessions will take place over the course of five weeks on a number of senior-related topics, including falls prevention for better balance, caregiver resources, tech savviness, eating for a healthy heart and fitness after age 50.

For more information or to receive Zoom registration information, contact Liz Lahti at liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org or call 919-542-4512, ext. 228.

—CN+R staff reports

Chatham News + Record

www.chathamnewsrecord.com

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The Chatham News + Record (USPS #101-160) is published weekly, 52 weeks a year, by Chatham Media Group LLC, 303 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, N.C. 27344. Subscription rates: 1 year print + digital — \$52; monthly — \$5.99. Digital only — \$3.99 monthly. Periodicals postage paid at the U.S. Post Office in Siler City.

N.C. POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to The Chatham News + Record, PO Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344

Council on Aging, Chatham Health Alliance to partner for TJCOG COVID-19 Education Grant

The Chatham County Council on Aging, in partnership with the Chatham Health Alliance, has been selected as a recipient of the Triangle J Council of Government's COVID-19 Outreach and Education Grant.

Valued at a total of \$15,000, the Council will partner with the Chatham Health Alliance in a variety of initiatives during the grant period. In addition to coordinating media outreach regarding COVID-19 vaccination facts, sites and opportunities via newspaper and radio, the COA will work with the Alliance in holding two Community Resource Hubs devoted exclusively to vaccination education and outreach. One hub will be held in Siler City, with the other in southern Chatham County at a time, date and location to be determined.

The COA, through its existing agreement with Chatham Transit Network, will work to provide transportation to vaccination appointments, while the Alliance will operate a telephone line designed to give individuals assistance in scheduling vaccine appointments.

"While COVID-19-related restrictions are in the process of easing, this is not the time to enter into a period of complacency," COA Director of Grants and Communications Jimmy Lewis said. "Through the generous support of Triangle J and our on-the-ground partners at the Chatham Health Alliance, we will work vigorously to boost vaccination rates in all areas in Chatham County and give further justification to the easing of virus restrictions."

"The Alliance is excited to partner with the Council to improve access and

education to the COVID-19 vaccination," Chatham Health Alliance Executive Director Julie Wilkerson said. "The Alliance's Community Resource Hubs allow for a great structure in launching this initiative in the county. We are grateful for the support of Triangle J that allows us to provide on the ground and remote support to community members."

The Chatham County Council on Aging was founded on July 8, 1974, as a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the older population of Chatham County. The Council promotes and supports independent living, and the physical and mental wellness of persons aged 60 and older through a wide range of services that includes Meals on Wheels, in-home personal care, transportation, information assistance and options counseling, mi-

nor home repair, mobility and assistive equipment loan and senior center programming. The Council also supports family caregivers of elderly striving to remain living at home. In partnership with many other community organizations, the Council is raising awareness about the aging of Chatham's growing population and encouraging efforts to assure that Chatham remains an age-friendly community where there are opportunities for social and civic engagement, continuous learning, fitness and an appreciation for the life accomplishments of older adults and their continuing contributions to the community.

For more information on the Council on Aging, phone 919-542-4512 or 919-742-3975 or visit the Council's website at www.chathamcoa.org.

ART

Continued from page A1

donate art from their own collections. Each work goes through a rigorous screening process before it is purchased or accepted as a donation.

"We have established criteria for accepting works of art, whether they are to be purchased or they're being offered as gifts," Berkowitz said.

They must be originals, created by notable artists who have a prolific history. Berkowitz and his committee favor art that has been the subject of reviews, featured in juried exhibitions, or received public recognition.

At first, Berkowitz and the advisory committee considered limiting the Galloway Ridge art collection to exclusively North Carolina artists, but later decided to expand its scope.

"We recognize our Galloway Ridge residents and guests are well traveled and worldly with a global view of society and culture," he said. "While there are many works by North Carolina artists, we also feature pieces from different eras, and from countries all over the world."

Berkowitz is especially proud of the community's impressive collection of indigenous works.

Front and center in the reception lobby, visitors are greeted by one of the collection's shining stars — a large, colorful painting depicting an aerial view of the remote Alice Springs countryside in Australia's Northern Territory. The painting by Michelle Possum Nungarrayi — a member of a famous family of indigenous Australian artists — is titled "Grandmother's Country." Resembling a map of the artist's homeland, the painting is packed full of symbols representing important native traditions. Its

This project has given me a new and different way to work, and I have learned a lot in the process.

ROGER BERKOWITZ, *Galloway Ridge resident and retired director of the Toledo Art Museum*

vibrant colors invite residents and visitors to step inside the Galloway Ridge main building and explore an enchanting place where staff and residents celebrate art every day.

In the Garden Room directly behind the lobby stands Pittsboro artist Mark Hewitt's "Monumental Vase," fashioned out of North Carolina clay and glazed with the artist's signature runs and textures. The large, stately vase evokes a sense of place in a region where artists have been crafting objects of beauty out of ordinary clay for generations.

Installed on walls in common rooms and hallways, and tucked into various nooks and crannies, the Galloway Ridge art collection also features tapestries, prints, photographs, watercolors, wood carvings, oil paintings, weavings and sculptures. The collection includes one of Andy Warhol's famous Mickey Mouse portraits, a color silkscreen with diamond dust — an important piece of the artist's 1981 Myths Portfolio.

"We wanted works of art that are going to be accessible to most people, and we are striving for diversity," Berkowitz said. "We don't expect everyone to like everything, but we hope that there's something that everyone will find that they like."

The master becomes the student

Galloway Ridge, an upscale progressive care community, sits on 67 acres adjacent to Fearrington Village. Its main building houses 248 independent living apartments and ameni-

ties including a library, movie theatre, business center and art studio. In addition, the community features 52 villa residences, a fitness facility and a health care center with 96 private rooms for assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing. Around the grounds are miles of walking trails and a dog park for the residents' furry family members. The community is home to over 450 residents.

Berkowitz has lived at Galloway Ridge for five years. At 77, with silver hair and eyeglasses sporting frames that match his bright red necktie, he is a rush of energy and passion as he leads visitors on a lively two-hour tour of the art collection, spread out across the entire three-story building — even in stairwells "to encourage the residents to take the stairs," he said.

As a young man, Berkowitz studied 19th century English and decorative arts at the University of Michigan, where he received a master's in museum practice in 1970 and a Ph.D. in 1977. He began his career in Ohio, at the Toledo Museum of Art in 1974, as curator of decorative arts and worked as chief curator and deputy director before becoming director in 1999. He retired in 2004 and relocated to Fearrington Village with his wife, Rhoda, before moving to Galloway Ridge in 2017.

During the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, Berkowitz recalled, the art project took on a life of its own. For one thing, contacting potential donors was easier because people were confined in their apart-



Courtesy of Galloway Ridge

Roger Berkowitz, speaking with Galloway resident Brenda Schoonover, is the retired director of the Toledo Museum of Art, which has the reputation as one of the finest art museums in the world.

ments and villas and easy to reach. And art dealers were more than willing to negotiate prices because it was a difficult economic time.

"It took a while to get started in the beginning, and we didn't know if this was going to be successful at all," he said. "If there had been no interest, we would have been out of business before we were even in business."

But over time, the project gathered steam — first from small donations, which enabled Berkowitz to buy a few pieces and install them in prominent places. Gradually, his efforts took root when the residents began visualizing the possibilities. He spent so much time on his computer searching for works of art to acquire that his wife began joking that he had come out of retirement and was going back to work.

In a way, the Galloway Ridge art project is Berkowitz's second act — and as a bonus, the master has become a student again.

"This project has given me a new and different way to work, and I have learned a lot in the process," he said.

Even the most astonishing works of art serve no higher purpose if people can't view them.

As the pandemic raged, Galloway Ridge residents stayed holed up in their villas and apartments, not realizing the magic unfolding right outside their doors. That's where art historian Davenne Essif stepped in. A former teaching fellow at the Ackland Art Museum who holds a Ph.D. in art history from UNC-Chapel Hill, Essif set out on a mission to introduce the art project to residents, piece by piece, through a series of videos she produced for the Galloway Ridge independent broadcasting channel.

As the art collection expands, so does the video series, which remains a work in progress.

"When I started making the videos, there were 35 works of art, with a goal of having 60," she said. "But now there are



Courtesy of Galloway Ridge

Berkowitz, a retired art museum director, has taken the lead in curating the growing art collection at the facility, located in Fearrington Village in Pittsboro.

over 150 pieces spread across the entire facility."

The videos compress space and time, allowing Essif to compare pieces of art even if they are located on opposite sides of the building.

Like a salve

While Berkowitz was filling the lobbies and common areas with art, the pandemic restrictions began relaxing; residents started venturing out of their villas and apartments to take it all in. Some set out on a mission to visit every single work of art in the building. For those unable to get out or receive visitors from outside their community, the art was like a salve.

"Our residents began looking at the art, expressing their feelings, talking to their neighbors about it, and this project became very much a part of our life at Galloway Ridge during COVID-19," Berkowitz said. "One resident told me that our art was the one thing that got him out of his apartment every week."

Berkowitz likes to say that if he helped build the vehicle, then Essif filled its gas tank by using her educational videos to motivate the residents to appreciate art.

"I focused on trying to provide our residents with enough information about the art, but also encouraging them to go out and visit it," she said.

Most recently Essif took another step toward developing a complete art gallery experience and making Berkowitz's dream come true:

launching a docent program. She's already begun training residents to become the inaugural cohort of art docents at Galloway Ridge.

"It's a very exclusive program, starting with four residents," she said. "They will be trained to give art tours to their fellow residents, staff and visitors."

Eventually, Essif and Berkowitz hope to put their docents to work in earnest when they can open the exhibit to visitors from the outside community at large.

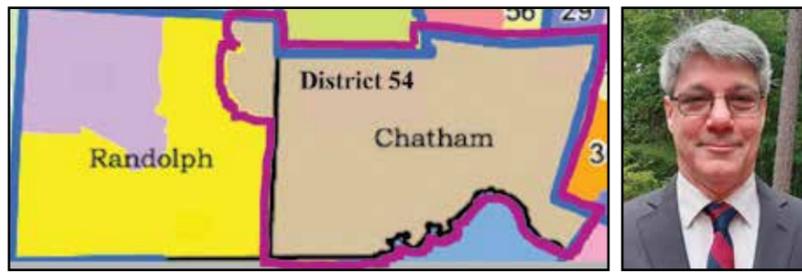
For Berkowitz, this experience has taught him the value of accessible and affordable art.

"Working in a museum like Toledo's, you're always dealing with the creme de la creme of the art world," he said. "And what I've realized is that there's a lot of really good art that isn't necessarily museum quality, but well worth seeing, enjoying, and learning from, and I've learned about some wonderful artists I've never heard of before."

From the beginning, Berkowitz's vision has been to make the public spaces at Galloway Ridge seem like an extension of the residents' apartments, or part of their homes. He recalled one of the best compliments he has ever received for his work.

"I was out one day, helping hang pieces of art," he said. "One of our residents came by and thanked me, and he told me, 'Now Galloway Ridge really feels like home.'"

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



Conservative Opinion by Craig Kinsey:

Our terribly high inflation rate (7.9%) was created by bad decisions in Washington. We need representatives who understand job creation and will shepherd America to financial solvency for future generations. America's free market system is the world's greatest wealth generator, that's why the undocumented are flooding across our southern border. Our governments' fundamental change toward socialism will spread the poverty to everyone, ask the impoverished citizens of Venezuela. COVID fueled inflation because government mandates shutdown businesses, which shutdown our economy. Foolishly, our government printed gigantic amounts of money. This caused each dollar to lose value. Absurdly, workers received government paychecks to stay home, creating a labor shortage. This caused American production to fall, and less production of American stuff combined with more minted dollars fueled Inflation.

The solution: Lowering taxes on American manufacturers will stimulate reinvestment in workers and equipment, increasing production of American stuff, thus lowering consumer prices, and lowering inflation. Our government should pull money from the economy which will increase each circulating dollar's value to lower inflation. When our economy improves and more people are working and paying taxes, apply extra tax revenue to lessen the national debt.

VIEWPOINTS

This is NOT a sermon about racism

It's hard for a white guy to write about racism without sounding preachy.



ANDREW TAYLOR-TROUTMAN
Hope Matters

If you subscribe to the News + Record, you've already read of the atrocious acts earlier this month at J.S. Waters School. Black students were taunted and bullied in a mock slave auction. The Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity (CORE) held the "Community Call to Action" news conference on March 14 to speak against these racist acts; I was among more than 100 people who gathered on the lawn of Pittsboro Presbyterian Church.

Racism is an ongoing reality, not just an isolated incident. Speakers at the press conference gave their testimonies about the bigotry and prejudice they experience on a daily basis. The witness of these citizens is supported by data from public health officials. The Chatham County Health Department released its "Spotlight on Health Disparities in Chatham County," which documented that "health disparities are the consequence of structural inequities that push communities into the margins and create the external factors that redirect, reduce and remove opportunities to achieve optimal health."

Few white people would defend a mock slave auction. But many do question ideas like "structural inequities." They say it's too political. Too preachy!

At the press conference, my friend the Rev. Larry Neal of Mount Zion Baptist Church invoked the biblical mandate "to train up children in the way they should go" from Proverbs 22:6. Neal applied this verse as a charge to guide young people to speak out against racist behavior and to cultivate relationships with people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. By reading this scripture in light of current events, Neal was evoking an ancient biblical interpretation known as "tikkun olam," or "for the healing of the world."

The best sermons name the pain, then inspire listeners to become a part of the solution. What was most powerful at the press conference was the way young people were practicing what Neal was preaching! A handful of Latinx high school students spoke in support of the Black students.

They had also experienced racism, including being mocked for their accents and told to "go home," even though they were American citizens by birth. I would have thought these students would wish to fly under the radar. Why speak out and risk the backlash of even more abuse?

But those students stepped up to the microphone and pledged their support to the Black students. It reminded me of the promise that "a child shall lead them" from Isaiah 11:6.

Now I'm quoting scripture! It's hard not to sound preachy when discussing matters of race and racism ...

What I hope is that the images of standing together in solidarity and support would inspire readers to act.

Recently in The Atlantic, novelist Richard Russo posed

this question: "Is there hope for us, and for America? Or are we witnessing the end of our experiment in democracy? On bad days, I'm inclined to believe the latter, because we seem to have been assigned the impossible task of putting the toothpaste back in the tube even as others continue to squeeze it."

But I still have hope. Yes, racism continues to be a sin in our society. But you and I, gentle reader, are wiser and more wonderful than perhaps we can imagine. Together, we can bring healing to the world. That'll preach.

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."

Time once again for a great gift

Monday dawned just a bit cool and breezy — after all, it is March — just right for a lightweight jacket as I moved out into the world. But by the time dinner (if you're from here) or lunch (if you're not) rolled around, the combination of that jacket and Mr. Sun made me anything but chilly.



BOB WACHS
Movin' Around

The day grew warm and then warmer and sometime during it, I realized the day on the calendar was March 21 — the first day of spring. It got warmer and stayed warm. Even after sunset, the computer weather spot said temps were still in the 60's.

As a side note here, in the past I would have bet the ranch that you were supposed to use capital letters when naming the seasons of the year in writing. If you didn't, I reasoned, then Spring became spring, that place where water bubbles up out of the ground and Fall became fall, which is what you do when your feet get tangled up in your grandchild's jump rope. However, since those long ago carefree teenage days of mine, Mrs. Mary Riggsbee, the world's greatest high school English teacher, has told me more than once that you don't do that. So, in a continuing effort to be a good student of hers, I follow her guidance.

There's something really special about spring. It's hard to put into words. I've come to appreciate, even like, Winter ... er, I mean, winter. The cold of the air, the smell of wood burning, the taste of homemade vegetable soup, the sight of freshly fallen snow all mean more now than once before. There was a time when I railed against snow. How dare it mess up my schedule and all the important things I had to do.

Then sometime — I don't know for sure when — it became apparent Mother Nature didn't give a flip for my plans. I came to see snow and cold weather as an opportunity to slow down, and now I'm sad when we don't get much. Of course, I still don't want to move to North Dakota, and I can be testy when the snow turns into ice and the power lines come down. It's really hard to watch television in the dark.

Each of the seasons has its own nature and personality. Winter (you still do use capital letters to begin a sentence, no matter the word) is the Old Man who moves slowly. Fall — or autumn, if you prefer — is the Wise Mature One, and summer comes across as a mix of maturity and frivolity (reminds me of me), age and experience coupled with some fun. But spring when it comes is like starting all over again. It's like a child, a new life, a chance to do better.

No wonder so many like it. Spring brings so much good without so much bad, especially in the way of weather. Sure, there can be spring thunderstorms, but there are no hurricanes, no major blizzards, usually not much more than a late frost, and for us with troubled sinuses, there's the advent of pollen and hay fever.

But it also brings the start of baseball and the time when many a young man finds his fancy turning toward thoughts of love. The butterflies show their yellow heads, the spring calves learn they can frolic across the pastures, which themselves are turning green. Windows are flung open. The air just smells better.

I've often wondered why, as good as it feels, spring doesn't last longer. And the answer may be like it is with so many other good things — that we just couldn't handle it if it were much longer. It's sort of like the New York Strip steak — if we had one every day, pretty soon we wouldn't appreciate it ... plus our cholesterol would be out the roof.

But isn't it great right now? Just when it's starting and we realize that it is.

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.



Can we cope with higher gas prices?

Gas prices have been on the rise. As I am writing this column, the average national price is over \$4 per gallon.

People worry about gas prices for two reasons. First, we are a mobile society. Most of us drive to work, to stores for shopping, and to restaurants and entertainment venues for fun. Higher gas prices increase the cost of many of our regular activities.

Second, higher gas prices are also an added cost for businesses that purchase inputs from other producers. Many of these inputs are delivered by trucks and vans. When the price of gas goes up, deliveries of inputs to businesses must cost more. When business costs rise, those higher costs will be passed on to consumers.

Gas prices have actually been rising for a while. Prior to the pandemic, pump prices ranged between \$2.50 and \$3.00 a gallon. When a large part of the economy was shut down and people stayed at home from work, schools and shopping, gas prices plunged to under \$2.00 per gallon.

The lower gas prices during the pandemic made pumping oil, which is the prime energy source of gasoline, less lucrative, so both international and domestic producers of oil cut output. In early 2020 — the height of the pandemic — international oil production dropped 15% and U.S. oil production fell 26%. As the economy recovered from the pandemic and driving increased, international and domestic production increased, but they're still not back to pre-pandemic levels. As a result, gas prices were above \$3 per gallon when 2022 began. This was still lower

than a decade earlier. Interestingly, prior to the war in Ukraine, energy experts forecasted gas prices would trend downward in 2022. They thought oil prices were high enough to encourage more international production and at the same time the increase in driving would slow. The U.S. Department of Energy predicted gas prices would be around \$2.80 by the end of 2022.

Then Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. Oil prices surged by one-third and took gas prices with them. The rapid price increases were driven by two worries. One was whether the world would stop buying Russian oil, which accounts for near 10% of the international oil supply. Less supply with no change in buying always results in a higher price.

There are also worries beyond the energy market. Could the war lead to a direct military confrontation between the two major nuclear powers — the U.S. and Russia? Direct confrontations between these two countries have been avoided, with only a few close calls: the Berlin blockade in 1948, the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 and the Middle East Yom Kippur War in 1973.

With the uncertainty over a U.S.-Russia stare-down, the financial values of necessities, such as precious metals, basic foods like grains, and energy commodities including oil, soar. If this uncertainty moves toward a possibility, these prices will rise even more.

What can be done? The answer is at two levels — what can be done collectively, and what can be done individually? Let's look at the collective options first. One is to increase the supply of oil by drawing down on the U.S. Strategic Oil Reserve, where almost 600 million barrels are stored. If the U.S. relied only on this oil, it would carry us for a

month. Or, if we used the reserve to replace the Russian oil we buy, we could avoid Russian oil for almost three years.

What about ramping up our own oil production? U.S. oil production has been increasing, but it is still 8% under pre-pandemic levels. Like many industries, oil production has faced labor and equipment shortages, as well as unsupportive investors and stricter government rules. But even if these limitations were fixed, many experts think it would be 2023 before production could be back to pre-pandemic days.

One source that could quickly help is Saudi Arabia, which has the ability to swiftly increase oil supplies. However, the Saudis would have to be convinced to give up some of the benefits they are now reaping from the extraordinary high price of oil.

Last, we could try to reduce our use of gasoline by having the government impose limits on gas purchases. Less gas buying would put some downward pressure on both gas and oil prices. I lived through a version of this in the 1970s with odd/even buying days based on your license plate number.

At the individual level, higher gas prices will motivate each of us to try to limit our use of gas. Eliminating unneeded trips and consolidating necessary trips are examples. Substituting remote buying for in-person buying could also help us reduce gasoline usage.

In my opinion, we are in the midst of one of the most serious international events since World War II. I hope that both individually and collectively, how we decide to react to the crisis will ultimately lead to a satisfactory and safe outcome.

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

VIEWPOINTS

College majors vary widely in cost

It costs a lot more to train a future engineer than to train a future journalist. Some smart aleck might suggest the cost differential is entirely understandable, since a poorly trained engineer will tend to wash out of her profession while a poorly trained journalist might well rise to the top of his.

Since my undergraduate degree was in journalism, I will not be that smart aleck.

What I will suggest, however, is that policymakers pay greater attention to the full cost — not just the net price — of obtaining college degrees. A new study coauthored by UNC-Chapel Hill professor Steven Hemelt offers some useful insights about the issue.

Hemelt and his colleagues pulled 17 years of data from a national survey of instruc-

tional costs across public and private institutions. Focusing on 20 major fields of study that collectively account for most student enrollments, they found large differences in instructional costs. Courses in electrical engineering, for example, cost an average of \$434 per credit hour. Courses in communications and media averaged \$185 per credit hour.

While other technical disciplines such as nursing (\$375 an hour), mechanical engineering (\$372), physics (\$281), and computer science (\$274) also had higher-than-average costs, the researchers found that the need to outfit classrooms with high-tech equipment does not explain much of the variance in instructional costs. The key factors are how much professors and instructors are paid and how many students are in their classes.

Yes, it's often more expensive for universities to recruit teachers in technical fields for which there are lucrative alternatives such as private industry or research labs.

Individuals with math, science or economics degrees can often make more outside of the academy than inside it, while the same cannot necessarily be said for those with degrees in education, history or English.

But that's not the only consideration. While professors in economics, political science and business departments receive relatively high salaries, their instructional costs per credit hour come in closer to the middle of the pack because their classes are relatively large.

Education professors and instructors, for example, make an average of \$80,340 a year while their counterparts in economics departments make \$123,720. In terms of instructional cost per credit hour, however, education degrees are more expensive (\$291) than economics degrees (\$218). That's because economics classes tend to be significantly bigger than education classes. In engineering and nursing programs, however, classes must necessarily be smaller, so

their higher professor salaries translate into higher costs per student.

Hemelt and his coauthors also looked at trends over time. While real instructional costs as a whole didn't rise much from 2000 to 2017, there was, again, considerable variation. In some high-demand STEM fields, costs per credit hour actually went down quite a bit as enrollments surged and universities chose to increase class sizes or hire part-time adjuncts rather than bring on a proportionate number of costlier tenure-track professors. On the other hand, in such fields as history, sociology, education and the arts, instructional costs per student credit hour have gone up.

How about online instruction? So far, the researchers discovered, it hasn't really moved the needle. "We find some evidence that an increase in the share of undergraduate coursework completed online is related to lower salary costs," they wrote. "But estimates for the other cost drivers

suggest that any short-run cost savings on salaries are offset by smaller class sizes and an uptick in non-personnel expenditures."

The cost of a given program is, of course, only one side of the ledger. What are the benefits? I think we can all agree that producing well-educated, highly trained and innovative engineers is worth a significant investment of time and money. For other disciplines, though, high and rising instructional costs are harder to justify.

Inevitably, universities will respond by increasing class sizes and making greater use of adjuncts. And non-academic institutions will respond by offering alternative means of teaching and certifying job skills. Both responses make sense to me.

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).



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

Dr. Gilmer and Mr. Hyde

Imagine being a patient of a doctor, one whom you loved and trusted, one who also murdered and mutilated his own father.

Such an experience forms the basis for a new book, "The Other Dr. Gilmer: Two Men, A Murder, and an Unlikely Fight for Justice," by Benjamin Gilmer.

This very real tragedy happened to the patients of the Cane Creek Family Health Center near Asheville where the doctor-murderer, Dr. Vince Gilmer, practiced medicine until June 2004, when one day he strangled his father with a rope, cut off his fingers and left the body on the side of a road in Virginia.

Vince Gilmer returned to the clinic after the murder and practiced medicine as if nothing happened for several days until he was arrested for murder.

Several years after Vince's arrest and trial and imprisonment in the Wallens Ridge prison in Virginia, the book's author, Dr. Benjamin Gilmer, a graduate of Davidson College and East Carolina University's medical school, began to work at the Cane Creek clinic.

Naturally, there was confusion. The two doctors were not related, but understandably the patients thought there must be some connection.

Over time, Benjamin's patients told him more and more about Vince. They said he was a fine doctor and a wonderful person. Vince took special care, sometimes taking troubled patients on walks or giving them great big bear hugs.

Benjamin became more curious about his predecessor with the shared name. His curiosity developed into a compulsion to find out how and why and what actually happened to Vince. "Something wasn't right," he says. "I couldn't let it go."

He began to visit the prison at Wallens Ridge, where Vince was incarcerated.

These visits convinced Benjamin that Vince had serious mental health issues not recognized by or of concern to the prison officials. Without treatment, Vince would never get better and the demons of his mental illness would destroy him.

Benjamin also read hundreds of pages of transcripts of Vince's murder trial. Vince had tried to represent himself. He succeeded only in convincing the judge and jury that he was faking mental illness. They thought he was using the skills and knowledge of a sane physician to try to act mentally disturbed and avoid responsibility for a brutal murder.

From his study of Vince's situation, Benjamin believed that Vince had multiple conditions that could have caused his mental illness. Most important to him was a finding that Vince suffered from Huntington's Disease, an inherited condition that ravages its victims and causes bizarre conduct.

If Vince's condition had been known at the time of his trial, Benjamin believed that he would have, at worst, been found not guilty by reason of insanity. Rather than petition for a new trial which would have taken years, Benjamin and his advisors and volunteer professionals asked Virginia governors for clemency.

First, they petitioned Gov. Terry McAuliffe, hoping he would act before he left office in January 2018. He did not. So Benjamin's volunteer legal helpers pointed to McAuliffe's successor, Ralph Northam, a physician and a neurologist. They thought he would be understanding.

The book ends on a sad note. As his term ended in January 2022, Northam rejected the clemency petition for Vince.

At the end of his book, Benjamin writes, "It is difficult not to react to this latest setback with anger and disillusionment... I am filled with fury and sadness — for Vince, his family, for all the mentally ill people in prison just like him."

A sad ending for this book.

But there is more to the story. Somehow, Gov. Northam got and read a pre-publication copy of "The Other Dr. Gilmer" and was convinced to grant Vince clemency, just in time.

Others who read this fine book will, like Northam, be transformed.

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

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

'All the chances you get, take them'

"All the chances you get, take them," one of my former middle school teachers told me when I saw him recently.



JOCELYN JIMENEZ
Guest column

He used to tell stories and give advice because he was wiser than all of us students, but honestly middle school "me" just liked him to talk about them so it would take up class time and we wouldn't do work. Now that I'm in high school, I realize that some opportunities come amazingly easy to us — even though we don't realize it at times. An example of this is all the clubs and programs that are open to us at school, but most of us would rather not participate in anything. If I'm being honest, I used to be one of those people.

One program I will never regret joining is OLP, Orgullo Latinx Pride, a program housed under the Hispanic Liaison. I have learned good habits, and they always push me to do my work and get better grades; most importantly, they have

taught me that nothing is impossible. I know that may sound a little cheesy, but it's true.

I cannot stress this enough: When they said, "Joining clubs and programs makes your high school experience way better," they definitely were not wrong. You meet your kind of people, you have fun and you get good advice. However, don't join a club just because your friend joined, or the other way around. You will regret it.

I come from a family of immigrants, and they always push me to do my best by giving me the "when I was younger" talk that consisted of lack of opportunities and how lucky I am to be here. Yes, it can get a bit repetitive and annoying, but I still listen. I'm grateful to have opportunities like these. I'm definitely no writer, but I tried it, and that's what counts, right? So hey, get out of your comfort zone and try new things because you may find what you truly love.

This column that I'm writing is definitely random, but why not? There's nothing wrong with learning or trying out new things. I'm a freshman in high school but I'm excited. Why?

Because I've realized I can't always live in the moment; time flies by like crazy. One day I'm sitting in a classroom waiting for class to be over, and the next I'll be throwing my graduation hat upwards in the sky. I'm low-key looking forward to it one day. I have to listen to teachers, though, because sometimes I like to procrastinate or lack motivation to finish my work on time.

Fun fact: I did terribly the first semester because I didn't take anything seriously.

So, if there are any upcoming freshmen reading this, please don't do what I did. Instead, do your work, try new things, join clubs, programs, sports — anything that interests you.

Also, if you're a Hispanic or Latinx student, don't be afraid. Love your heritage and never let anyone treat you badly because of it. Speak up because, like my grandma once said, "*Debajo de nuestro piel, somos lo mismo.*" Under our skin, we are all the same.

Jocelyn Jimenez is a Mexican American 9th grader at Seaforth High School. Born in Chapel Hill, she's been attending Chatham County Schools since she was in kindergarten.

LETTERS

A lesson from the front page

TO THE EDITOR:

The front page of the News + Record's March 17-23 edition had quite a bit of juxtaposition. The headline was celebrating the Northwood girls' basketball championship with a picture of non-racial glee showing on those victorious girls' faces. That was followed by two articles about racially related incidents at other county schools.

Thank you for putting the positive message first!

If you look at the faces of those girls, there is hope. No racial division there. They worked together and won as we all must do.

Robert Waldrop
Chapel Hill

Bi-partisan soundbytes

TO THE EDITOR:

The U.S. Senate has many things to do; some small and some very large and critical. Recently, they passed a bill to make Daylight Savings Time permanent. It's not yet law but one-third the way towards that end; the House and the president

need to weigh in.

The House is now studying the proposal and received input from Steve Calandrillo, professor at the University of Washington. His position (as an expert in law!) was that "it would do everything from save lives to reduce crime, conserve energy, improve health, and boost the economy." He apparently left out world hunger, tinnitus, athlete's foot and significant data that it would do otherwise! I really don't take issue with him but with Congress in general.

Many of the big things Congress needs do are not getting done. The big things usually get press and sometimes the little things as well; Congress wants to show that they are working on behalf of their constituents and the country. Often, though, the big and little things are just run up the flag pole along with double-talk. There is no intention to really do anything but to *appear* to be doing something and taking a position that can be used during election time. Some officials in the state and federal government don't work on policy at all; they work on their re-election! And on spending —

it's always the party in power that spends too much, never the minority party!

As a counterpoint, my wife and I raised our three children and ran our home fairly effectively. We have shared core values, have learned to listen and compromise, and, a few times, disagree. With reasonably good genetics, hard work and a bit of luck, we are doing OK. We have done the work without fanfare. Life has not been without risks, and we have taken a few but live within our means.

The comparison to our home and government does not seem to mirror what happens at the state and federal level. We think it should. So to government leaders: Reduce your TV-time and press interviews and reduce your dependence on lobbyists to do your policy ground work. Roll up your sleeves, dig in and get things done, embracing the art of compromise and budgetary restraint. Eliminate the double-talk gibberish and by all means when asked a question, answer the question asked ... We can read between the lines!

Jim Vanderbeck
Pittsboro

What's on your mind?

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

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

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

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to bhoner3@chathamnr.com; or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

EYESORE

Continued from page A1

boro Mayor Cindy Perry. “I get a lot of comments about it.”

In the coming year, though, the town of Pittsboro may roll up its sleeves to force neglectful property owners — like the owner of the house at 196 Hillsboro St., beside The French Connection — to either bring their buildings up to code or demolish them under threats of fines. Theresa Thompson, Planning Director for the town of Pittsboro, says that after years of not having the staff to enforce the town’s ordinances, the town has contracted with a Greensboro company to identify violators, and maybe update the town’s ordinances.

“Right now we’re in a fact-finding stage,” she said. “We’re identifying properties, updating our codes, and then (we’ll) decide on enforcement.” The last time the town went through this was 2003.

In addition to dilapidated buildings, properties with tall grass and junk cars may see citations

If I’m causing your property to go down in value because I won’t keep mine up, that’s when it’s important to enforce the codes.

DENNIS PINNIX, CEO of State Code Enforcement LLC

from the town by the end of the year.

Thompson reports that 25 properties have been identified as violating the current minimum housing standard, and more may follow. The home at 196 Hillsboro St. is on that list of violators. The building, more than 100 years old, is owned by Deacon Investments LLC, based in Chapel Hill and a developer of many properties in Pittsboro. The company bought it at a forced sale in 2016 for \$149,500. The latest tax assessment has it valued \$180,818.

CEO Dan Deacon agrees that the house is an eyesore, but has plans to restore it, and has applied for tax credits to make it profitable to fix it up.

“It’s one of those things that I wish was a little bit better in shape or a little worse in shape because it would make my decision easier,” he said. “If it was in worst shape I’d just

tear it down, but it has a decent structure to it.

“I love Pittsboro and I’m all for doing things to make it a beautiful town. I think it would behoove everybody to work together.”

Why hasn’t something been done before?

Court records going back 22 years reveal that the town has never taken judicial action to force a property owner to comply with its minimum housing standards, despite state law and local ordinances that would have allowed them to do so.

Thompson, hired about a year and a half ago, can’t explain why enforcement was nearly nonexistent before she got here, but says the codes are there to protect the safety and welfare of citizens.

Dennis Pinnix, CEO of State Code Enforcement LLC, which signed a contract to do code



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Another view of the house on Hillsboro Street in need of repair.

enforcement for Pittsboro in July of last year, said ordinances are also there to protect the value of adjacent properties.

“If I’m causing your property to go down in value because I won’t keep mine up, that’s when it’s important to enforce the codes,” Pinnix said.

It gets even more trickier if the property just looks bad, but isn’t being used for habitation — like the old Village Motel, behind Cafe Diem on Hillsboro Street. It’s also on the main road into town from the north.

Built as the Shady Rest Motel in 1955, the concrete block building with rusted ironwork and

a parking lot of crumbling asphalt is owned by Snuffy and Pam Smith.

“The people we got it from ran it in the ground,” Snuffy Smith said. “It was pretty raggedy. I had plans the day I bought it to turn it into retail and some artist studios, and one day led to the next... and it got filled up with junk.”

He now uses it as a storage facility.

“It’s not up to code for a motel and would need extensive renovations to (rent out the space),” he added. “But from my point of view, it’s good enough for what I do with it.”

Perry, the mayor, agrees.

“Appearance Commissions are sort of tricky because what is quaint and funky may very well be, in someone else’s opinion, a total disaster,” she said. “You can’t take away somebody’s property rights without a fairly complex process ... the solution may very well be with the market.”

Fortunately for Pittsboro, it’s attracting plenty of buyers.

“I certainly think the historic corridor and downtown need to have properties that are appealing and interesting,” Perry said, “but I’m just not certain whether I think the solution is to make a local code or not.”

RACISM

Continued from page A1

tunity for students, staff and families to engage in meaningful dialogue.

These new announcements come a week after a community rally held March 14 in response to the mock slave auction involving students. The “auction” took place prior to a baseball practice at J.S. Waters, located on Goldston, on March 1. A mother of one of the targeted students, Ashley Palmer, first made the incident public in a March 4 Facebook post, and the Raleigh News & Observer reported Tuesday that the incident occurred on March 1 — not March 4, as has been previously widely reported.

That community rally, held by organizers from CORE — Chatham Organizing for Racial Equity — at Pittsboro Presbyterian Church preceded the school board’s monthly meeting, and drew about 100 people. Palmer was among the speakers at the rally; another 20 community members spoke at the board’s meeting that evening.

‘Help with the healing process’

Chatham County Schools Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson said in a Monday email message to the News + Record that his administration will use open and honest conversations and restorative practices “to help with the healing process for what has transpired” at J.S. Waters and at other schools.

The school system’s goal, he said, could only be achieved through recognizing the reality of the behaviors that made the incident occur.

“We should always strive to be better,” he said. “Demeaning another person is never minor. Our goal is to be a safe, nurturing, respectful environment for all students. Behavior that runs counter to that is harmful and should be recognized for what it is.

“We have to make it clear that racist, homophobic and xenophobic behavior among either staff or students is unacceptable and will not be tolerated,” he added. “The consequences for any such actions will be dealt with swiftly and severely. Our staff will continue to take part in equity training opportunities across the district.”

Jackson also stressed the need to continue to engage in conversations “with our community members and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders such as CORE, the NAACP, the Boys & Girls Club, the (Chatham) Education Foundation and others to foster support and understanding. Our community must be part of the path forward.”

But Jackson also said the school system didn’t have sole responsibility for this work. When queried about what “asks” his administration would make of the community, he responded with three specifics:

- “We need strong partnerships with our stakeholders, hearing their views and ideas, and relying on their support in helping us build a better district.
- “Continued training for our staff.
- “An open dialogue about issues facing not just the school district, but our community so we can work together to forge a path forward.”

Changing attitudes takes education, time and effort, Jackson said in his statement.

“It can’t be the work of just the district — this needs to be a community effort,” he said, adding that the district has pledged transparency.

“We want to be transparent with our community as we take steps to root out and eliminate such behavior and to work toward healing with our staff, students and their families,” he said. “Chatham County Schools reiterates that racist, homophobic and xenophobic behaviors are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We will ensure safe and respectful schools.”

No adult witnesses, no video

Chatham County Schools clarified to the News + Record on Sunday that no adults were involved in the mock slave auction and no video of the event exists. School policy limits its ability to share other specifics, including punishment for any involved students.

At the CCS board of education’s March 14 meeting, students, parents, community leaders and concerned citizens spoke directly to members of the school board and Superintendent Jackson, sharing their thoughts and feelings following the first news reports of the “slave auction.” The incident has since attracted national attention.

At the conclusion of that meeting’s public comments portion, Jackson outlined a proposal to directly address the school system’s response to future racist incidents like the one at J.S. Waters — a set of recommendations that would amend Chatham County School policies, regulations and the student code of conduct. He also made a promise before everyone attending that meeting which was reflected in the list of consequences he provided to the News + Record.

“Those who participate in acts that demean any person are acting outside of the values of our school system, and will be held accountable using every means at our disposal,” Jackson said.

The proposal he presented to the school board last Monday was comprised of four recommendations, including a commitment to work closely with community members to solicit their input in finding a path forward.

“I’m asking this board to look at our staffing needs to ensure that we have the tools and the staff to appropriately reach out to our community — to support these community

agencies — and to work with our parents who are crying out to us to help and that we have a pathway for those parents to be able to say very clearly that we hear you, and that we are going to address this matter as quickly as possible,” Jackson said at the meeting.

Public trust at stake

Since last Monday’s meeting, community leaders have had a chance to reflect on Jackson’s plan and community reaction to the mock auction.

Stephanie Terry, organizing director for CORE, described the variety of speakers at the March 14 rally as a reflection of the nonprofit’s overall philosophy in addressing incidents of racial intimidation, hatred and intolerance in Chatham County.

“At CORE, we are hoping to show the value of addressing the situation with an organized approach,” Terry told the News + Record. “And what we mean by that is, all of us members and stakeholders in this community coming together, first, because we’re in relationship with one another, but second, because the values of our community have been violated. “We’re coming together around our values, and through a process of doing an analysis and assessment of the problem in a way that where we can understand where the solutions are — where the best levers for change are — then we as a community can begin to hold accountable everyone that is involved in this,” Terry added.

Accountability proved to be a common thread in the comments of the students, parents, community leaders and concerned citizens who spoke at the board meeting and the rally.

Mary Nettles, president of Chatham County Community NAACP, was such speaker. Nettles commended Jackson for the proposed changes to school policies but pointed out the proposal outlined on March 14 represents a first step in addressing an issue that has been simmering since the integration of the public schools in Chatham, more than 50 years ago. Nettles grew up in Pittsboro and attended Chatham schools.

“Public trust in the Chatham County school system depends directly on whether the present administration, teachers and staff take prompt, concrete, clear and just actions that change the present totally unacceptable policy and behavior,” Nettles told the News + Record. “Dr. Jackson did not make this policy nor create this behavior, which dates back decades, but he is now responsible for it and so is the school board.”

Underlying systemic racism

The Rev. Carl Thompson, senior pastor of the Word of Life Christian Outreach Center in Siler City, also spoke at last Monday’s board meeting. In his remarks, he proposed the formation of a task force

— composed of community leaders and representatives of the school system — to develop a strategy to address the underlying issue of systemic racism in the Chatham County Schools.

Thompson, a former Chatham County commissioner, also commended Jackson, stating he deserved a great deal of credit for the actions he has taken thus far in response to the J.S. Waters incident. Still, Thompson said, there’s much to be done to protect students of color from future incidents racist bullying within schools here.

“Dr. Jackson is the first [superintendent] I’ve seen who said publicly that the institutionalized racism in the Chatham County Schools has to stop,” Thompson told the News + Record. “But there’s been a culture in which people have been protected and there has been no accountability. These people at the local level in the school system have been left to deal with these situations in the past, so I think [Jackson’s] challenge is going to be to change that culture.”

Thompson said the idea of a task force is simply a way for the Chatham County Schools to use the wealth of social capital at its disposal.

“The whole thing behind the community coming together with the school system is that if we’re working in concert together, and if they will listen to what we’re saying, and when those issues arise that need to be dealt with, we can advise them and help them in solving the problems,” he said.

CORE, which was founded in 2016, was built on the idea of building social capital by the creation of a multi-race, multi-faith and multi-class coalition of community organizations — making it an ideal partner for the Chatham County Schools in its effort to address systemic racism in the school system, Terry said.

“We’re going to learn together,” Terry said. “We’re going to learn what relational power means. We’re going to learn how to be political together. We’re going to learn how to hold so-called powerful people accountable together. We’re going to learn how to act together. We’re going to learn how to reflect together.”

And when it’s over and addressed, she said, “We will still continue to be together, deepening our relationships so that if other issues arise, we have the infrastructure, the capacity to be able to make the changes that we need.”

More response from CCS

Nancy Wykle, public information officer for Chatham County Schools, acknowledged that the central office continues to receive inquiries from concerned citizens about the mock auction at J.S. Waters School. The top priority of the school system, though, remains how to prevent future racially charged incidents from taking place on school grounds.

“While this matter has been regrettable and extremely

traumatic for all involved, our focus is now on supporting the students impacted and rebuilding community, trust and relationships at the school,” Wykle said. “We want to provide a final update on this matter and ask that moving forward we focus our full energy, effort, resources and attention towards meeting the immediate and long-term needs of our students and setting expectations for the entire district moving forward.”

Wykle told the News + Record that Jackson issued a directive last week to all principals and leadership staff in the school district containing guidance on “how future issues of racist, homophobic and xenophobic remarks and acts will be addressed and a consistent set of consequences.”

“This directive is effective immediately and principals will begin communicating these expectations [this] week,” Wykle added.

Revising school policies and regulations, issuing directives and amending the student code of conduct are a good start, Terry said, but ultimately the onus is on Chatham County residents — parents, students, community leaders and concerned citizens — to demand the school system make the changes necessary to prevent future incidents of racial hatred, bigotry and white supremacy from occurring on school grounds.

“Through the process of organizing, and through the process of people dialoguing together — about their concerns about the things that are affecting their families — that process itself begins again, to raise the possibility of being able to make the changes that you need,” Terry said. “We have the means and the agencies to transform the institutions that we’ve inherited; we only have to understand our role in it, and work together as a collective.”

Meanwhile, late Monday, CCS released a new statement outlining additional steps the district is taking in the aftermath of the incident, which include:

- Meetings; district leadership has met with principals and assistant principals.
 - Sharing clarified expectations.
 - Continued use of restorative practices to support students, staff and schools in the healing process.
 - Identifying additional training for administrators, staff and teachers.
 - Continued collaboration with community partners and other key stakeholders.
 - Holding focus groups and restorative circles within schools to provide an opportunity for students, staff and families to engage in meaningful dialogue.
- “We reiterate that our goal is for all students to feel safe and welcome in their school,” the statement reads. “Chatham County Schools expects our students and staff to be respectful, mindful of others and engage in appropriate behavior.”

HEALTH

Continued from page A1

me, but she can't come visit me because she can't take the vaccine," said Herrera, a longtime volunteer for the Hispanic Liaison, in Spanish. "... So I'm doing this because I want to see my mother. I want to hug her. I want all this to end — I want it to end now, because it's closed us off, it's clipped our wings, as they say."

Herrera is one of four specially trained advisors piloting the Hispanic Liaison's new COVID-19 Lay Health Advisor Program, which seeks to bring COVID-19 information and resources to three predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhoods in Siler City and overcome any remaining vaccination barriers residents may face.

Launched in February, the program trained four residents of Love's Creek, Santa Fe and Country Living mobile home parks to educate their neighbors about COVID-19, make the case for getting vaccinated or boosted, and connect them with testing and vaccination resources.

"This is about peers helping peers, peers reaching peers," the Liaison's executive director, Ilana Dubester, told the News + Record. "In the layout advisor model, it really is about, like, 'Who do you believe, and who do you trust?' So, it's about friends and neighbors. It's about, you know, the information coming from the closest source to you, being your neighbor or somebody who's in your particular situation, perhaps."

Paid by the hour, the Liaison's lay health advisors work in pairs — each with one adult and one youth. In Love's Creek, Herrera visits houses with Jordan-Matthews High School student Kenia Uribe-Arraiza between six to 12 hours a week, depending on when their schedules coincide.

Likewise, Jordan-Matthews senior Ervin Martinez, 17, has been knocking on doors in Santa Fe and Country Living with Lupe Tavera, his mom. Both Martinez and Uribe-Arraiza form part of the Hispanic Liaison's youth program, Orgullo Latinx Pride, through which Martinez said he'd come to participate in the Liaison's lay health advisor program.

"The reason being is because knowing me and my mother, we like to take care of people," Martinez told the News + Record. "We really like to take care of, like, my friends. ... Knowing that COVID really did have a massive effect on, like, everyone around the planet, I wanted to at least help in some way, to see if everyone's all right, if they want to get the vaccine shot, see if we can motivate them to at



Courtesy of the Hispanic Liaison

The Hispanic Liaison's COVID-19 Lay Health Advisors began knocking on doors after completing an all-day training inside Iglesia Metodista El Camino UMC in Siler City. UNC's Dr. Michael Herce (back middle) led the training session in February.

... (i)t gives them an extra level of confidence when peers go and talk to their neighbors about also their experience with vaccines.

ILANA DUBESTER, executive director, Hispanic Liaison

least take the vaccine."

All advisors have been fully vaccinated. Some, too, even had doubts themselves about the vaccines at first. When Martinez first became eligible for a Pfizer shot last spring, he recalled, his mother didn't want him to get the shot.

"The vaccine came out way too early compared to other vaccines," he said. "For example, the Ebola vaccine that came out like, what, 10 years after the Ebola infection came out in Africa, (and) knowing that the (COVID-19) vaccine came early — that got my mom scared."

Ultimately, she relented, Martinez said, and a few months later, after much encouragement from her son, Dubester and other Liaison staff, Tavera got a Pfizer shot herself — and the next two after that.

"These are folks that also may know a lot of their neighbors and certainly do know a lot of their neighbors — so not a stranger, not a health department, not an 'authority,' but somebody who also had doubts and had questions and was receiving information from all kinds of places, and wasn't sure what to believe," Dubester said. "And so, they have a lot of really personal experience that they can relate to their neighbors about their own journey to becoming somebody who now believes in vaccines, and who got vaccinated."

'Reach the hard to reach'

Planning for the Liaison's COVID-19 Lay

Health Advisor Program first began last fall in partnership with UNC's ACT UP project, an initiative helping local health departments and organizations provide COVID-19 resources and education to historically marginalized communities in Chatham and surrounding Piedmont counties.

Besides their own initiatives from March 2020 onward, the Liaison has worked with UNC for over a year and half to organize community vaccination clinics and testing events, as well as educate their Spanish-speaking clients about COVID-19 vaccines, testing and treatments. Two years into their efforts, they've taken care of the people eager to get vaccinated, and even those who just needed a little convincing.

Now, Dubester said, they're down to "the folks who need even more convincing."

"We decided to launch this program as a way to reach the hard to reach," she said, "not only folks that may need some more information about the vaccines, and how safe and effective they are, but also, that maybe are facing other barriers — like work always during the week, so they don't even know where they might be able to get vaccinated on weekend, or don't have transportation or whatever it might be — so that we can uncover those and help folks overcome those barriers."

The best way to do that, they concluded, was through the lay health advisor model — something that's "been around forever," Dubester said, to reach and educate people via those they know and trust.

"It's not some organization or somebody from a health department that perhaps comes with an agenda, so to speak, and



Courtesy of the Hispanic Liaison

COVID-19 Lay Health Advisors Kenia Uribe-Arraiza (left) and Maria Herrera begin knocking on neighbors' doors in late February in Love's Creek Mobile Home Park.

as folks that they don't know," she said. "Establishing yourself as 'I am your neighbor, and I'm here to share information and talk about this,' disarms people in a way that helps them open up to have the conversation. It doesn't mean everybody is going to change your mind, but at least it plants some food for thought, another way of looking at information about COVID now that you've heard it from your neighbor."

In the beginning, the program encompassed four neighborhoods, six lay health advisors and an earlier start date, but another COVID surge, snow and scheduling conflicts bumped it down to three neighborhoods, four advisors and a Feb. 19 launch date.

"The other pair was in the old Justice Mobile Home park," Dubester said, "and unfortunately, they weren't able to attend the training, so we couldn't proceed with them."

All four aspiring advisors attended a full-day training session on Feb. 19 led in Spanish by UNC's Dr. Michael Herce inside Iglesia Metodista El Camino UMC in Siler City. There, they learned all they needed to know about COVID testing options, the three authorized vaccines and how they work, as well as how to help people make vaccination or booster plans.

"In addition to a presentation and discussion about these topics, the workshop was comprised of participatory, hands-

on practice activities to prepare the lay health advisors for scenarios they may encounter during home visits in the community," Herce told the News + Record. "For example, the lay health advisors practiced responding to a community member who wants to get vaccinated but faces real-world barriers like transportation difficulties, or community members who believe COVID-19 misinformation and are skeptical or confrontational during an encounter."

Then the Monday after training, the real work began: All four went out for the first time to their assigned communities to knock on doors under staff supervision. Dubester accompanied Martinez and Tavera around Santa Fe Circle, while Deputy Director Hannia Benitez accompanied Herrera and Uribe-Arraiza around Love's Creek.

"That went great," Dubester said. "They were doing great, and they really absorbed a lot of the information that we threw at them and got very comfortable doing this, and so now they're on their own knocking on doors."

Of the six houses she visited with Martinez and Tavera, four agreed to a follow-up phone call with the Hispanic Liaison to set up vaccination appointments.

"And so that's already a huge success right there," Dubester said with a laugh. "Some folks just have questions about it, right? 'Well, is it really my turn to get a booster?' Or, 'I've been thinking about it, but wasn't quite sure.' And so, it gives them an extra level of confidence when peers go and talk to their neighbors about also their experience with vaccines."

During their visits, advisors also conduct a short, anonymous census to determine a neighborhood's vaccination levels and distribute "goodie bags" with COVID-19 testing and vaccination information.

"And we definitely are finding people who are not vaccinated or children who are not vaccinated or folks who didn't get their booster, but (who are) interested, that want to," Dubester said. "And so, to make it really simple, we will host mobile clinics in their neighborhood."

In fact, they've already planned their first mobile clinic in Country Living at Fontana Circle, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 2.

"I was super excited to get this (program) off the ground ... This is great," Dubester said. "We're thrilled to be doing it and also that it's already yielding positive results."

'That's the most beautiful thing'

Since beginning her work in mid-February, Herrera and her partner have connected various people with the Liaison to set up vaccination appointments. Most, she said, are already vaccinated and many, too, have already taken the booster shot — or at least, so they say.

"I have no choice but to believe them because I am not sure that they have already done it," she said. "But I want to believe that yes, they are already vaccinated, that they have been vaccinated for their own good, for the good of their family and their community. We are in the same boat and if we don't go together, we are all going to sink."

When her and Uribe-Arraiza's schedules coincide, they usually spend between six to 12 hours a week visiting their neighbors with information and resources.

"Like, at first, they're surprised because they say, like, 'What are you advertising? What are you selling?'" she said with a laugh. "'We're not selling anything, and we're not advertising. We are here to offer you an information packet. We are working as lay health advisors.'"

About 95%, Herrera said, have been "very open," asking questions and listening to what they have to say. The other 5%, meanwhile, have "shut the door in their faces," which she said only inspires her to work even harder to help the rest.

For Herrera, the work's been a rewarding experience — and a small way she can make a big difference.

"I have one more reason to smile because we have visited homes with people who have already had COVID, who were in a coma," she said, choking up, "and who tell me, 'Wow, it's good that you are doing this program, that you are talking to people, because if someone had come to talk to me before, I wouldn't have had COVID. I wouldn't have been in a coma. But there was no one to come knock on my door, reach my heart, talk to me and explain to me why you should get the vaccine.' That's the most beautiful thing."

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

Siler City Lions Club PLATE SALE April 9, 2022

First Missionary Baptist Church
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Siler City, NC

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1 Meat, 2 Sides, Drink and Dessert \$10.00

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Brenda Nall • Andrew Nall

NEWS BRIEF

Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District announces opportunity to apply for cost share program

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District announces an opportunity to apply for cost share through the North Carolina Ag Cost Share Program.

The Agricultural Cost Share Program is a voluntary program offering technical and financial assistance for installing Best Management Practices to address agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Eligible applicants include owners and renters of agricultural operations who have a water quality issue on their farm and have been in business for three years. Cost share opportunities include the installation of Best Management Practices

for livestock waste management, stream protection, erosion management or agricultural pollution prevention.

This is a voluntary program offering technical and financial assistance for installing Best Management Practices to address agricultural nonpoint source pollution.

Applications are currently being accepted. All applications received will be evaluated and ranked according

to District priorities with concern to water quality.

To apply for technical and financial assistance for the installation of Best Management Practices, individuals may contact the Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District Office at www.chathamcountync.gov/swcd, or by email via joe.trimnal@chatham-countync.gov, or by calling 919-545-8353.

—CN+R staff reports

COVID

Continued from page A1

testing and lowered isolation periods for COVID positive patients — and are now shifting focus on learning to live with COVID-19, rather than complete eradication of the virus.

Chatham health officials have voiced optimism, saying community spread has decreased, vaccination rates are steady and hospitalizations have decreased after the wave of Omicron cases.

Public Health Director Mike Zelek said COVID metrics for Chatham County have been “trending in the right direction for a long time.”

“In mid-January, we saw case rates that we hadn’t seen before in the pandemic,” Zelek said. “We were eager for those case counts to come back down to reasonable levels, and these days they have.”

During the Omicron surge, Chatham County experienced a stark increase in both cases and hospitalizations, according to Eric Wolak, Chatham Hospital’s chief operations officer. He said after the peak in January, hospitalizations have shifted downward — and as of this week, Wolak said he wasn’t aware of any COVID patients

currently being treated at the hospital.

“The hospitalization (rates) exceeded what it was the previous winter,” he said. “That peak ended in January and has gone down since then.”

NCDHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley announced a new metric system and guidance for how local entities should respond to the threat of COVID-19 in their own communities. Kinsley focused on four new principles for the state’s shift in its COVID response: empowering individuals, maintaining health system capacity, collaborating with local partners and prioritizing equity.

Focusing on these four goals, he said, will “ensure a fast and fair response that improves the health, safety and well-being of all North Carolinians.”

“People want to return to their normal routines, which they can do because of free and effective vaccines, boosters and other tools that help manage our risk,” Kinsley said. “We worked hard to get to this moment — we are now prepared in ways that could not have been two years ago.”

In response to the new state guidance, Zelek said vaccinations and community exposure to COVID have led to phasing in loosened restrictions.

“What we expected was

as the Omicron surge passed, we were going to be treating this pandemic differently,” Zelek said. “It was a staged approach to where we are now, which is saying we’ve had vaccines for 15 months or so, we’ve gone through several waves of pandemic, we’ve learned a lot over the last two years, and we’re at a point with cases now have come back down to levels where we really should be looking at this differently.”

The “phases” Zelek referred to included the recent end to mask mandates, the updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shortening the isolation and quarantine period for COVID-positive persons and the increased accessibility to testing across the county and state.

But Zelek still maintains people should be mindful of the environment before they decide to permanently abandon masks or social distancing.

“(Protective measures) may look different depending on settings,” he said. “In your higher risk settings, your congregate living and long-term care facilities — where the virus spreads more easily and where the population is often more vulnerable — you put in

place different strategies and maybe in a broader community setting, your gatherings and things like that.”

Wolak also aired similar concerns as Zelek, warning residents to not be too care-free when it comes to COVID protective measures. He said during the latest surge, community spread directly impacted the hospital’s ability to provide care, particularly due to staffing shortages due to COVID related absences.

“Employees of ours would get COVID, and even if they had a very mild form of COVID, they would be out for 10 days, making staffing very challenging,” Wolak said. “We were up to about 15 people (absent) at one time, which would represent about 10% of our workforce.”

From the hospital’s perspective, Wolak said he wants Chatham residents to be cautious — while not panicked — as restrictions continue to be loosened or done away with.

“I totally understand the trajectory we’re in, and I also appreciate that COVID numbers are decreasing,” he said. “There’s normalcy returning, and I’m thankful for that. However, I do think there needs to be caution with that.”

Both Zelek and Wolak are also looking out for

the subvariant of Omicron, known as BA.2, which could lead to another surge in Chatham County.

According to health experts, this new variant is 1.5 times more transmissible than the Omicron variant and has already made its way into the United States, particularly in some parts of New York, according to the CDC.

Zelek said research indicates vaccines are still providing high levels of protection against the BA.2 variant, still proving to be the most effective tool in preventing severe illness and death.

“It (the variant) may have some ability to bypass some of our treatments, similar to what Omicron did in some of the monoclonal antibodies treatments,” he said. “To me, that’s just more impetus for making sure you’re up to date on your vaccinations because that protection on the front end is the most important.”

Chatham County’s vaccination rate is lingering around 64% for ages 5 and up, while the state rate is at 65% for the same age group. According to Wolak, the vaccination rate in the county and state need to increase even more to have the most effect on curbing future surges.

“Chatham County has

a fairly low vaccination rate,” he said. “Ideally you would want something around 80 to 90%, but we’ve got a long way to go to get even close to that. Five and up here is only 64%, and we really need to be much, much higher to have a community benefit.”

As the pandemic continues to evolve and new variants continue to emerge, Zelek said he and the health department will continue to monitor community metrics to make sure Chatham County residents take the necessary steps to protect themselves and loved ones around them.

“We’ve been through change before with the pandemic because the pandemic has changed and our understanding of the virus has changed, and to me, that’s a good thing,” he said. “It can get very confusing and certainly public health at all levels could have done and continue to do a better job at communicating what that looks like, but I think just the changes and pivots are just reality and a necessity. That’s what public health should do is learn and then reflect that guidance in the clearest way possible.”

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

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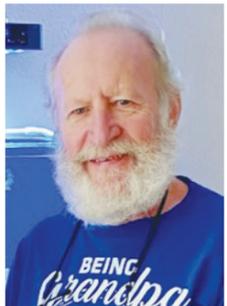
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OBITUARIES

THOMAS HENRY CLEGG



Thomas Henry Clegg was born April 22, 1948, in Sanford, N.C., and passed away on March 1, 2022, at his daughter's home in New Port Richey, Florida, where he had lived for the past year.

He spent that year spoiling his grandkids, going to all of their games, and even handling daily bus stop duty. In his younger years he was a volunteer fireman in Pittsboro and worked as an engineer for the state of North Carolina, before becoming an engineer for Duke Power, where he worked for many years. After having a heart attack in 1995, he retired, becoming a stay-at-home dad and custom knife maker, even having knives displayed in an exhibit at the South Carolina State Museum.

"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 loved hot rods, Harley Davidson motorcycles, and beach music and was a lifelong Tar Heels fan. 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 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.

His goofy jokes, great stories and incredibly loving heart made him one of a kind and he will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

ROBERT WILSON DAVENPORT



January 6, 1934 – March 10, 2022 Robert (Bob) Wilson Davenport, 88, of Apex, N.C., passed away at The Laurels on March 10, 2022. He was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, on January 6, 1934, son of the late Elizabeth Millen and Albert Davenport.

Bob served as a Police Officer in Massachusetts and later relocated to Chatham County, where he became a construction foreman on the Jordan Lake building project operating heavy equipment. Bob was involved in CC United and AARP. Bob loved the Lord and was a member of Bells Baptist Church. He created a Clown Ministry, sang in the choir, and he and his wife were pillars of the community for visiting others. Bob loved drawing and hand carving; he won multiple blue ribbons at the State Fair for his carvings. Bob enjoyed whittling in his shed, growing blueberries, (as he said with a grin) "talking to the birds," and his Siamese cat.

Bob is survived by his wife, Betty Faye, of 38 years; faithful friends, Donald and Elaine Casey (Grafton, Massachusetts); his daughter, Roberta Davenport Bolt (Darrell), (Sun City, Arizona); his son, Robert Gould (Fitchburg, Massachusetts); sister, Elinor Nason (Long Island, N.Y.); half-sister, Marcia Marshall (Grafton, Massachusetts); step-daughter, Glenda Gilbert (William); and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents; his step-dad Ralph Burke; half-sister June Diani; James Kelley (whom Bob raised as his own); and grandson, Robert Carroll.

Bob will be at rest in the Bells Baptist Church Cemetery. Donations in his name can be made to 1274 Farrington Rd., Apex, NC 27523.

No services are planned at this time.

Tributes and condolences may be made online at: www.cremationsocietync.com.

ROY LEE SPIVEY

Roy Lee Spivey, 65, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at his home.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 26, at 1 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Robert Thomas officiating.

He was born in Lee County on July 12, 1956, to the late Neil Archie Spivey Sr. and Margaret Ammons Spivey. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by several siblings. Roy retired from Center Heating & Air after over 30 years of service.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Mary; son, Tyson Spivey of Garner; brother, Clarence Norris aka Neil Archie Spivey Jr. of Sanford; and one grandson.

Condolences may be made at www.bridgescameronfuneralhome.com.

ELIJAH SHARONE WOODS

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

Graveside services were held at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13, 2022, at Buffalo Cemetery.

Elijah was the son of Sharronda Woods and Anthony Chalmers, born October 24, 2003.

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.

NANCY FRANCES JOHNSON JONES



A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2022, in memory of the December 4th passing of Nancy Frances Johnson Jones. A program of remembrances, music, and persimmon pudding will begin at 11 a.m. at The Lamb's Chapel, 415 Roxboro Road (Hwy. 49 North), Haw River, N.C. 27258. Pastor Ken Smith and Minister Debra Chandler will preside.

Frances, known to family as Shorty or Frankie, was born in 1938

in Chatham County to parents Nancy Moody Johnson and James Dewey Johnson. She was the devoted wife of the late Thomas Winfred Jones, the love of her life. She is survived by their daughter, Janet; several cousins, in-laws, nieces and nephews and their spouses and children.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by siblings James William Johnson (surviving wife, Nadine Lane Johnson) of Staley, Elmer Douglas Johnson of Las Vegas, Baby Boy Johnson of the home in Bonlee, Annie Marie Thomas of Broadway, Mary Dell Smith of Bear Creek and several nieces, nephews, and a grandnephew.

Also left to cherish memories are friendships formed during her early years in Chatham and, after marriage, the many decades lived as a resident of Graham, N.C. She will be remembered for her love of God's creation, notably family, flowers, dogs and birds, and her fervent love for our country, its military sons, daughters, and families. She was loved by many for her ability to comfort with a consoling or encouraging word, a helping hand, a shoulder to lean on, and the benefit of her personal faith in God. His son Jesus, and His Holy Spirit. For these (and her "spunk") she will be missed and not soon forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of your choice. Frankie was especially fond of supporting men in addiction, women and families in crisis, and animal rescue groups.

Condolences may be offered online at www.piedmontcremationservice.com or to the family at P.O. Box 1232, Graham, N.C. 27253.

LISA RENE PHILLIPS



Lisa René Phillips, 60, of Goldston, passed away on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

Ms. Phillips was born in Lee County on October 25, 1961, the daughter of the late Burnice "B.F." and Hazel Beal Phillips. Lisa was a member of Antioch Baptist Church. She spent her working years with the Lee County Department of Social Services. Lisa adored her family, enjoyed watching Carolina basketball, and made the best pecan pies.

She is survived by her brothers, Larry F. Phillips, Jerry L. Phillips and wife Mistie, both of Goldston; niece, Lorie Johnson and husband Jeremiah of Goldston; nephews, Matt Phillips of Siler City, Caleb and Seth Phillips, both of Goldston; great-niece and nephew, Kristen and Carson Garner.

The family received friends on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Antioch Baptist Church, followed by a funeral service at 2 p.m. with Rev. Doug Griffith and Rev. Mike Garner officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Antioch Baptist Church, 3825 Bonlee-Carbonton Road, Goldston, N.C. 27252.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Phillips family.

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

BRYAN KEITH VANCELEAVE SR.

Bryan Keith Vanceleave Sr., 62, of West End passed away on Sunday, March 13, 2022.

EMMA LEE (SMALL) MCNEILL

Emma Lee Small McNeill, 75, of Sanford passed away Monday, March 14, 2022, at UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

VIRGINIA MAE (WHITE) PAGE

Virginia Mae White Page, 77, of Greensboro passed away on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the Ashton Place Health and Rehabilitation in McLeansville.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

EMMA JANE REESE

Emma Jane Reese, 66, of Sanford passed away on Friday, March 11, 2022, at her daughter's home.

Professional services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

EVERETT TYSON

Everett Tyson, 80, of Siler City passed away Monday, March 14, 2022.

Services provided by Knotts and Son Funeral Home.

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

Mavis Arzallis 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.

ANN KIRKMAN DOWDY

Ann Kirkman Dowdy, 82, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at Universal Healthcare in Ramesur.

A graveside service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at Asbury United Methodist Church, with Rev. Donald Burns and Rev. Jimmy Talton officiating.

Dowdy was born in Chatham County on April 25, 1939, the daughter of Cecil and Helen Rosser Kirkman.

A member of Asbury United Methodist Church, she served as treasurer there. In addition to her parents, Ann is preceded in death by her husband, William "Jeter" Dowdy; brother, J.T. Kirkman; and sisters, Jean Chester and Marjorie McCulloch.

Memorials may be made to the Asbury UMC Cemetery Fund, 809 Asbury Church Rd., Sanford, N.C. 27330.

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

ALFORD AUTRY GRAHAM

Alford Autry Graham of Olivia passed away on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at his home.

A visitation will be held Thursday, March 24, 2022, from 6-8 p.m. at Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home. The funeral will be held Friday, March 25, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Olivia Presbyterian Church with Rev. Bob Johnson presiding. Burial will follow in church cemetery.

Autry was the son of the late Oatha and Mamie Graham. He was preceded in death by a sister, Durene McLean, brothers, Eugene, William, Thurston, Hubert, and O'Bryant; a son, Ricky Dean; one granddaughter and a great-granddaughter.

He is survived by his wife of almost 63 years, Barbara Gilmore Graham; a son, Al Graham Jr.; two daughters, Denise Graham Schrecken-gost, and Crystal Graham Copas; 16 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

He started his career at Sanford Furniture Company, then worked at Soco-Lowell before finishing his career at Allied/Honeywell with 30 years as a maintenance machinist. He was a lifelong member of Olivia Presbyterian Church where he served in many capacities. He was a recipient of the State of North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

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.

CHURCH NEWS

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to 11 a.m.
• For ordering information, contact Michael Dowdy, 919-548-3993; Eric Shaw, 919-548-2406 or Jeff Wilson, 919-548-2131.

NEW BRIEF

Chatham Community Library announces Walk & Talk Book Club

PITTSBORO — Chatham Community Library is launching the Walk & Talk Book Club on Mondays this spring. Participants and staff will meet to talk about books they have read, or plan to read, while walking regularly at the library.

The club meets from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays from March 21 through April 11 at the library, located at 197 N.C. Hwy. 87 N., Pittsboro. Participants will meet at the bike rack outside the library entrance. Anyone age 16 years and older who visits the library, walks the path at Central Carolina Community College, or wants to share reading recommendations with others can attend.

Club organizers says it's an opportunity to establish a fun and healthy habit, exercise in a safe setting, meet new people, and practice social skills which may have grown rusty during the pandemic. Building community and increasing options for healthy living are at the foundation of libraries, and Chatham Community Library is exploring ways to increase health literacy and support lifelong learning.

The Walk & Talk Book Club will take place rain or shine. No registration is required, and participation is at the individual's own risk.

Residents may visit the libraries' web-site www.chathamcountync.gov/library, or contact the library at 919-545-8084 or rita.vanduin@chathamlibraries.org, for more information on this and other events and programs.
—CN+R staff reports

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A parent's guide to talking with kids about the Ukraine war

BY BUCK RYAN
Special to the News + Record

I feel the need to begin with a trigger warning. Nothing too traumatic, just the foul mouth of a teenager.

Here's what one of my former star journalism students, now a mom, posted on Facebook:

Quote from my 8th grader (who asked to listen to NPR on the drive to school to follow news from Ukraine): "I feel like I might be happier now if I was an ill-informed dumbass."

I feel the kid's pain, not to mention the anxiety of any parent with smart children curious about such a sad and horrific topic that seems impossible to ignore.

So how should parents talk with their kids about the Ukraine war? Are there valuable lessons that can be learned from what seems like a senseless conflict?

For an answer to the first question, I turn to Dr. David Schonfeld, of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children and Disasters, who wrote a helpful article, "How to Talk With Your Child About the War in Ukraine," for healthchildren.org.

You know your child best, especially at what age such a discussion is appropriate. Here are some excerpts from Dr. Schonfeld's article:

- Start by asking your child what they already know. Listen for misunderstandings or frightening rumors. Acknowledge that even adults don't



Photo from WikiCommons

Fred Rogers, whose mother advised him to 'look for the helpers' when he saw scary news, brought 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood' to Moscow in 1987.

know all that is going on.

- Ask them directly about their worries, respond with honest reassurance and don't discount their fears.

- Limit the exposure of media coverage, especially repetitive graphic images, and discussion in social media. As a side note, I remember from the Sept. 11 days, the video of planes hitting the twin towers, shown again and again, registered in a child's mind as repeat attacks still going on. Kids' brains just don't process the world the same ways as adults.

- Know that some children will feel the impact more than others, putting them at greater risk of distress, and may need more help coping.

- Consider joining a charitable initiative as a family project. Once children start to feel safe and understand what is going on, many will want to help.

- Don't worry about

knowing the perfect thing to say. What children need most is to have someone they trust listen to their questions, accept their feelings and be there for them.

For an answer to the second question about valuable lessons that might be learned, I turn to a series of quotations: *"The first casualty of war is truth."*

This is a great opportunity to teach kids that what they hear — even what they see — may or may not be true. The more emotional, the more outrageous, the more something should be closely examined. If there is a knee-jerk reaction, let it be these questions: "Is it true?" and "How do we know?"

"God created war so that Americans would learn geography."

That gem from Mark Twain's "The Innocents Abroad" (1869) is the perfect prompt to break out a world map to study with

kids. There's no telling what you might discover, like for me Kaliningrad — that orphaned piece of seaside Russia sitting beneath Lithuania and atop Poland.

"History is a set of lies that people have agreed upon."

We can thank Napoleon for that one. When Napoleon went down in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, one of the six countries battling him was the Kingdom of Prussia. Check out a map of that kingdom within the German Empire, between 1871 and 1918, and you'll find the ancestors of several nations currently wrapped up in the Ukraine conflict. Whether Ukraine is the Russian president's Waterloo, only time will tell. But the next time you hear Vladimir Putin or anyone else talk about the "history of Ukraine," ask, "What year are you talking about?"

"He who tied the bell to

the tiger must take it off."

That's one of two Chinese proverbs that China's president, Xi Jinping, quoted for President Biden in their two-hour phone call about the Ukraine conflict. The saying can be traced back eight centuries or so to a Song Dynasty poet, Huihong, who wrote a collection of Buddhist teachings. Translation: Those who created the problem should be the ones to undo it. The other proverb was, "It takes two hands to clap." Students in language arts class might have fun "speaking Chinese" by being challenged to express their thoughts metaphorically. High school seniors in AP History class can explore China's reluctance to get involved.

"Promises and pie-crusts are made to be broken."

When satirist Jonathan Swift popularized the expression with his dry Irish wit in his 1738 book, "Polite Conversation," he created a great debate point for kids about the importance of keeping promises and the dangers of breaking them. The debate over the origins of the Ukraine war is rife with howls of the aggrieved, from Ukraine on security promises in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum when it turned over its nuclear weapons to claims that in negotiating a 1990 treaty to reunify Germany, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told the Soviet Union's leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, that NATO would "not shift 1 inch eastward."

"Look for the helpers.

You will always find people who are helping."

If you were a lover of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," you might recognize that advice from Fred Rogers' mother. Or more fully.

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news," Rogers said, "my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

The PBS program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" began amid the bloody turmoil of 1968, which I never thought this country would survive, and ended in the year of Sept. 11, 2001, when I had my own little kids at home.

If you are a parent with young children, or a schoolteacher with loving children seeking your counsel, I hope this article helps you in some way.

To the "trigger warning" 8th grader who wanted to tune into the news on the way to school, God bless you. I admire your civic interest in what's happening in the world today—and fully support your desire just to be a kid with your own problems to solve.

About the author: Buck Ryan, a journalism professor and director of the Citizen Kentucky Project of the Scripps Howard First Amendment Center at the University of Kentucky, is conducting a "participatory case study" of the Chatham News + Record, which he considers a model community newspaper.

Our newest recreational venture, Paddles - a swim and pickleball amenity - is the perfect complement to our community vision and will provide Pittsboro area residents with even more recreational options. Not familiar with pickleball? It is the fastest-growing sport in America with more than 10,000 courts across the country. Easier to learn than tennis with less stress on the joints than aerobics, pickleball is a great way to stay healthy and meet your neighbors! Construction on this amenity is well underway, and is on schedule to open this Memorial Day weekend.

Paddles is located in Vineyards adjacent to Knight Farm Community Park and features a six-lane competition-style pool with a slide, a kiddie pool, and a concession stand. Members can enjoy the cabanas, individual loungers, and outdoor showers. Outside of the swim area, there are eight pickleball courts so bring your neighbors and your best game!

Don't live in Chatham Park? No problem! Paddles is a private membership facility with memberships open to everyone. Join our prospective members list to receive information about memberships as it becomes available. You can register using our QR code and we'll send updates when they are available.



We look forward to sharing more details about this exciting addition to Chatham Park. Paddles is just one more example of the incredible growth happening in our live, work, play and learn master-planned com-

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498-4077, J6,tfnc

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PART TIME HELP NEEDED, 2-3 day per wk. Light house-keeping & caring for small pets. Must have dependable transportation and references. 919-770-6356, Bear Creek area. M24,31,A7,14,4tp

APPRENTICE LINEMAN POSITION (Asheboro Location) - Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is currently seeking an Apprentice Lineman for the Asheboro Office. Successful candidate will preferably

have their CDLs and have taken courses on electricity or related areas. To apply go to <https://www.randolphemc.com/careers>. Apply by Friday, April 1, 2022. Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability/vets. M24,M31,2tc

WAREHOUSE POSITION (Asheboro Location) - Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is currently seeking a Warehouse Person for the Asheboro Office. Successful candidate will have a couple years of experience. Knowledge of distribution electric materials is preferred. To apply go to <https://www.randolphemc.com/careers>. Apply by Friday, April 1, 2021. Equal Opportunity Employer, including disability/vets. M24,M31,2tc

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

LEGALS

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 plead 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

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Line ad deadline
Tuesday - Noon

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Monday - 5 p.m.

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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.

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M3,M10,M17,M24,4tc

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 plead 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,M24,4tc

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 decedent 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 plead 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,M24,4tc

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 plead 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**,

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CALL: 919-542-3151
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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.
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.
Debra 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
22 E 121
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 plead 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 Executrix of the Estate of **EVELYN P. SILER** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased to present them to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of June, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.
This the 3rd day of March, 2022.
Patricia S. Newkirk, Executrix of
The Estate of Evelyn P. Siler
122A Miss Jane Way
Siler City, North Carolina
27344
MOODY, WILLIAMS, ATWATER & LEE
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
BOX 1806
PITTSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
27312
(919) 542-5605
M10,M17,M24,M31,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NORTH CAROLINA
CHATHAM COUNTY**

All persons having claims against **LAURA B. WEIGELE** aka Laura Jean Weigele of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 30th day of September, 2021, are notified to present them to Jeffrey T. Weigele, Jr. and Jonathan R. Weigele, Co-Executors of the Estate of Laura B. Weigele aka Laura Jean Weigele in c/o David R. Frankstone, Attorney for the Estate, at Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P. A., 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203, Exchange West at Meadowmont, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 on or before June 16, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Co-Executors, and the devisees of Laura B. Weigele aka Laura Jean Weigele. Those indebted to Laura B. Weigele aka Laura Jean Weigele are asked to make prompt 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 **MOZELLE 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 necessity 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 DEVISEES 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 DEVISEES 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 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 27330
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 Fearrington 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
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

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DIVIDED HOUSEHOLDS

Latest Northwood-Seaforth clash acts as stage for brotherly competition

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Northwood-Seaforth split is taking sibling rivalries to the next level.

Growing up, your siblings are often your in-house rivals, adding a healthy dose of competition into your day-to-day life — especially in sports, whether they're taking place in the backyard or on the neighborhood basketball court.

Those rivalries, however, typically find themselves transitioning to teamwork when siblings begin playing school-sanctioned sports together in middle and high school.

But student-athletes in Pittsboro are finding themselves in the midst of a unique situation

with last fall's opening of Seaforth High School — a school housing only freshmen and sophomores this year: divided households.

On March 15, the Northwood Chargers trounced the Seaforth Hawks, 17-3, in the first-ever men's lacrosse matchup between the two schools.

While the first game between the two programs had been on everyone's minds since the schedule's release, it was circled a little more prominently on the Armstrong family calendar.

"There was a rivalry inside of the rivalry," Seaforth Head Coach Joe Hubbard said with a chuckle after the loss, referring to the matchup between Seaforth freshman midfielder Layne Armstrong and his

brother, Northwood junior goalkeeper Kyler Armstrong.

"I have three brothers," he continued, "so there's obviously a competitive spirit there."

The competitive spirit between the Armstrongs was alive and well in the Chargers' win, where the two brothers dealt out a generous amount of trash talk as they both had standout performances.

Through 24 minutes in net, Kyler allowed just a single goal — on a point-blank shot from Hawks sophomore Andrew Parker — and proceeded to stop everything else that came his way.

When he went to the sideline to start the third period in favor of senior Robbie Delgado, his Chargers held onto a 10-1

See **BROTHERS**, page B3



Submitted photo

The Armstrong brothers, Layne (7) and Kyler (9), pose with their coaches, Seaforth's Joe Hubbard (far left) and Northwood's Randy Cox (far right), ahead of the first-ever men's lacrosse meeting between the Chargers and Hawks on March 15. Northwood took home the win, 17-3.

Pittsboro wrestler Josh Miller hopes to make Olympic dreams come true at Cleveland's SPIRE Institute

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record Correspondent

CLEVELAND — When Josh Miller looks in the mirror, he doesn't see a mere bantam bruiser.

Staring back is a future Olympic wrestling champion entering the pantheon of the all-time greats, fierce competitors who converted brawn, blasts of speed and incredible physical feats into mat magic that has mesmerized devotees of the oldest sport for ages.

The Chatham County grappler doesn't have to gaze far to see what Olympic royalty looks like. He's training at SPIRE Institute & Academy under Kenny Monday, a three-time Olympian who won gold and silver on the world's biggest stage and is considered one of USA Wrestling's all-time international greats.

Miller stunned many wrestling fans in 2021 by capturing silver at the NCHSAA 3A state championship tournament as an unheralded 106-pound freshman at Northwood High School.

He started the 2021-22 season as Seaforth High School's marquee name and favorite for a state title. But then he jumped at an opportunity to attend SPIRE, an elite preparatory boarding school on the Lake Erie shoreline just northeast of Cleveland, where he hopes to bring his dream closer to reality.

It doesn't take long talking to Miller to sense an unquenchable intensity.

"If I'm going to do anything, I'm going to do that seriously," Miller said. "I'm going to do it every day. I'm going to be passionate about it.



Photo by Cyrus Gomez-Alcala

SPIRE Institute & Academy's Josh Miller (right) practices drills with head coach Kenny Monday. Monday, an Olympic gold medalist, said 'This kid is really special' when he first saw Miller when he was 11 years old.

My goal in anything is to get to the top of it. I don't care what sport it is, what it is in life, I'm going to get to the top of it."

Change of plans

Miller's immediate goal this season was to win a state championship.

"I loved being at Seaforth, I loved being at Northwood," Miller said. "The coaches there were great. I had a lot of friends there. I was having a fun time."

But his focus has changed.

"I'm willing to sacrifice winning a state championship if it's going to get me closer to my world championship, my Olympic championship, my national championship goals

and getting into college," he said.

He was feeling too comfortable easily winning matches at Seaforth, fearing that could make him complacent. He believed a change was needed if he was going to continue to improve because, as he puts it, "You can never be too good at this."

That's the sort of hunger Monday looks for in a wrestler, and it's why he made Miller one of his first recruits to SPIRE.

'This kid is really special'

Monday first encountered Miller when he was 11 years old.

"From the first time I met Josh, he was serious about himself.

See **WRESTLER**, page B5

The Browns traded morals for victories in Deshaun Watson blockbuster

We just witnessed one of the best sports weekends of the year — and, as always, it delivered.



VICTOR HENSLEY
Sports Editor

The madness of March was real as the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament tipped off, bringing with them high-profile upsets, phenomenal storylines and some of the best basketball we've seen all year.

It was absolutely electric. But I'd be lying if I said it wasn't a little bit tainted.

Last Friday, in the midst of the second day of the tournament, I saw the news that made my stomach turn.

The Cleveland Browns were trading for three-time Pro Bowl quarterback Deshaun Watson, sending three first-round picks (among other selections) to the Houston Texans in a blockbuster deal.

And upon trading for him, the Browns planned to give him a fully guaranteed five-year, \$230 million contract — the largest guaranteed contract in NFL history.

Truthfully, it's one of the most despicable things I've seen from a professional sports organization that's so starved for wins, for championships and for relevancy that it would choose to throw away its morals and alienate an entire subsection of its fanbase for a shot at a Super Bowl ring.

In case you hadn't heard, Watson — one of the young, talented faces of the NFL over the last few seasons — hasn't played football since January 2021, not because of an injury, but because there are presently 22 active civil lawsuits against him from nearly two dozen women that have accused him of sexual assault or sexual misconduct during massage appointments.

Twenty. Two.

And while the Watson front has been mostly

See **BROWNS**, page B4

Biggest storylines from the first weekend of March Madness

The first weekend of college basketball is finally over. After numerous upsets, high-flying dunks and a seemingly unstoppable Peacock squad, there are just 16 teams remaining. Here's a look at the biggest stories from last weekend.

MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

The Peacocks are flying

To grasp how monumental of an upset 15-seeded St. Peter's beating No. 2 Kentucky was, look no further than the fact the school's website crashed following the win. The Peacocks did the unthinkable, knocking off the Wildcats, 85-79, in overtime Thursday night. Kentucky has far better resources, recruits and overall history than the New Jersey school, but this is March. It was the fourth-largest upset in terms of betting odds in tournament

history, and the Peacocks didn't stop there. They then became just the third 15 seed to advance to the Sweet 16 by knocking off No. 7 Murray State, which had lost just two games all year. And they didn't just beat the Racers, they led from nearly start to finish.

The Peacocks will have a tall task ahead of them on Friday. They will face Purdue, one of the more talented teams in the country with Jaden Ivey and 7-foot-4-inch center Zach Edey. But the time to be doubting St. Peter's has passed. So do that at your own risk.

Officiating was disconcertingly bad

Complaining about refereeing is annoying. It makes the game less fun and enjoyable, so I tend to leave my thoughts about officiating in my head. But poor officiating was definitely one of the biggest themes of the weekend. North Carolina blew a 25-point lead in part because of an ejection to Brady

Manek for a questionable flagrant 2 foul call and the officials' unwillingness to call a foul on Baylor's aggressive press.

The end of regulation in the TCU vs. Arizona game was decided on a swallowed whistle.

Illinois' guard R.J. Melendez was called for a technical foul for hanging on the rim too long. It was pretty petty and not a call that should be made with a season on the line.

Officiating will always be a talking point in college basketball, but it's concerning when it's a storyline.

A complete flip by the Cyclones

The greatest turnaround in college basketball belongs to Iowa State. After going 2-22 last season, the Cyclones' top three scorers transferred out of the program.

Last season, the team ended the year with 18 consecutive losses, then hired coach T.J. Otzelberger to lead a revamped squad. Now, Iowa State is one of the final 16 teams remaining. Led by

transfers Gabe Kalscheur, Izaiah Brockington and Aljaz Kunc, the Cyclones aren't the most aesthetically pleasing offensive team, but they can play some defense and win some games. They'll face No. 10 Miami in the Sweet 16.

Coach K's retirement party is on hold

Whether you love, hate or don't care for Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski, every Duke game has added meaning. A Blue Devils loss will be the last for the winningest coach in college basketball history.

Duke cruised against Cal State Fullerton in the first round, but Sunday's game against Michigan State was not as easy. The Spartans had Duke on the ropes and led in the final minutes. Duke got hot, however, and the farewell will have to wait at least one more game.

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

While there may be a little bit of weather that derails plans this week — as is typical of the spring sports season, where games/matches/meets are consistently postponed — there's still plenty of local sports action to get excited about. To get the latest results/schedule changes, head over to our website, where we have a "Scores and Schedules" story updated frequently. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, March 23

Softball: Chatham Charter at River Mill, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Northwood men vs. Williams, 4 p.m.
Tennis: Seaforth men vs. North Moore, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Central at O'Neal School, 4:30 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter women vs. River Mill, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Seaforth men at Graham, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Charter at Cornerstone Charter, 5 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women vs. North Moore, 6 p.m.
Softball: Jordan-Matthews at Southern Lee, 6 p.m.
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews at Hillside, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Northwood vs. East Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 24

Tennis: Northwood men at Cedar Ridge, 4 p.m.
Track & Field: Northwood vs. Eastern Alamance, Western Alamance & Woods Charter, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Chatham Central men at Graham, 4:30 p.m.
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews men at Union Pines, 4:30 p.m.
Softball: Chatham Central vs. Cummings (Game 1 of Doubleheader), 5 p.m.
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women vs. Carrboro, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter women vs. Research Triangle, 6 p.m.
Softball: Chatham Central vs. Cummings (Game 2 of Doubleheader), 7 p.m.

Friday, March 25

Baseball: Jordan-Matthews at West Stokes, 6 p.m.
Softball: Northwood vs. Jordan-Matthews, 6 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. Union Pines, 6 p.m.
Lacrosse: Seaforth men vs. Western Alamance, 6 p.m.
Baseball: Seaforth at Bartlett Yancey, 6:30 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood women at Apex, 6:45 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Central at North Moore, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Northwood at Cedar Ridge, 7 p.m.
Lacrosse: Northwood men at Eastern Alamance, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 26

No events scheduled.

LAST WEEK

Monday, March 14

Baseball: The Seaforth

men crushed the River Mill Jaguars, 16-1, on the road. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Daniel White (1-for-3, 2 RBI), freshman Cade Elmore (3-for-5, 2B, RBI), sophomore Tanner Morgan (2-for-3, RBI) and freshman Griff Burk (2.0 IP, BB, 4 K).

Tennis: The Chatham Charter men were swept by the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 9-0, on the road.

Tennis: The Northwood men swept the Orange Panthers, 9-0, at home. Winning their singles matches for the Chargers were junior Jio Sumogod (6-1, 6-0), junior Matteus Butler (6-1, 6-2), senior Tate Clark (6-3, 6-2), senior Mason Erman (6-2, 7-6 (7-5)), junior Ragul Ramesh (6-0, 6-1) and junior Ben Starling (6-1, 6-1), while the duos of Sumogod/Butler (8-1), Clark/Erman (8-4) and senior Cole Murray/Ramesh (8-3) won their doubles matches.

Soccer: The Seaforth men were swept by the Research Triangle Raptors, 9-0, to fall to 4-2 on the season.

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men shut out the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 10-0, at home.

Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women shut out the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 9-0, for their first win of the season.

Soccer: The Seaforth women beat the Graham Red Devils, 8-4, at home. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Caitlin Erman (4 goals), sophomore Abby Kava (3 goals) and freshman Haiden Sullivan (1 goal).

Soccer: The Woods Charter women shut out the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 9-0, at home. Leading the Wolves on the night were sophomore Leyla Noronha (2 goals), junior Chloe Richard (2 goals) and sophomore Chloe Haswell, sophomore Cate Czynewski, sophomore Adah Terrell, sophomore Caroline Mitchell and junior Lucy Miller, all with 1 goal apiece.

Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women were shut out by the Providence Grove Patriots, 10-0, for the second time this season.

Soccer: The Northwood women were shut out by the Athens Drive Jaguars, 8-0, on the road.
Lacrosse: The Northwood women fell to the Chapel Hill Tigers, 11-1, for their first loss of the season. Scoring for the Chargers on the night was junior Grace Costa (1 goal).

Tuesday, March 15

Golf: The Woods Charter men finished 2nd (214) in a match against Central Tar Heel 1A opponents, while the Chatham Charter men didn't place. Top performances of the day from Woods Charter were Luke Smollen (46, +11), Alex Smollen (50, +15) and Patrick Jordan (53, +18), while Chatham Charter saw a great performance from Seph Trageser (51, +16).

Tennis: The Northwood men were swept by the Wakefield Wolverines, 9-0, on the road.

Soccer: The Seaforth

women routed the River Mill Jaguars, 10-2, to improve to 4-1 on the young season. Leading the Hawks on the night were sophomore Abby Kava (5 goals), freshman Caitlin Erman (2 goals), freshman Haiden Sullivan (1 goal, 1 assist), freshman Chloe Price (1 goal) and sophomore Jadah Carroll (1 goal).

Softball: The Chatham Charter women trounced the River Mill Jaguars, 16-1, at home. Leading the Knights in the win were senior Taylor Brewer (2-for-2, 3 RBI), senior Ally Bare (1-for-2, 2 RBI) and junior Hailie Edmondson (2-for-3, 2 2B, 2 RBI).

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men dominated the River Mill Jaguars, 10-0, in their season-opener. Leading the Knights on the evening were sophomore Aidan Allred (2-for-3, 3B, HR, 3 RBI), senior Thomas O'Hara (1-for-1, 2B, 2 RBI) and senior Landon Hussey (3.0 IP, W, H, 2 BB, 7 K).

Baseball: The Northwood men earned a lopsided win over the Williams Bulldogs, 11-2, on the road. Leading the Chargers on the night were junior Zach Barnes (2-for-4, HR, 2 RBI; 2.0 IP, 0 ER, 4 K), sophomore Andrew Johnson (1-for-3, 2 RBI) and junior Salvador Delgado (4.0 IP, W, 6 H, 2 ER, K).

Baseball: The Seaforth men fell in a close one to the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 4-2, at home. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Brody Latta (0-for-3, RBI), freshman Daniel White (2-for-3, 2B) and freshman Brylee Cothren (3.0 IP, 6 H, 2 ER, BB, 4 K).

Lacrosse: The Northwood men clobbered the Seaforth Hawks, 17-3, in the teams' first matchup against one another. Leading the Chargers on the night were junior Taylor Laberge (6 goals, 1 assist), junior Will Smith (3 goals, 2 assists), junior William Johnson (2 goals, 1 assist) and junior Jason Walden (3 goals).

Softball: The Chatham Central women suffered a narrow loss to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 4-3, at home. Leading the Bears on the night were freshman Carleigh Warf (0-for-2, RBI), junior Mary Gaines (1-for-3, 2B, RBI; 3.0 IP, 0 ER, 2 BB, 3 K) and junior Jaylee Williams (2-for-2).

Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women shut out the North Moore Mustangs, 10-0, to improve to 2-5 on the season. Leading the Jets in the win were freshman Sophia Murchison (4-for-4, 2 2B, 3 RBI), Suesanna Lee (1-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI) and Marcy Clark (5.0 IP, 7 H, 0 ER, 2 K, W).

Softball: The Northwood women defeated the Williams Bulldogs, 13-9, on the road. Leading the Chargers on the night were freshman Jasmine Wichowski (4-for-5, 2B, 3B, 5 RBI), junior Zoe Hatzidakis (4-for-5, 2 3B, 2 RBI), senior Natalie Bell (2-for-4, 2 2B, 2 RBI) and senior Grace Leonard (2-for-5, 2B, 2 RBI).

Soccer: The Northwood women downed the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 4-1, to improve to 2-4 on the season.

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men were

shut out by the North Moore Mustangs, 10-0, at home.

Wednesday, March 16

Track & Field: The Chatham Central Bears participated in a meet against Mid-Carolina 1A/2A opponents North Moore and Bartlett Yancey, along with The O'Neal School and Fr. Vincent Capodanno High School, where the Bears placed 2nd in the women's events (77 points) and 5th in the men's events (32 points). Finishing in the top 3 of the women's events for the Bears were freshman Hannah Gulley-Moore (3rd, girls 100-meter dash, 14.5), freshman Landry Allen (1st, girls 100-meter hurdles, 22.8; 1st, girls 300-meter hurdles, 1:01.90), junior Skylar Brigham (2nd, girls 100-meter hurdles, 23.5), sophomore Abby Johnson (3rd, girls 100-meter hurdles, 23.6), Mattie Caviness (2nd, girls shot put, 24-04.00) and senior Carleigh Gentry (2nd, girls long jump, 12-09.00; 1st, girls triple jump, 28-05.00; 1st, girls high jump, 4-08.00), while the Girls 4x200 Meter Relay Team (3rd, 2:04.20) and Girls 4x100 Meter Relay Team (3rd, 59.6) placed in the top 3 of their races. Finishing in the top 3 of the men's events for the Bears were senior Trey Clay (1st, boys 100-meter dash, 11.70), freshman Troy Gaines (3rd, boys 3,200-meter run, 14:37.40), junior Austin Reed (3rd, boys discus throw, 88-08.00) and senior Malachi Moore (1st, boys long jump, 20-05.00), while the Boys 4x200 Meter Relay Team (3rd, 1:42.70) and Boys 4x100 Meter Relay Team (3rd, 48.90) placed in the top 3 of their respective races.

Thursday, March 17

Tennis: The Chatham Charter men fell to the Cornerstone Charter Cardinals, 7-2, on the road. Winning the lone singles match for the Knights was freshman Zane Morgan (6-1, 6-4), while the duo of junior Silas Christenbury/freshman Noah Hayhurst (8-5) won its doubles match.

Tennis: The Chatham Central men were swept by the Uwharrie Charter Eagles, 9-0, on the road to fall to 0-3 on the season.

Tennis: The Northwood men defeated the Williams Bulldogs, 6-3, at home to improve to 3-4 on the season. Winning their singles matches for the Chargers were junior Jio Sumogod (6-0, 6-1), senior Tate Clark (4-6, 6-3, 1-0 (10-7)), junior Ragul Ramesh (7-5, 6-0) and junior Ben Starling (6-1, 6-1), while the duos of Clark/senior Mason Erman (8-6) and Ramesh/senior Cole Murray (8-1) won their doubles matches.

Baseball: The Northwood men won a close game over the Chapel Hill Tigers, 4-2, at home. Leading the Chargers on the night were freshman Kaleb Howell (2-for-3, RBI), junior Luke Smith (1-for-3, 2B, RBI) and senior Walker Johnson (4.0 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 3 K).

Softball: The Chatham Central women lost to the Providence Grove Patriots, 5-1, to fall to 2-3 on the season.

Friday, March 18

Soccer: The Chatham Charter women lost to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 10-1, to remain winless at 0-3 on the season.

Track & Field: The Jordan-Matthews Jets participated in a meet against the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, where they placed second in both the men's (37 points) and women's (45 points) events. Finishing in the top 3 of their respective men's events were sophomore Marvin Herrea (2nd, boys 1,600-meter run, 6:00.12; 3rd, boys 3,200-meter run, 14:34.20), senior Carlos Rojas (3rd, boys 400-meter dash, 59.18), junior Joaquin Esquivel (1st, boys 800-meter run, 2:34.00), freshman Alex Morgan (2nd, boys 800-meter run, 2:35.00; 2nd, boys 3,200-meter run, 13:30.34), sophomore Pedro Artilles (1st, boys 3,200-meter run, 13:11.15), junior Ethan Clark (2nd, boys discus throw, 84-09.00; 3rd, boys shot put, 32-01.00), junior Jake Harrison (3rd, boys discus throw, 70-08.00), junior Dallas Richardson (1st, boys long jump, 19-04.00) and sophomore Kevin Causey (3rd, boys long jump, 16-06.00). Finishing in the top 3 of their respective women's events were freshman Rachel Woods (1st, girls 100-meter dash, 13.50; 2nd, girls 200-meter dash, 28.78; 1st, girls long jump, 13-03.00), sophomore Cassidy Deshazo (2nd, girls 100-meter dash, 14.34; 3rd, girls 200-meter dash, 29.71; 2nd, girls long jump, 13-00.10), senior Jasmine Basilio (1st, girls 1,600-meter run, 7:09.50; 1st, girls 800-meter run, 3:13.21), junior America Cuanalo (3rd, girls 1,600-meter run, 8:16.20; 2nd, girls 800-meter run, 3:33.84), freshman Kaleyah Headen (1st, girls discus throw, 51-06.00; 1st, girls shot put, 21-03.00) and freshman Jacqueline De La Sanchez (3rd, girls discus throw, 44-01.00).

Lacrosse: The Northwood women dominated the Union Pines Vikings, 23-7, to improve to 5-1 on the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Kendall Laberge (4 goals, 5 assists), junior Mia Collins (6 goals, 1 assist), sophomore Ryan Tinervin (5 goals) and junior Sophia Cremeans (3 goals, 2 assists).

Softball: The Chatham Charter women crushed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 20-1, on the road to improve to 3-4 on the season. Leading the Knights in the win were junior Chelsie Hardister (2-for-3, 2 2B, 4 RBI; 3.0 IP, W, H, ER, 4 BB, 6 K) and senior Taylor Brewer (1-for-2, 2B, 3 RBI)

Baseball: The Seaforth men lost to the Neuse Charter Cougars, 10-4, at home to fall to 2-4 on the season. Leading the Hawks on the night were freshman Cade Elmore (0-for-2, BB, RBI), sophomore Anders Johansson (0-for-3, RBI), freshman Aidan Latta (1-for-2) and sophomore Dane O'Neill (1-for-4).

Lacrosse: The Seaforth men lost to the Orange Panthers, 15-11, on the road to fall to 1-6 on the season.

Soccer: The Woods

Charter women defeated the Gray Stone Day Knights, 6-1, to stay unbeaten on the season at 3-0-2.

Softball: The Northwood women were crushed by the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 15-5, at home.

Tennis: The Chatham Charter men lost a lopsided match to the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 8-1, to fall to 0-5 on the season. Winning the lone singles match for the Knights was junior Silas Christenbury (8-4).

Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men fell to the North Moore Mustangs, 9-1, on the road. The Jets move to 3-4 on the season with the loss.

Baseball: The Northwood men defeated the Williams Bulldogs, 11-2, at home to improve to 6-2 on the season. Leading the Chargers on the night were freshman Kaleb Howell (2-for-4, 2B, 3 RBI), junior Zach Barnes (3-for-4, 2B, 2 RBI) and junior Salvador Delgado (5.0 IP, W, H, 0 ER, 5 K).

Lacrosse: The Northwood men crushed the Union Pines Vikings, 15-2, to improve to 5-1 on the season. Leading the Chargers in the win were junior Taylor Laberge (6 goals, 1 assist), junior Will Smith (5 goals, 1 assist), junior Jason Walden (2 goals, 3 assists) and junior Kyler Armstrong (36 mins, W, 2 GA, 3 SV).

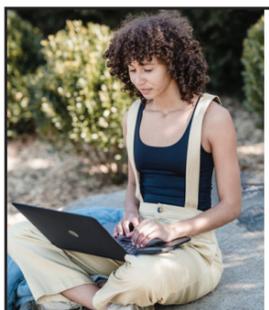
Saturday, March 19

Track & Field: The Seaforth Hawks and Woods Charter Wolves competed in the 2022 Cary Invitational at Cary Academy against 30 other teams, where the Hawks placed 18th in the men's events (12 points) and 25th in the women's events (2 points), while the Wolves placed 20th in the women's events (5 points). Placing in the top 10 of their respective men's events for the Hawks was freshman Jack Anstrom (4th, boys 3,200-meter run, 10:05.07), while the Boys 4x100 Meter Relay Team (8th, 50.27), Boys 4x200 Meter Relay Team (9th, 1:43.03), Boys 4x400 Meter Relay Team (10th, 4:04.65) and Boys 4x800 Meter Relay Team (3rd, 9:02.18) all placed in the top 10 of their respective events. Placing in the top 10 of their respective women's events for the Hawks/Wolves were Seaforth freshman Zuzanna Mikolajec (9th, girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.49) and Seaforth sophomore Juliette Vanolinda (10th, girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.70), while the Seaforth Girls 4x100 Meter Relay Team (8th, 56.04), Seaforth Girls 4x200 Meter Relay Team (9th, 2:04.01) and Seaforth Girls 4x400 Meter Relay Team (8th, 5:08.15) all placed in the top 10 of their respective events.

Softball: The Northwood women routed the Northern Durham Knights, 19-9, at home.

Softball: The Northwood women were shut out by the Northern Guilford Nighthawks, 15-0, in three innings to fall to 3-5 on the season.

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



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2021-22 ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

Here are Chatham County's 2021-22 winter all-conference athletes

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

With the 2021-22 NCHSAA winter sports season coming to an end, a number of Chatham County athletes have been selected to all-conference teams in basketball, swimming and wrestling.

The Central Tar Heel 1A, Mid-Carolina 1A/2A and Central 3A conferences have announced all-conference teams for the winter, with more than 75 Chatham student-athletes recognized for being the top athletes in their respective conferences. In addition, seven coaches were named Coach of the Year and nine student-athletes were named Player of the Year — or a variation of that — for their accomplishments.

The athletes and coaches that earned all-conference honors are as follows.

Men's Basketball

Central Tar Heel 1A

- Jackson Brown, Junior, Chatham Charter
- Adam Harvey, Junior, Chatham Charter

• Beau Harvey, Freshman, Chatham Charter

• Aamir Mapp, Junior, Chatham Charter

• Brennan Oldham, Freshman, Chatham Charter

• Nate Crump, Senior, Woods Charter

Player of the Year: Adam Harvey, Junior, Chatham Charter

Coach of the Year: Jason Messier, Chatham Charter

Honorable Mention: Aidan Allred, Chatham Charter; Jamir Wright, Chatham Charter

Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

• Nick Jourdan, Senior, Chatham Central

• Collin Lagenor, Senior, Chatham Central

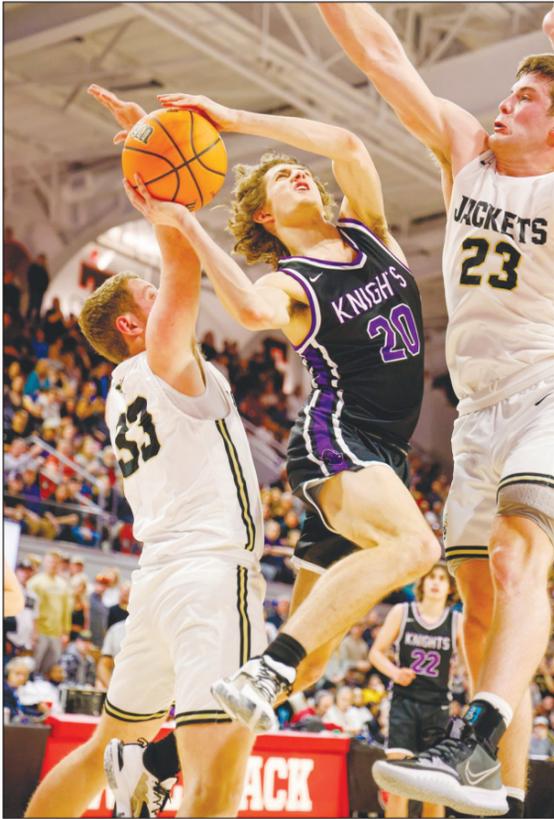
• Rayshaun Alston, Senior, Jordan-Matthews

• Dallas Richardson, Junior, Jordan-Matthews

• Jarin Stevenson, Sophomore, Seaforth

• Noah Lewis, Freshman, Seaforth

Player of the Year: Jarin



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Chatham Charter junior Adam Harvey (20) maneuvers around the forceful defense of Hayesville senior Jake McTaggart (23) and junior Kyle Lunsford (33) during the Knights' 54-43 loss to the Hayesville Yellow Jackets in the 1A men's basketball state championship game in Raleigh on March 12.

Stevenson, Sophomore, Seaforth

Co-Sportsmanship Award: Chatham Central Bears

Honorable Mention: Reid Albright, Chatham Central; Malachi Moore, Chatham Central; Kelton Fuquay, Jordan-Matthews; Chris Walker, Seaforth; Lochlan Haddix, Seaforth

Central 3A

• Drake Powell, Sophomore, Northwood

• Fred Whitaker Jr., Sophomore, Northwood

• Max Frazier, Junior, Northwood

• Kenan Parrish, Junior, Northwood

Player of the Year: Drake Powell, Sophomore, Northwood

Women's Basketball

Central Tar Heel 1A

• Alexis Baldwin, Senior, Chatham Charter

• Delana Loflin, Sophomore, Chatham Charter

• Tamaya Walden, Junior, Chatham Charter

• Emi Hutter-Demarco, Senior, Woods Charter

• Lexi Smollen, Sophomore, Woods Charter

Conference Co-Player of the Year: Tamaya Walden, Junior, Chatham Charter

Conference Coach of the Year: Jeff Patterson, Chatham Charter

Honorable Mention: Lillian Jones, Chatham Charter

Sportsmanship Award: Chatham Charter Knights

Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

• Kailey Green, Junior, Chatham Central

• Lindsey Johnson, Senior, Chatham Central

• Ellia Wright, Senior, Jordan-Matthews

• Gabby White, Freshman, Seaforth

• Peyton Collins, Freshman, Seaforth

• Hannah Ajayi, Sophomore, Seaforth

Player of the Year: Gabby



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews senior Emma Wieber, one of the team's two returning swimmers, races in the women's 100-meter breaststroke at a swim meet in Asheboro on Jan. 6. She placed 5th in the event with a time of 1:59.01.

White, Freshman, Seaforth

Coach of the Year: Charles Byrd, Seaforth

Honorable Mention: Ivey Tillman, Chatham Central; Jaylee Williams, Chatham Central; Karaleigh Dodson, Chatham Central; Maggie Thornton, Jordan-Matthews; Sydney Ballard, Seaforth

Central 3A

• Olivia Porter, Senior, Northwood

• Myla Marve, Senior, Northwood

• Natalie Bell, Senior, Northwood

• Te'Keyah Bland, Junior, Northwood

• Skylar Adams, Sophomore, Northwood

Player of the Year: Olivia Porter, Senior, Northwood

Coach of the Year: Kerri Snipes, Northwood

Men's Swimming

Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

• Calvin Conroy, Jordan-Matthews

• Weldon Thornton, Jordan-Matthews

• Benjamin Lajoie, Seaforth

• Evan Hepburn, Seaforth

• Jackson Vaughn, Seaforth

• Broden Jones, Seaforth

• Mikel Kokas, Seaforth

Swimmer of the Year: Benjamin Lajoie, Seaforth

Coach of the Year: Antoinette Pujol, Seaforth

Women's Swimming

Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

• Ainsley Canipe, Jordan-Matthews

• Emma Wieber, Jordan-Matthews

• Clara Rojas, Jordan-Matthews

• Sarah Dekaney, Jordan-Matthews

• Briseydi Nava Zarate, Jordan-Matthews

• Julie Mateo Estrada, Jordan-Matthews

• Charlotte Cobia, Jordan-Matthews

• Samantha Wieber, Jordan-Matthews

• Charley Howard, Seaforth

• Lillian McFall, Seaforth

• Sophia Serrano, Seaforth

• Shayna Whitney, Seaforth

• Kaleigh Dodd, Seaforth

• Ruth Tittler, Seaforth

Swimmer of the Year: Charley Howard, Seaforth

Coach of the Year: Antoinette Pujol, Seaforth

Central 3A

• Mia Corrado, Northwood (200 Medley, 500 Freestyle, 100 Backstroke, 400 Freestyle Relay)

• Lauren Emrich, Northwood (200 Medley, 100 Breaststroke)

• Abigail Emrich, Northwood (200 Medley, 200 IM, 100 Fly, 400 Freestyle Relay)

• Julia Earnshaw, Northwood (200 Medley, 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle)

• Holly Thesing, Northwood (200 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle Relay)

• Gwen Hoeg, Northwood (200 Freestyle Relay, 400 Freestyle Relay)

• Anna Beck, Northwood (200 Freestyle Relay)

• Bianca Perez, Northwood (200 Freestyle Relay)

Swimmer of the Year: Mia Corrado, Northwood

Coach of the Year: Rebecca Reed, Northwood

Wrestling

Mid-Carolina 1A/2A

• Collin Evans, Chatham Central

• Jarrett Mashburn, Chatham Central

• Jaiden Gorham, Jordan-Matthews

• Jaxon Globuschutz, Jordan-Matthews

• Josh Miller, Seaforth

• Layne Armstrong, Seaforth

• Lockard Bowen, Seaforth

• Chance Cody, Seaforth

• Jahlil Hill, Seaforth

Coach of the Year: Ryan Armstrong, Seaforth

Central 3A

• Aiden Vigus, Northwood (126 lbs.)

• Andrew Kimbrel, Northwood (138 lbs.)

• Ron Walker, Northwood (145 lbs.)

• Ethan Kuball, Northwood (160 lbs.)

• Cliff Davis, Northwood (170 lbs.)

• Ryan Brinker, Northwood (182 lbs.)

• Jake Dunning, Northwood (220 lbs.)

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

BROTHERS

Continued from page B1

lead and were well in position to earn the blowout win.

On the other side of the rivalry, Layne — who has scored 4 goals so far this season — went scoreless in his first game against his brother's team, but showcased his knack for winning face-offs and his ability to enforce a physical presence despite his 5-foot-7 frame.

"Layne was certainly focused and you could see it in his action," Hubbard said. "His energy on the field — not so much verbally — but he was much more focused and ready to play and get after it."

The two only connected twice in the game's first half, the first of which came early on, when Kyler stuffed Layne's left-handed shot attempt, getting the best of his little brother in the only chance Layne had all evening.

But there was no remorse on Kyler's end.

"I stuffed him, I stuffed him," Kyler said energetically after the win. "As soon as I stuffed him, I was like, 'Not today, bud. I love you, but I'm not in love with you.'"

Later, Layne would repay the favor on a downfield check after Kyler came out of net, knocking him out of bounds with a strong bump.

It was a familiar sight for Ryan Armstrong, the father of Layne and Kyler and the head wrestling coach at Seaforth, who's seen his kids involved in a mixture of football, lacrosse and wrestling — arguably the three toughest, most contact-laden high school sports

there are.

Ryan also helps out with the Seaforth men's lacrosse team, coaching the goalies, but in the game against Northwood, he opted to sit in the stands so he wouldn't have to coach against his oldest son.

"(Hubbard and I) had already talked and if they were both midfielders, it wouldn't have been an issue, but since one's a middy and one's a goalie, I was just like, 'I want to be a parent,'" Ryan said. "That's why I stayed up in the Hawks Nest and watched from afar."

Ryan was walking around the concourse with a t-shirt that was a visual representation of his divided household: a simply drawn house split down the middle with one side sporting the Hawks' logo while the other had the Chargers'.

He said it was a last-minute addition to his wardrobe.

As atypical as it may seem, this situation is not unique to the Armstrongs.

The sudden split between the two schools has bred familial competition across all sports — even if the players and coaches on either side aren't biological relatives.

"I've coached a lot of these boys," Randy Cox, Northwood's head coach, said after the win. "I talk about it all the time, each one of these boys, if this high school didn't exist, would be part of Northwood."

... The Chatham Cardinals is the feeder program for both the Northwood team and Seaforth team and so to have players that came through the Cardinals ... competing against each other is really sort of bringing it full circle. I think it's going to be a great rivalry for years to

come."

Ryan, who was the wrestling coach at Northwood before accepting the Seaforth job last summer, struggled when it came time for Seaforth to wrestle Northwood this season because "all of those kids are my kids."

The same could be said for Seaforth cross country coach Duncan Murrell, whose team faced off against Northwood and his daughter, senior Caroline Murrell, last fall.

"I thought it would be no big deal for me to be out here coaching another team and see my daughter run for the other team, but I felt a little weird about it," he told the News + Record after the meet on Aug. 26. "Some of my happiest moments have been cheering her ... it's hard to get when you're also having to coach at the same time."

That's why, even in the budding rivalry's first year, the passion is already there.

When athletes take the field, court or track for either Northwood or Seaforth, they're suiting up against former teammates and coaches, middle-school classmates, siblings and even parents.

And while the results may not always indicate a hard-fought battle, the Northwood-Seaforth men's lacrosse game is an indicator that the competitiveness of the rivalry is staring us right in the face.

The Chargers dominated the Hawks from the opening face-off, scoring five goals before Seaforth even made its way onto the board with Parker's goal late in the first period.

Two goals by Chargers junior William Johnson in the

second period's first four minutes propelled Northwood to a 7-0 lead, followed by a pair of goals from juniors Will Smith and Taylor Laberge to make it 9-0.

On Smith's goal, the Chargers passed the ball around the field, patiently waiting to find an open man. When the ball came to Smith, he slotted it to the right corner of the net, making it look easy.

"We really wanted to make sure we emphasized discipline and doing the right things with the ball," Cox said. "I saw them moving the ball off-ball, moving themselves off-ball and I think we did that reasonably well."

The third period was much of the same for the Chargers, who scored 6 goals to the Hawks' zero — including two more from Laberge, who led the team with 6 goals on the evening — to put them up, 16-1, after 36 minutes of play.

Seaforth got goals from sophomore Ethan Hughes and sophomore James Swenson in the final period, but it was much too little, much too late as the Chargers secured the 17-3 win and improved to 4-1 on the season (now 5-1 after a win over Union Pines last Friday).

Despite the final score, it was obvious the Hawks weren't a pushover.

They often didn't shy away from contact — as seen in Layne's face-off wins — but they struggled when it came to some of the game's fundamentals: namely ground balls.

The Chargers scooped up a whopping 47 ground balls on the night.

"After we sat there and looked at the film and we

showed them, 'Hey, Seaforth actually played them better than what we would expect against a team that's been together a lot longer than we have,'" Ryan Armstrong said. "Seaforth won all of the initial face-offs, but they couldn't control ground balls."

The general consensus from those involved in the rivalry is that Seaforth may be inexperienced now, as illustrated by its 1-6 record through its first seven games, but it won't be that way forever.

It's just part of the growing pain that comes with starting a brand new program.

"We're not really looking at the scoreboard right now, as a new program," Hubbard said. "We're looking more at those little things that we can control and small details, things that we can impact and help each other with. ... It shows in the grit and the competitive spirit."

After the game, Kyler appeared giddy as he walked toward the post-game huddle with his team.

A lot of his excitement not only came from earning a 14-goal win, but having done so against his little brother, one that's actually been playing lacrosse longer than him.

"It was fun, it was really fun," Kyler said with a smile. "There was a competitive nature there. We talked a lot before the game. We're not teammates on the field, but we're teammates off the field. We're family, that's all that matters."

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



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood freshman Kaleb Howell waits his turn to bat against the Williams Bulldogs last Friday. Howell finished the day 2-for-4 (including a 2B) with 3 RBI in the 11-2 victory.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Three's a crowd

Last Friday, the Northwood Chargers clobbered the Williams Bulldogs, 11-2, for their third straight win to cap off a 3-0 week (including two 11-2 wins over Williams). Northwood now sits at 6-2 on the season (3-1 in the Central 3A conference). Here, the Northwood baseball team, including junior Salvador Delgado (8), junior Zach Barnes (17) and junior Nate Ortiz (9) celebrate on their way to the dugout in the Chargers' 11-2 win over the Williams Bulldogs last Friday night.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Members of the Northwood women's basketball team (in lime green t-shirts) are welcomed by the Northwood baseball team ahead of last Friday's game against the Williams Bulldogs. The women's basketball team threw out the first pitch just 6 days after winning the NCHSAA 3A state title on March 12.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Northwood senior Mason Bae (3) slides into home plate in the Chargers' 11-2 win over the Williams Bulldogs last Friday. Bae was 2-for-3 (including a 2B) with 2 runs scored in the victory.

BROWNS

Continued from page B1

quiet for months, especially through the 2021 NFL season, things ramped back up last week.

On March 11, a grand jury in Houston came to the conclusion that there wasn't enough evidence to criminally charge Watson in any of the cases against him — opening the flood gates to borderline disgustingly supportive tweets from NFL reporters, an influx of people thinking it proved his innocence and, of course, interest from a select few NFL teams.

But here's the thing: a grand jury choosing not to move forward with criminal charges doesn't prove innocence.

In fact, many people unfamiliar with the legal system have used language like, 'A jury found him not guilty,' when describing Watson's recent developments.

But that's just not true. The jury, in this case, wasn't looking to issue a guilty/non-guilty verdict — it doesn't have that kind of power. It was simply assessing whether or not there was sufficient evidence to charge Watson with a crime (or dozens of them).

And it decided that there wasn't. A lack of evidence, however, also doesn't prove innocence.

Victims of sexual abuse often face an uphill battle when it comes to pursuing their assailants, especially in court, as sexual assault is an incredibly tough thing to prove.

With that being said, the likelihood that the grand jury would proceed with criminal charges against Watson — aided by his financial and celebrity status — despite the overwhelmingly convincing allegations filed against him, were slim.

And now that criminal charges are off the table, it seems he's now able to move on with his football life.

Watson, who had a no-trade clause on his contract with the Texans — meaning he had to approve any trade the Texans were to include him in — immediately got to work on what was essentially a free agency tour.

He was wined and dined by the Browns, Carolina Panthers, Atlanta Falcons and New Orleans Saints, all of which were in the running for the Watson sweepstakes — and all of which deserve equal blame for attempting to recruit him to their cities.

But in the end, he chose the Browns. He got his wish. He got his fresh start. He got his money.

And like so many other abusers, he won.

The Browns visibly understand their choice to trade for him is a bad one. Or at least that it's a bad look.

Over the weekend, the team's Twitter account posted three separate, lengthy statements from Head Coach Kevin Stefanski, General Manager Andrew Berry and Owners Dee and Jimmy Haslem, all of which noted the extensive investigation process the team went through to ensure they were making the right choice.

"Would love, just once, for a team to actually explain what went into their 'comprehensive evaluation process,' wrote ESPN's Mina Kimes on Twitter in response to the Haslems' statement.

It was later revealed that Tony Buzbee, the attorney for the 22 women suing Watson, said that none of the teams interested in him — including the Browns — reached out to him to talk to either him or his clients as part of their "evaluation process."

Yikes. The statements were just a clear attempt at trying to calm an enraged fan base and justify the possibility that the team may have just mortgaged its future for a man that could be a serial sex abuser with nearly two dozen active lawsuits pending.

In addition, the Browns also chose to convert \$45 million of Watson's first year of his new contract into a signing bonus, leaving him with a base salary of \$1 million this season, which means that if he's suspended by the NFL — once the league's investigation into the cases is over — then he'll only lose around \$55,000 per game while still pocketing \$45 million this year.

Essentially, the Browns know he's likely going to be suspended for a chunk of games next season, so they wanted to make it easier on him and his pockets.

Classy move. I say all of that to say this: I have no clue whether or not Watson is guilty of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct — and I'd assume we may never know the truth about what happened during those massage therapy sessions.

But, at the end of the day, I'm choosing to believe the stories of 22 women who were brave enough to come out against and stand up to one of the most prominent athletes in the nation.

I just wish the Cleveland Browns would've done the same.

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



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

March 24th through March 30th

<p>Thursday, March 24th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋 • Geri-Fit w/Olivia at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🦋 <p>Friday, March 25th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋 • 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) 🦋📶 • Senior Games Practice at 2:00 PM (at Northwest District Park, Siler City) 🦋 • Friday Night Dance at 7:00 PM (on site at WCSC - Siler City) 📍 <p>Monday, March 28th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋 • 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) 🦋 <p>Tuesday, March 29th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body Conditioning w/Jackie at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋 • Walking at CCCC with COA at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot) 🦋 <p>Wednesday, March 30th</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) 🦋📶 	<p>For more information or to register for these and other programs, visit our website: chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🦋 In-person - Pre-registration Required 📶 Programming Hosted On Zoom 💰 Fee Required for Participation
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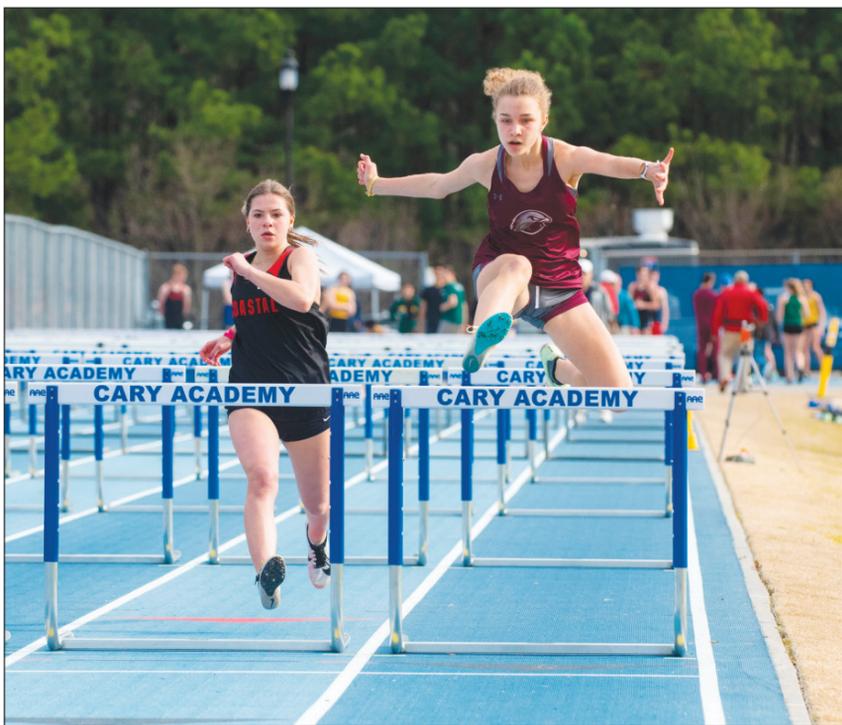
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

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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Staff photo by James Kiefer

Putting on a show

The Seaforth Hawks and Woods Charter Wolves participated in the Cary Invitational track & field meet on Saturday at Cary Academy against 30 other schools, where the Hawks finished 18th in the men's events and 25th in the women's, while the Wolves finished 20th in the women's events. The low team scores don't take away from the fact that the two Chatham teams had plenty of great performances, putting on a show in the process. Here, Seaforth freshman Zuzanna Mikolajec clears a hurdle during the Cary Invitational at Cary Academy on Saturday. Mikolajec placed 9th overall in the girls 100-meter hurdles event.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Woods Charter senior Matthew Peeler (front, green) breaks away after being handed a baton by senior teammate Caleb Jackson (left, green) at the Cary Invitational on Saturday in the Boys 4x200-meter relay. Woods Charter placed 12th in the event.



Seaforth freshman Lily McFall positions herself in a shot put event on Saturday at Cary Academy. McFall placed 18th in girls shot put at the Cary Invitational.

Staff photo by James Kiefer



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Woods Charter sophomore Elizabeth Poitras (in green) competes in the girls 1,600-meter run on Saturday at Cary Academy.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Participants take off during the start of a boys distance event at Cary Academy on Saturday during the Cary Invitational. In total, 32 teams signed up to participate in the meet.

WRESTLER

Continued from page B1

He was serious about wrestling, serious about getting better" and being one of the best wrestlers in the country, Monday recalled. "I said, 'This kid is really special. He's going to be special.'"

So when he was named head coach to start a brand new wrestling program at SPIRE last year, Monday met with Miller's parents, introduced them to what was available at the school and set up a program to help Miller fulfill his goals.

"Coach Monday is a great coach. He's coached a lot of great people," Miller said. "So whenever I look at the people he's coached, I'm like, 'How could I not want to go get coached by somebody who's known so many of the greats in the past?' I'm really blessed."

Coleman Scott, UNC's head wrestling coach and 2012 Olympic bronze medalist, is among those Monday has mentored. Both won NCAA titles for Oklahoma State and co-coached Oklahoma State's Cowboy Wrestling Club. Before taking the job as SPIRE's head coach and director of wrestling, Monday was head coach of the Tar Heel Wrestling Club at UNC, a U.S. Olympic Regional Training Center, under Scott.

"He coached me through the Olympics and he was here with me at Chapel Hill for four or five years, so we've been together through a lot," Scott said. "He's really been a huge inspiration in my career."

While NCAA regulations bar Scott from talking about individual high school wrestlers, he spoke in general about the advantage of training under Monday.

"You look at any kid, who doesn't want to learn

from an Olympic champ, national champ? He's a three-time Olympian," Scott said.

Prep school impact growing

Scott anticipates young wrestlers will increasingly pursue the prep/academy route to get a head start from high-level coaching, and gave a tip of the headgear to Monday for what he's trying to do.

"We need great coaches at that level who can, in essence, be our feeder program for the college scene and for the international scene," Scott said. He praised Monday because those coaches are not easy to come by, and it's not an easy life.

Scott has recruited a blend of public and prep school wrestlers to UNC, ranked No. 12 nationally by Intermat and No. 23 in the coaches' poll.

"We look, in essence, for the best kid for the University of North Carolina," Scott said.

But he observed that prep/academy graduates tend to be more academically prepared for the rigors of an elite university like UNC-Chapel Hill because they have already been exposed to highly skilled mentors in challenging college prep classes and on the mats.

That helps to ensure they graduate from college and find success beyond winning matches, which, Scott said, "is one of the most important things we do."

Academy and prep school sports tailor offerings to the needs of student-athletes. They tend to attract highly accomplished and world-class coaching talent able to produce results generally not available in public schools. Scott said college coaches vigorously compete to recruit from prep wrestling programs in the Northeast United

States, where they are more prevalent, although they are springing up everywhere.

In increasing numbers, highly-trained academy and prep standouts are making college and international sports lineups and showing impressive results in national competitions at levels seemingly disproportionate to their more numerous public school counterparts. But finding actual participation data is elusive, in part because there are several governing bodies and, unlike public schools, academies and preps don't have the same mandates to publicize their data.

What can be quantified are the 21 private schools with wrestling programs in North Carolina in 2022, according to Private School Review. The National Federation of State High School Associations only has pre-COVID numbers available. It lists 7,754 participants at 337 public schools with wrestling programs in North Carolina in 2018-19.

Public-private friction exists

But there is some tension between prep and public schools.

Public school coaches are barred from recruiting participants. They take a dim view when their best talent is lured away by an academy or prep school.

Coaches like Seaforth's Ryan Armstrong, who are working hard to build powerhouse public programs, dismiss any notion that wrestlers can't get top-notch coaching at public schools.

Armstrong wrestled for Army.

Assistant coach Pete Rogers was a three-time Wisconsin state champ, four-year letter winner and captain at Division I titan Ohio State, and former Big Ten assistant

coach at Purdue.

DeWitt Driscoll, who runs the Seaforth wrestling club, was a Pennsylvania state champion, four-year letter winner at Penn State, three-time Big Ten Tournament place winner and NCAA qualifier, head coach of the Carolina Wrestling Club at UNC and head coach at Carrboro High School, where his team won the 2017 state championship.

Monday is no stranger to prep wrestling. He started a program at Bishop Lynch in Dallas, Texas, that captured second place at the prestigious National Prep School Wrestling Championships in 2005, 2006 and 2008, and fifth in 2007.

He's hoping to recreate that success at SPIRE, and counting on Miller to help set the tone.

"Josh has two years to get ready for college," Monday said. "He's a little guy so we've got to focus on getting him bigger. We've got to build his body, and that's kind of the focus right now. The technique and all those things will come, but he's got to get bigger for college."

Miller a key building block

SPIRE won't have competitive wrestling until it fills out its roster next year.

Monday said he's already got nine commits, including another North Carolina blue-chip wrestler he's not naming yet.

But Miller will participate in some national tournaments and exhibition wrestling starting in April. Monday said Miller "is a pioneer" who's helping to establish the SPIRE brand.

"He's doing a good job in his classwork. He's doing a good job on the mat in practices. I'm really proud of him," Monday said.

Miller said a typical week at SPIRE includes weight training on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in the morning or afternoon, which is a new type of conditioning for him. School starts at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. He hits the practice room at 3:30 or 4:00 and drills until 5:30 or 6:00. Then it's time for dinner, an hour of study hall to do homework, hit the sack and repeat the next day.

Monday said SPIRE is somewhat akin to IMG Academy in Bradenton, Florida, the prep/boarding school that has produced Serena Williams and a host of other athletic greats. Teachers and coaches understand the sports psyche. They employ intricate techniques custom-built for the academic and athletic needs of top-tier competitors.

"We're building something special. It's a world-class facility," Monday said, with 750,000 square feet of indoor training and competition space and outdoor training and competition facilities on the 500-acre campus. SPIRE offers wrestling, track and field, basketball, swimming and lacrosse, and even Esports (video games) and drone racing.

Students hail from 15 U.S. states and 15 countries. They are provided interactive, interdisciplinary learning opportunities to encourage independent and critical thinking, and personal skills and development. There are coaches for performance training who assess technical, physical, mental, emotional, social and tactical abilities.

The food and beverage director works with trainers to teach about proper nutrition and monitor the three daily meals.

students is about \$60,000 a year.

But sports is SPIRE's foundation, and Monday is far from its only Olympian.

The swim team instructors feature former Olympians Ryan Lochte, Caeleb Dressel and Elizabeth Beisel. The track and field program has former Olympians Tianna Bartoletti, Kibwe Johnson, Tim Mack and Dwight Phillips.

Monday plans to make SPIRE "a wrestling destination." SPIRE will host the U23 world trials in June, along with world training camps. He is shooting to host the Olympic team training camp in 2024.

Miller said it's a perfect fit for his pursuit of excellence in the combat sport.

"I'm always adding new things, becoming more of a well-rounded wrestler," Miller said. He's not looking to change his style of wrestling, dependent on speed and technique. "We just need to clean it up and build on what I already have and fix a couple of little things."

Still welcome at Seaforth

Back in Chatham County, Ryan Armstrong is watching Miller's career.

"He's a great kid, great family," and believed SPIRE was the right move for him, said Armstrong, who was in Miller's corner when he earned second place at states last year.

"Am I upset? No. Am I disappointed? Yes," he said.

Josh is a part of the family, Armstrong says, and his sons talk to him nearly every day.

"We wish Josh the best," he said. "If Josh says, 'Hey, I'm done up there, I'm coming back,' Josh is always welcome at Seaforth."

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Public hearing recessed after debate over Siler City trucking company

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Commissioners held a public hearing during their Monday night meeting to decide whether to grant a rezoning request for a trucking business located along Silk Hope Road.

Located on 140 Silk Hope Rd., Horton Trucking Company is home to a salvage yard and truck-hauling business. Owner Bryce Terrell Horton received word of some complaints from neighbors regarding the state of the property, which contains salvaged trucks he received during the pandemic.

The town's planning department notified Horton, who has since been working with the staff to ensure his business complies with the town's ordinances and requirements.

"It is messy, really messy, and I just do not have the time to make it the way it needs to be," Horton said. "Jack (Meadows, Siler City's planning director) told me people were complaining, and we needed to do something about it. So, I said, 'Let's go ahead and do what we need to do.'"

Meadows has been working with Horton to address neighboring property owners' concerns. Among other things, Meadow has come up with a list of tasks and requirements

Horton must meet to address the complaints and keep his business running.

"The surrounding land uses include single family residential (properties), a cemetery and a county recycling center, located across the street," Meadows said.

He also said the Planning Board recommended approving the conditions set by Meadows and Horton by a 6-1 vote. Some of these conditions include setting hours of operation — seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. — and the maximum number of employees allowed on site at a time, requiring buffers along the property lines, conducting land surveys and more.

Commissioners expressed concerns over several conditions, particularly the property buffer and the possibility of additional permits for Horton's business.

Commissioner Curtis Brown said he was concerned about the potential lack of a barrier between the salvage yard and the neighboring cemetery.

"I would just like the cemetery to be screened just out of respect for the families," Brown said.

Mayor Pro Tem Chip Price also pointed to a veteran's memorial located along the border of the burial sites and Horton's property, saying he wanted to make sure the sight of trash did not disturb the memorial.

"There is a memorial wall down there with plaques on it," Price said, "and the way it's facing, if you look at it, you're looking straight down there at the property in question."

Planning staff did not make clear what Horton wanted when he initially proposed a separate building for washing trucks. Some commissioners worried Horton wanted to wash oily parts from the salvaged vehicles, which would require a special permit from the state and a containment tank costing thousands of dollars. Horton, however, said he wanted to be able to wash the inside of tractor-trailers for one of his biggest clients, Mountaire Farms.

"We have to wash the smell from the trailers from the chicken plant [Mountaire Farms], spray them out and keep them clean because you don't want your food to be contaminated," he said. "That's only required for the chicken plant, and I guess I could go to a truck wash, but that costs me more money and time."

In the end, commissioners decided to recess the public hearing until April 18 so Meadows and his staff can work with Horton to revise conditions agreeable to both Horton and his neighbors.

Commissioner Lewis Fadely said he wanted to make sure Horton can be successful as a Siler City business owner, but

he also wished to ensure resident satisfaction with the outcome of the requirements Horton must fulfill.

"I know this process takes time, and everyone who spoke here tonight wants Bryce to be successful," Fadely said. "We want a success here; we want a win-win."

Other business:

The board recognized the retirement of police officer James. M. Underwood on Monday evening. Underwood worked with the Siler City Police Department for over 29 years, climbing the ranks until obtaining the title of major of operations. His family went

with him on Monday to accept the honor from the town.

Commissioners set a public hearing for May 16 to decide if the town will block access to some parts of Patterson Street. Craig Wood hired attorney W. Ben Atwater to petition Siler City to close a portion of Patterson Street, leading up to his property.

Town Manager Roy Lynch introduced Interim Town Manager Bill Zell at the end of Monday's meeting. Zell has spent 30 years working in local government in Davidson County and Aberdeen, where he served as town manager for over 14 years. Siler

City will be his sixth interim role.

"I want to thank the board for giving me this opportunity," Zell said. "I look forward to working with you and your great staff."

Mayor Pro Tem Chip Price welcomed Zell, saying he was excited to work with him in the coming days and weeks.

"We certainly appreciate you coming here and working with us, coming tonight and introducing yourself," he said, "and we look forward to working with you in this transition period."

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

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Si ocupa traducir por favor llamar al edificio del ayuntamiento al 919-742-4732.

SILER CITY, TOWN OF HAS NOT MET MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the compliance period specified in the table below, we 'did not monitor or test' or 'did not complete all monitoring or testing' for the contaminants listed and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

CONTAMINANT GROUP***	FACILITY ID NO./ SAMPLE POINT ID	COMPLIANCE PERIOD BEGIN DATE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES/ SAMPLING FREQUENCY	WHEN SAMPLES WERE OR WILL BE TAKEN (Water System to Complete)
Total Coliform and Disinfectant Residual	D01	January 1, 2022	9/month	Samples were taken February 3rd and 10th

**See back of this notice or further information on contaminants.

What should I do? There is nothing you need to do at this time.

What is being done? Extra sampling was done the following month, as required by the state, to ensure the Town drinking water was in compliance.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person Chris Mccorquodale	System Name Siler City, Town of	System Address (Street) 955 Water plant Road, Siler City, NC 27344
Phone Number 919-742-4733	System Number NC0319010	System Address (City/State/Zip) Siler City, NC 27344

Violation Awareness Date: February 25, 2022.

Date Notice Distributed: March 24, 2022, April, 06, 2022

Method of Distribution: Chatham News, Water Bill

Public Notification Certification:

The Public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C.1523.

Owner/Operator: _____
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

Contaminant Group List

(BA) Total Coliform Bacteria - includes testing for Total Coliform bacteria and *E. coli* bacteria. Testing for *E. coli* bacteria is required if total coliform is present in the sample.

(B) Bromate - includes testing for Bromate.

(CD) Chlorine Dioxide/Chlorite - includes testing for Chlorine Dioxide and/or Chlorite.

(DI) Disinfectant Residual must be tested with the collection of each compliance bacteriological sample, at the same time and site.

Fecal Indicators - includes *E. coli*, enterococci or coliphage.

(HAAS)- Haloacetic Acids - includes Monochloroacetic Acid, Dichloroacetic Acid, Trichloroacetic Acid, Monobromoacetic Acid, Dibromoacetic Acid.

(IOC) Inorganic chemicals - includes Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Cyanide, Fluoride, Iron, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, pH, Selenium, Sodium, Sulfate, and Thallium.

(LC) Lead and Copper are tested by collecting the required number of samples and testing each of the samples for both lead and copper.

(NT) Nitrate/ (NI) Nitrite - includes testing for nitrate and/or nitrite.

(RA) Radionuclides - includes Gross Alpha, Radon, Uranium, Combined Radium, Radium 226, Radium 228, Potassium 40 (Total), Gross Beta, Tritium, Strontium 89, Strontium 90, Iodine 131, and Cesium 134.

(SOC)- Synthetic Organic Chemicals/Pesticides - includes 2,4-D, 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), Alachlor (Lasso), Atrazine, Benzo (a) pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate, Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), Dinoseb, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide (EDB), Heptachlor, Heptachlor Epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane (BHC-Gamma), Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), PCBs, Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Simazine, and Toxaphene.

(TOC) - Total Organic Carbon - includes testing for Alkalinity, Dissolved Organic Carbon (DOC), Total Organic Carbon (TOG) and Ultraviolet Absorption 254 (UV254). Source water samples must be tested for both TOG and Alkalinity. Treated water samples must be tested for TOG. Source water samples and treated water samples must be collected on the same day.

(THHM) - Total Trihalomethanes - includes Chloroform, Bromoform, Bromodichloromethane, and Dibromochloromethane.

(VOC)- Volatile Organic Chemicals - includes 1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Xylenes (Total), Dichloromethane, o Dichlorobenzene, p-Dichlorobenzene, Vinyl Chloride, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, Carbon Tetrachloride, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Trichloroethylene, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Tetrachloroethylene, Chlorobenzene, Benzene, Toluene, Ethylbenzene, and Styrene.

(WQP) Water Quality Parameters (for Lead and Copper Rule)- includes Calcium, Orthophosphate (as PO₄), Silica, Conductivity, pH, Alkalinity and Water Temperature.

Instructions for Completing the Notice/Certification Form & for Performing Public Notice for Tier 3 Monitoring Violations

1. Complete ALL the missing information on the "Notice to the Public." (Note: Under the section of the notice entitled "What is being done?" describe corrective actions you took or are taking. You may choose the appropriate language below, or develop your own:

- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The sample results showed we are meeting drinking water standards.
- We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The sample for [contaminant] exceeded the limit. [Describe corrective action; use information from public notice prepared for violating the limit.]
- We plan to take the required samples soon, as described in the last column of the table above.

2. Provide public notification to your customers as soon as reasonably possible after you learn of the violation as follows:

<p>Community systems must use one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand or direct delivery • Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill <p>For community systems, this notice is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met [CFR 141.204(d)].</p>	<p>Non-community systems must use one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posting in conspicuous locations • Hand delivery • Mail <p>For non-community systems, if you post the notice, it must remain posted as long as the violation or situation persists; in no case should the notice be posted less than 7 days, even if the violation is resolved. [CFR 141.204(b)].</p>
---	---

(Note: **Both** community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by one of the **required** methods listed above [CFR 141.204(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations.

- **Both sides of this public notice/certification MUST be delivered to the persons served by the water system** in order for your customers to have access to the required **Contaminant Group List**.
- If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.
- Notify new billing customers or units prior to or at the time their service begins.
- Provide multi-lingual notifications if 30% of the residents served are non-English speaking.
- Should you decide not to use this notice and develop your own version instead, the mandatory language in **bold italics** may not be altered, and you **MUST** include the ten required elements listed in CFR 141.205. The certification located at the bottom of this sample notice **MUST** also be submitted.

3. After Issuing the "Notice to the Public" to your customers, sign and date the "Public Notification Certification" at the bottom of the notice. Within ten days after Issuing the notice [CFR 141.31(d)], use our on-line ECERT application located on our website at: <https://pws.ncwater.org/ECERT/pages/default.aspx> to submit your completed Notice/Certification to the Public Water Supply Section. If you do not have access to the internet, mail your completed Notice/Certification to: Public Water Supply Section, ATTN: Public Notification Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634.

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GENERAC

Don't be surprised by Social Security taxes

When you reach the appropriate age, it's easy to apply for Social Security retirement benefits – just go to Social Security's website, fill out the online form and you're essentially done. But many people overlook the next step – completing Form W-4V, which asks you how much federal income tax you want withheld from your benefits. And if you skip this step, you could face an unpleasant surprise when it's tax-filing time, because Social Security benefits can indeed add to your taxable income.

Here are the details:

- If you're a single filer...If your "combined" income is between \$25,000 and \$34,000, you may have to pay income tax on up to 50 percent of your Social Security benefits. ("Combined" income includes your adjusted gross income, non-taxable interest, and one-half of your annual Social Security benefits.) If your combined income is more than \$34,000, up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

- If you're married and file jointly...If you and your spouse have a combined income between \$32,000 and \$44,000, you may be taxed on up to 50 percent of your benefits. If your combined income is more than \$44,000, up to 85 percent of your benefits may be taxable.

These numbers might seem high, but they don't mean you'll lose 50 percent, or 85 percent, of your benefits – they are just the percentages of benefits you may be taxed on, at your personal income tax rate.

To help avoid a big tax bill or an underpayment penalty, you can file Form W-4V with the Social Security Administration and request to have 7, 10, 12 or 22 percent of your monthly benefit withheld. Your tax advisor can help you choose the withholding percentage that's

appropriate for your situation.

The amount of taxes you may need to pay will also depend on when you start taking Social Security. The earlier you take benefits, the smaller your monthly checks, and the smaller the taxes. But taxes should not be a key issue in deciding when you need to begin collecting your payments. Rather, you should consider other factors, such as your anticipated life expectancy, your employment situation, your spending needs and the benefits for your spouse.

Here's something else to keep in mind: Because Social Security taxes are based on your overall income, as described above, the amount of money you withdraw during retirement, and where that money comes from, can also affect your tax situation. For example, withdrawals from a traditional IRA are taxable and will increase your adjusted gross income, but withdrawals from a Roth IRA will be tax-free, provided you've had your account at least five years and you're over 59 -1/2, so this money won't enter into your taxable income calculations and it won't increase the tax you owe on your Social Security benefits. Similarly, withdrawals from health savings accounts (HSAs) used for qualified health expenses also won't count toward your taxable income.

By knowing exactly what to expect from Social Security, including the tax effects, you can more effectively incorporate your benefits into your overall retirement income planning – and the better your plans, the more you'll be able to enjoy your life as a retiree.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

CCCC's Fire Academy holds graduation

FROM CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SANFORD — Carolina Community College's Fire Academy graduation was held on Thursday, March 10, at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center.

Chief Robert Howard, CCCC's fire academy coordinator, and Chief Richard Allred, CCCC's fire rescue coordinator, both participated in the program.

The Fire Academy cadets were Terry Beans of Lillington, Alex Gilligan of Sanford, Jackson Lee of Fuquay-Varina, Veronica Nunez Sanchez of Sanford, De'Anthonie Taylor of Sanford, and Andrew Wheeler of Pittsboro.

Nunez Sanchez received the Captain's Award.

The Academy is a rigorous and

challenging program of more than 800 hours of study and practice in fire and rescue scenarios and practicals. The cadets completed intensive training in fire fighting, safety and survival, technical rescue, vehicle rescue, emergency vehicle driving, and hazardous materials response at the College's Emergency Services Training Center.

CCCC began offering fire fighter training classes in 1964. In 2001, the Emergency Services Training Center was established at the former Sanford/Lee County Airport site in Sanford, providing greatly expanded facilities for training. The Fire Academy opened in January 2010.

For information on CCCC's Fire Academy, contact the CCCC Fire and Rescue Coordinator at 919-777-7778.

CCCC hosts BlueCross BlueShield 'Extra Miles' tour

FROM CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SANFORD — A tour of Central Carolina Community College's Computer Integrated Machining and Veterinary Medical Technology programs highlighted the BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Extra Miles Tour visit to CCCC on March 11.

CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman greeted the visitors, which included staff from Education NC, before the campus tour. Kelvin Hunt, CCCC's director of student onboarding and outreach, conducted the tour along with Machining/Tool & Die chairperson Edwin Thomas and Justin Pedley, VMT animal facilities manager.

Afterward, Dr. Chapman and several college leaders shared highlights of the innovative ways the college is serving its students and its communities. Among those in attendance were state Sen. Jim Burgin and



Courtesy of CCCC

Kelvin Hunt (center) — CCCC Director of Student Onboarding and Outreach — speaks to the BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina Extra Miles Tour, along with Education NC, on March 11.

state Rep. John Sauls, as well as Jimmy Randolph, CEO of the Sanford Area Growth Alliance.

Following the visit, BCBS made a donation to the CCCC Foundation to support students.

"The college team thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina leadership," said Dr. Chapman. "They spent time with us in Chatham, Harnett and Lee learning about the strengths and challenges of our communities and the ways in which the college serves, and their engagement during the visits — as well as their generous

donation of dollars in support of our students — clearly demonstrates their commitment to North Carolina and their support of our work. CCCC is appreciative."

"We are thankful that BCBS of North Carolina has invested in the students of Central Carolina Community College," said Dr. Emily C. Hare, the executive director of the CCCC Foundation. "They understand the importance of education, and this investment will help us continue to eliminate financial barriers for our students and allow them to persist on to graduate."

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POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On March 14, Billy Paul Taylor, Jr., 29, of 8 Bednar Lane, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Brooke Roberts for resisting a public officer, assault on a female and communicating threats. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 23.

On March 14, Adam Christopher Heth, 32, of 2919 Chicken Bridge Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for larceny from a construction site. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on March 23.

appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on March 23.

On March 14, Lakendrix Jaquan Headen, Jr. 23, of 7459 Moncure Pittsboro Road, Moncure, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failure to appear related to a charge of driving while license revoked. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Wake County District Court in Raleigh on April 21.

Headen was also arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for a separate failure to appear related to a charge of driving while license revoked as well as failure to appear related to speeding. He was issued a \$350

secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court in Graham on March 31.

On March 14, Andrea Nelson, 54, of 1403 N. Horn-er Boulevard, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for second degree trespassing. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 23.

On March 15, Jacob Ray Phillips, 27, of 230 Claude Phillips Road, Bennett, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for failing to appear on a probation violation. He was issued a \$300

cash bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on March 30.

On March 16, Jeremiah Adams, 42, of 4283 NC Highway 902, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for violation of court order related to intimidating a witness. He was issued a \$53,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County Superior Court in Raleigh on March 28.

On March 16, Joseph Michael Hash, 48, of 277 Hudson Road, Siler City, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for failure to appear related to child support. He was issued a

\$2,500 cash bond and is scheduled to appear in Union County District Court in Monroe on March 28.

On March 16, Jordan Hamilton Bryarley, 35, of 5421 Piney Grove Church Road, Siler City was arrested by Deputy Cody DeViney for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court in Graham on March 22.

Bryarley was also arrested by Deputy Cody DeViney for failure to appear. He was issued a \$7,500.00 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on April 12.

CHATHAM SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Kelly makes history as department's first female chief deputy

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

PITTSBORO — Tracy Kelly quietly made history in February when she was promoted to the rank of chief deputy of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office.

Although becoming chief deputy is an impressive career milestone for any law enforcement professional, Kelly is unique in that she is the first female in the role and highest-ranking female of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office has seen in over 100 years.

Only Sheriff Mary Myrtle Siler, the first female sheriff in the state of North Carolina, achieved a higher rank when she was appointed Chatham County Sheriff in 1920.

"It feels amazing to reach this landmark. It was always a goal of mine to advance to this level, and it took a lot of determination and focus to get here," said Kelly, a Pittsboro resident. "I wasn't lucky enough to have a female role model during my law enforcement career, so I sometimes had to navigate my own way. I've always sought to better myself through education, professional certifications, or positions of increasing responsibility, and I'm honored to take this next step."

"Tracy Kelly was appointed chief deputy because she is the right person for the job and has a long track record of effectual leadership," said Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson. "She earned each and every promotion through demonstrated leadership, unwavering commitment and years of great personal sacrifice. She has consistently proven herself to be insightful,



Courtesy of the Chatham Sheriff's Office

Tracy Kelly

decisive and capable of achieving any task set before her. I am exceptionally proud of her and look forward to watching her flourish in this new role."

During her nearly 20-year career with the Sheriff's Office, Kelly has served at every rank, breaking barriers at every stage along the way; she previously made history in 2018 when she became the first woman in the agency's history to achieve the rank of major.

On the topic of challenging the status quo, Kelly says she hopes to inspire others to do the same.

"For anyone harboring big ambitions, don't let fear hold you back... Set high goals and stay committed to your dreams. Hard work does pay off!" she said. "I may be the first female chief deputy at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, but I hope I am not the last."

Kelly attributes her resilience as a leader to her willingness to grow and adapt to changing circumstances. The key, she says, is learning from one's failures as well as one's successes along the way.

"Every position has challenged me and helped me grow in

different ways as a law enforcement professional and leader," Kelly said. "Every experience I've had, positive or negative, has taught me something valuable I can carry with me. I've never had two days that were exactly the same, and that's part of the reason I was drawn to law enforcement as a career field."

Kelly shares that she was first attracted to the idea of serving her community while growing up in McDowell County in western North Carolina. She began her journey with the McDowell County Sheriff's Office before moving to Chatham in 1994. After the move, she accepted a job with the Carrboro Police Department and was later invited to join the Chatham County Sheriff's Office family in 2002.

Kelly says she remains exceedingly grateful to the many mentors who inspired and guided her as she gathered knowledge and experience over her 28 years in the profession. She hopes she can do the same for the next generation of officers and serve as a role model for those around her.

"I want to be remembered for helping employees reach their goals, cultivating good relationships with other departments and offices, and positively impacting the residents we serve," Kelly explains. "It isn't specifically that I, myself, want to be remembered... but rather the impact of my efforts to make the Sheriff's Office the best it can be for the public and employees who work here."

One of the ways Kelly is advocating for employees is by being a vocal supporter of mental health and wellness services for law enforcement professionals.

"Mental health awareness is such an important area and is especially important in law enforcement," she said. "It would be great to see more mental health professionals specializing in treating first responders. Stress in this job can be all-consuming, and it helps to have access to resources and mental health professionals who understand specific stressors first responders experience."

Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Sara Pack said staff members hold a deep respect and admiration for Kelly due to her reputation for honesty, sound judgment and getting results.

"Tracy Kelly is incredibly driven, but still puts the wellbeing of others ahead of her own. She is never too busy to check on staff members or lend an ear when they need someone to talk to," Pack said. "Tracy is straightforward, reliable and genuinely compassionate whenever staff members are struggling personally or professionally. She picks people up when they fall."

Kelly agrees the most valuable thing leaders can do is to make themselves available for their team.

"Leaders should be a resource for employees, too. It is important to show your staff that they can talk to you and feel heard and supported," she said. "Although I am proud and excited to be appointed chief deputy, I also feel an amplified sense of responsibility to care for our staff. I will continue to lead by example and support employees to the best of my ability."

Retired Sheriff Richard Webster, who noticed Kelly's superior work ethic while she was still working for Carrboro Police Department, called her "an awesome, professional, hardworking officer and a cherished friend."

"She took a huge leap of faith to join the Chatham County Sheriff's Office all those years ago, but she has made the agency a better place since the day she walked through the door," Webster said. "The day I heard she made chief, I smiled and thought, 'Well done! Well-deserved!...' She is a terrific role model, and I could not be happier for her."

Her co-workers say Kelly serves as an impressive example for law enforcement professionals well beyond the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. She holds a master's degree in justice administration, bachelor's degree in criminal justice, associate's degree in basic law enforcement training, and Advanced Law Enforcement Certificates from both the Criminal Justice and Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commissions. Kelly has earned a Meritorious Achievement Award, numerous Certificates of Appreciation, and the Sheriff's Office Community Service Award for her volunteerism to benefit the residents of Chatham County.

Outside of the office, Kelly serves as a Specialized Driving Instructor for cadets in Basic Law Enforcement Training. Concerning her passion for teaching and her reasons for specializing in driving, Kelly says:

"Driving is one of the most important responsibilities we have in law enforcement — not only for ourselves but for the public, too. I wanted to have a hand in helping educate future deputies or officers in essential driving skills."

She emphasizes that driving is a potentially lethal activity and cadets must understand the possible consequences of driving faster than they can safely travel based on environmental conditions and their individual level of training.

"Law enforcement is one of the most varied and rewarding career fields... There are so many different options to choose from. If you have a desire to give back to your community, this is a great way to do it — but we must strive to do so in the safest way possible," she said. "It is important to know our own limitations and remember we are all human and capable of making mistakes... Donning a uniform does not change that!"

Kelly says she hopes to continue to highlight the humanity of law enforcement professionals behind the badge during her time as chief. "I want the public to get to know me as a person, not just as 'Chief Deputy Kelly'... I want them to recognize me as 'Tracy' — the avid reader and kayaker who enjoys gardening, biking and cross stitch. Like most residents, I cherish my family, and I'm passionate about my work and my hobbies. We all have so much more in common than we realize; we just have to find that shared thread and keep moving forward."

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 105-322 the Chatham County Board of Equalization and Review will meet as required by law.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

To hear upon request, any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in Chatham County, with respect to the valuation of such property or the property of others, to schedule hearings, and to fulfill duties and responsibilities required by law

TIME OF MEETINGS

The Board will convene Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held at 1192 US Hwy 64 West Business, Pittsboro NC (Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center). The Board will be open to receive appeals of value and will adjourn on April 26, 2022 at 5:00 PM. At that time the Board adjourns, no additional appeals can be accepted by the Board of Equalization and Review for tax year 2022.

Those individuals with written requests for hearings received prior to 5:00 PM on April 26, 2022, the advertised date for adjournment of the Board of Equalization and Review, will be notified when and where to appear for their individual hearings.

In the event of earlier or later adjournment, notice to that effect will be published in this newspaper.

The schedule for the hearing of appeals timely filed will be posted at the Office of the Assessor, serving as Clerk to the Board of Equalization and Review.

All requests for hearings should be made in writing to:



Tax Administrator
PO Box 908
Pittsboro, NC 27312
Telephone (919) 545-8404

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CHATHAM CHAT | VANESSA JENKINS, CHATHAM PARK

2022 shaping up to be a breakout year for development at Chatham Park

Chatham Park's growth only slowed slightly at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Now, as 2022 moves into high gear, we checked in this week with Vanessa Jenkins, who oversees the sales and marketing for all of Preston Development Company's communities, which includes Chatham Park.



Vanessa Jenkins

As executive vice president, Jenkins serves as the liaison between builders, neighborhoods, sales teams and the marketing implementation for Preston's communities. She has a MIRM (Master in Residential Marketing) designation, a National Association of Home Builders' distinction, and has been a licensed North Carolina Realtor since 2011.

She joined Preston in 1991. In 2017, she was the president of the Raleigh-Wake County Home Builders Association and continues to serve on its board of directors, as well as the board of the Durham, Orange, Chapel Hill Home Builders Association.

Let's start with an overview. Now that Pittsboro's town board has approved the final additional elements, what's in store for Chatham Park this year?

After 16 years, 2022 will be a breakout year for



Courtesy of Chatham Park

Construction of The Guild, an apartment community in Mosaic in Chatham Park.

Chatham Park. So many things are happening right now.

How about housing — what's in place now, and how will things look by the end of this year?

At Vineyards at Chatham Park, located off Chatham Parkway and Thompson Street, we're underway with 11 builders (Prewitt Custom Homes, Upton & Co., Upright Builders, Walker Design Build, Wagoner Homes, David Weekley Homes, Garman Homes, Homes By Dickerson, Lennar, TriPointe Homes) building nine types of homes. They range from townhomes starting in the \$300,000s to custom homes starting in the \$800,000s and everything in between.

We also have Tessera at Mosaic, a condominiums complex under construction at Mosaic, and homesites will be available this year for a David Weekley

Encore neighborhood, a 55+ community.

This range of offering is the start of what homes will look like in Chatham Park. As each new area opens, new housing product will be designed for livability and to complement the area. We are quite excited to finally have a wide range of home choice for our buyers.

You made a presentation to the county's school board recently, outlining the land use plan for CP's North Village and South Village. The presentation included projections for single family homes, apartments and senior living residences going out to the year 2035. Can you outline what's in those projections and how you and Chatham Park investors are feeling about the timeline?

The presentation you saw was geared toward how we provide housing projections to the school

system. Chatham County Schools' consultant, ORED, has a specific format for how we present future housing in order to fit into their modeling system to predict students based on a lot type and size — meaning, we breakout the number of lots by lot sizes and the specific time frame for delivery. The matrix also indicates if the lots are single family detached, multifamily or age restricted.

This is a process we have been engaged with the consultant for about four years, and we update the numbers approximately every six months for the school system to have a good idea of when the students will be arriving.

The most current projection only indicated age-restricted lots in the South Village, but we did indicate to the school board that our next update will begin to show lots in the South Village.

We also noted for the board that Thales Academy is opening its Chatham Park Campus K-5 on April 11. When built out, the school will be K-12 and have enrollment space for approximately 1,350 students. Private and charter schools certainly effect how the Chatham County School System prepares as well.

Aside from housing, what else is under construction now in Chatham Park and Mosaic?

As you know Mosaic — the front door to Chatham Park — and Northwood Landing are well underway, and Mosaic is opening new spaces now. Here are some highlights:

- April will be a busy month for new starts as it is anticipated that construction for both the 121 Hampton Inn and the Lowe's Foods grocery store will be started at Mosaic and Northwood Landing respectively.

- Construction on the large mixed-use building is well underway with an anticipated completion date in January of 2023. This building includes 79 Degree West, Mosaic's Innovation Hub and Co-Working + Warehousing space, as well as 11 luxury condos. In addition, we anticipate that anchor tenant, Hops & Berries, will be open directly across from the entertainment commons.

- The Guild, Mosaic's first 165 rental units, will be ready for occupancy starting late October.

- By July, Mosaic will have four restaurants open and operating — including Jersey Mike's Subs, Greek Kouzina, People's Coffee and O'Ya Cantina. Many more will join over the next year or so.

- In June, work will start on a new 8,500-square-foot retail building that will be anchored by Town Hall Burger & Beer. In addition, there are lots of new medical and dental services planned to start



Courtesy of Chatham Park

An aerial view of Mosaic at Chatham Park.



Courtesy of Chatham Park

This signature building includes Tessera at Mosaic condominiums, 79°West, Hops & Berry and other retail.

construction this year. We'll announce more details in the second quarter of 2022.

- Northwood Landing will be joined by more small shop retail, a Zaxby's restaurant and a full-service car wash as well as 312 garden apartments — with construction starting as permits are issued June through October of this year and completion in late 2022 through summer 2023.

- Mosaic's existing commitment to public art will get several big boosts through 2022 with the next installment including a mural of three students' artwork from Northwood and Jordan-Matthews — and many more additions as buildings are completed in 2022.

- Lastly, get ready for more entertainment and activities with a robust schedule of concerts, movies and pop-up markets on Mosaic's Entertainment Commons from June through October. We'll post schedules on our social media platforms and our website (chathampark.com).

In addition, the Chatham Park information center in Mosaic is open Saturdays and Sundays; more days will be added as we go into summer.

Paddles, a new swim and pickleball amenity, will open Memorial Day. The facility will offer memberships to anyone to join, so living in Chatham Park will not be a requirement!

Planning is underway with an estimated groundbreaking in June to start construction on the North Village Town Center featuring homes, commercial buildings a second park, and a YMCA. And there's lots more: the Water Recovery Center is now open and processing wastewater; educational displays are being finalized and installed to offer tours explaining the unique functionality of the plant to school groups, civic groups, etc. And we have begun a bee program for Chatham Park with the first installation at the Wastewater Recovery Center (the second installation will be at Mosaic in April of this year). With the required native plant landscapes and a cultivated bee program, CP can contribute to the bee population sustainability.

Chatham Park continues to build on its

art program with each new opening, and the Chatham Park Commerce Center will be located along Eubanks Road at U.S. Bus. Hwy. 64. Plans are underway for construction to begin this summer with construction of multi-tenant flex/industrial buildings.

Anything new in Chatham Park's near-term or long-range plans?

Planning continues for Pulte's Del Webb community on Pittsboro Moncure Road next to the South Village. And with the approval of our Affordable Housing Element last fall, we have begun work on plans to start integrating affordable housing into overall Chatham Park housing plan.

We hope to have a few more announcements soon.

As we emerge from the Omicron surge and head into spring, how's the reception from commercial and residential interests who've made inquiries about CP?

The inquiries and interest are more than ever! Businesses are wanting to expand and open new space. We cannot provide homesites fast enough to fill the housing demand that is occurring due to many factors, COVID being just one among them. Our area is growing rapidly due to the job announcements, the economy, and overall consumer desire to live in areas with more open space, trails and parks — all amenity investments being integrated into Chatham Park.

Regarding Chatham Park Way — can you comment on the DOT road alignment status?

On Monday, March 14, representatives with the DOT attended the town of Pittsboro's board of commissioners meeting to present findings of a new study to relocate Chatham Park Way to an alternate route (Route 8) as requested by the town. After reviewing the study the DOT selected Alternative 6, their preferred alignment and asked for the town's concurrence, the reasons being that Alternative 6 had slightly less environmental impact and significantly less cost.

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 \$34.99 Smoke Alarm <small>First alert, 10 year, 261996</small>	 \$13.99 30-Pack AAA <small>Ray O Vac, 30 Pack, 344575</small>	 \$7.99 Outdoor Bleach <small>OUTDOOR CLEANER: Bring 265374</small>	 \$4.59 Potting Mix <small>A rich mix of Canadian 143557</small>

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NEW 1,521-LOT SUBDIVISION

Chatham commissioners approve Conservancy subdivision despite objections

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — By a 3-2 vote, the Chatham County's Board of Commissioners approved a developer's application to build the Conservancy at Jordan Lake — a 1,521-lot subdivision to be constructed on 1,263 acres off Old U.S. Hwy. 1 — despite objections from Chatham County residents and commissioners alike.

Board Chairperson Karen Howard and board members Diana Hales and Mike Dasher voted to approve the developer's application while board members Robert Logan and Franklin Gomez Flores voted to oppose it.

Peyton Holland spoke during the public comments portion of the meeting, saying he opposed the project because the area of the proposed development is zoned for low-density development and preservation of agricultural and forestry activities.

"A 1,521-lot development comparable in size and density to Briar Chapel is the antithesis to low density and conservation," Holland said. "It is the equivalent of having 5% of Chatham County's population on one tract of land."

Robin Anders, a New Hill resident, also compared the Conservancy development to Briar Chapel and voiced environmental concerns regarding the wastewater package plant proposed by the developer.

"The density of this project will destroy forever some of North Carolina's most valuable farmland, and is that not what the county is supposed to be conserving in the land use plan?" Anders asked rhetorically. "What have we not learned from the Briar Chapel debacle?"

According to the application, the developer, Conservancy Real Estate Group, has agreed to install a 360,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment plant in addition to the wastewater utility system infrastructure including spray fields.

The Briar Chapel subdivision has been cited 80 times for violations of environmental regulations by the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality due to sewage spills with more than 335,000 gallons of wastewater going into surface waters as a result.

David Kuzdrall also stated his opposition to the Conservancy development because its approval does not align with the county's comprehensive development plan.

"This is about making the determination to either uphold the commission commitments to the protection of quality of life for Chatham County residents or to dismantle the plans you've made and shatter the trust placed in you for the sake of development profits," he stated.

Scott Smith, a property owner of an adjacent parcel of land, said he's also opposed to the subdivision due to its high-density nature.

"It seems like the proposed subdivision is violating the expectations of what a conservation subdivision would be," Smith said.

Howard, the board chairperson, expressed concerns about the

impact to quality of life for Chatham County residents, especially those who live in the vicinity of the U.S. Hwy. 1 corridor. She said that the developer had met all the necessary requirements in its application, but added the board's hands were effectively tied — despite her own objections and those of speakers.

"We are looking at a community that is going to require that everybody drive everywhere to get to everything ... every single thing," Howard said, referring to the proposed subdivision.

"When we think of a conservation development that is conservation-minded in the context of Chatham County and our comprehensive plan, it's located proximate to accessories, to amenities, to the benefits of being part of a community and the conservation part is additive," Howard continued. "This feels very much like, 'I spent \$1,000 on something I didn't need, and I'm bragging about \$7.84 that I saved.'"

Mark Ashness, the project engineer, pointed out that the planned

development exceeds the county's requirement for open space with 70% of the project's footprint designated for that purpose.

In other business, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the Ridgecrest Estates development — a 30-lot subdivision to be located on 49 acres off Hamlets Chapel Road. A request for approval submitted by project engineer Chad Abbott failed to pass for lack of a second during the board's regular meeting on Feb. 21.

"We don't have an op-

tion to not approve this," Howard said at Monday night's meeting.

During public comments regarding public input on how the county should use federal funds disbursed by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Pittsboro resident Anne Geer asked the board to consider using some funds to create a position in county government dedicated to developing nature trails and open space for outdoor recreation.

Cheryl Chamblee, executive director of the Chatham Arts Council,

pointed out that artists have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic when asking commissioners to consider using a portion of federal funds

to underwrite the arts in Chatham County, specifically funding artist residencies as well as making an investment in art installations in public spaces.

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Greg Lineberry and his family would like to thank the Gees Grove A.M.E. Zion Church, all area churches, the residents of Siler City and the Chatham County community for the generosity shown toward him after the loss of his home.

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THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

Erotic thriller 'Deep Water' is all wet

Adrian Lyne's "Deep Water" puts the "psycho" in "psychological thriller."



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

For his first feature film in 20 years, Lyne returns to the familiar waters of the erotic drama, adapting a tawdry Patricia Highsmith 1950s novel that would have felt at home in the cinematic hands of Douglas

Sirk. Yet, for the sake of moral complicity, Lyne injects an amorality that takes the steam out of this steamy potboiler.

Vic and Melinda Van Allen (Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas) are tethered to an unhappy marriage. Melinda does not much care for Vic or motherhood, and she spends most of her time cavorting around town, bouncing from one affair to another. Their odd arrangement "permits" Melinda to enjoy an open relationship, but she does so in full view of both Vic and the couple's circle of friends. Meanwhile, Vic regularly proclaims his love for Melinda and their daughter, Trixie (Grace Jenkins), but he lives a perpetual slow burn, finding ways to sabotage Melinda's many dalliances.

Already suspected by some of killing one of Melinda's former lovers, Vic's patience runs out once Melinda begins bedding her beaux in their home and parading them in front of friends. They include Melinda's new piano teacher (Jacob Elordi), who soon drowns under mysterious circumstances, and an old friend (Finn Wittrock) who soon disappears. Melinda and a novelist friend (Tracy Letts) suspect Vic of murder, yet Melinda's initial horror and indignation soon morph into rekindled affection.

There is not a likable character in the film, including Melinda, whose fate is sharply altered from Highsmith's novel. That includes Vic and Melinda's pals, a delusional lot who continue to invite the couple to endless parties and visit their home even in the face of Melinda's carousing, plus Vic's dour deposition and seedy suspicions. We



Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas star in the erotic thriller 'Deep Water' (2022), which is director Adrian Lyne's first feature film in 20 years.

DEEP WATER

GRADE: C

DIRECTOR: Adrian Lyne

STARRING: Ben Affleck and Ana de Armas

MPAA RATING: R

RUNNING TIME: 1 hr. 55 min.

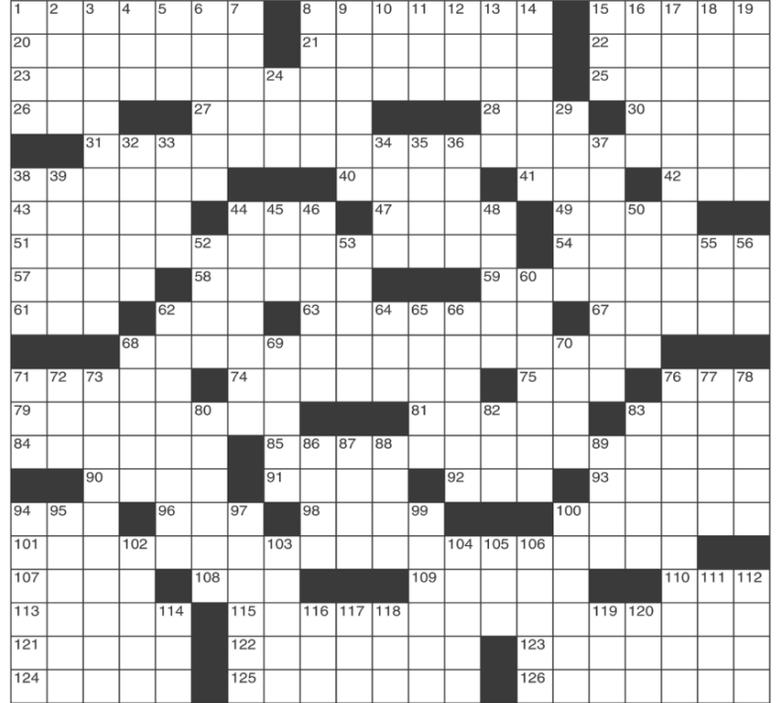
learn that Vic earns his wealth producing microchips for aerial drones and his hobby is raising snails as pets, but both of these tidbits go undeveloped and are dangled for no discernible purpose.

Lyne's former forays into hypersexual fare have met with much deserved success, including "Fatal Attraction," "9½ Weeks," "Jacob's Ladder," and his underrated adaptation of "Lolita." "Deep Water," on the other hand, thrashes about in search of narrative meaning but just ends up feeling all wet.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

STORYBOOK SENTIMENT

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| ACROSS | 1 Auxiliary professor | 8 Nickname for baseball great Ruth | 15 Cultural value system | 20 High-fashion clothing | 21 Knows someone at the company, say | 22 Reluctant (to) | 23 "Wait, my rant isn't finished ..." | 25 Private, as desires | 26 Agnus — (lamb figure) | 27 "Cool beans!" | 28 Down dinner | 30 Look lewdly | 31 2018 war documentary directed by Peter Jackson | 38 Composer — Sebastian Bach | 40 Hamilton/Burr confrontation | 41 Era upon era | 42 Turnedowns | 43 Stati — (America, in Italian) | 44 Stage design | 47 La — Tar Pitts | 49 Gp. opposed to leather | 51 Made a habit of taking risks | 54 Actress Cuthbert | 57 French for "summers" | 58 Bible book after Micah | 59 Dwell at | 61 —Ops (CIA mind games) | 62 Coffee holder | 63 In love | 67 Big name in candy wafers | 68 2011-13 Fran Drescher sitcom | 71 Give it — (try) | 74 Paris' Champs- — | 75 Certain scanning device: Abbr. | 76 St. crosses | 79 First book section | 81 Former U.N. chief Boutros Boutros- — | 83 Stool or pew | 84 Milk container | 85 Just a tiny bit | 90 Op-ed writer | 91 Art of Erté | 92 Once existed | 93 Eldritch | 94 Links gp. | 96 Canon camera brand | 98 — part (role-play) | 100 1996-2002 sports sitcom | 101 Song phrase following "See you later, alligator" | 107 Amazes | 108 Daddy's boy | 109 Prague citizen | 110 Victor's hand gesture | 113 Prefix with type or plasm | 115 What's spelled out by the starts of six answers in this puzzle | 121 Lot units | 122 Countering an attack by missile, e.g. | 123 Pundit | 124 Hockey feints | 125 Fill with more inventory | 126 Like soon-to-be-unveiled tech | 3 She won a Tony for "Hurlyburly" | 4 Stage actress | 5 Pious sister | 6 Actor Hume of "Cocoon" | 7 Heads, to | 8 Iota preceder | 9 Novelist Robbins | 10 N.Y. hours | 11 Cranky cry | 12 Singer | 13 Stanford- — test | 14 Occupy | 15 — Lilly & Co. | 16 Until this time | 17 "Just one moment" | 18 Verdi opera | 19 Tears to bits | 24 "Told ya so!" | 29 Recurring themes | 32 Detests | 33 Author Blyton | 34 Oil, informally | 35 Dweeb's kin | 36 Cassini of 20-Across | 37 Quick quip | 38 Minty Kentucky Derby drink | 39 — last legs (about to collapse) | 44 Biting turtle | 45 Ordinal suffix | 46 Like so, informally | 48 Correo — (Spanish airmail) | 50 — over (satisfied for the moment) | 52 "Movin' —" (sitcom theme song) | 53 Tube prizes | 55 Brand of fruit drinks | 56 Year, in Brazil | 60 Signs up | 62 Multilevel structure for Fluffy | 64 Suffix with fluor- or fuor- | 65 Model Chery! | 66 "ER" or "CSI" move on | 68 Get a | 69 Lead-in to "So sue me!" | 70 Caesar's 202 | 71 N.C. State's NCAA div. | 72 — "Na Na" | 73 Toiling away | 76 Fetching | 77 Certain surrealists paint | 78 Eye maladies | 80 Funds | 82 Sly — fox | 83 Tortoise's top | 86 Calf product | 87 Caesar's "Behold!" | 88 Campus mil. program | 89 Singer | 94 Underside of a dog's foot | 95 Liftoff stress | 97 Hebrew horn | 99 With | 106-Down, North Pole surrounder | 100 Cling (to) | 102 Perfumer | 103 Absurd | 104 Missouri's — Mountains | 105 Toon pic | 106 See 99-Down | 111 Kin of -ette | 112 Novelist Jennifer | 114 Pre-CIA gp. | 116 — "a girl!" | 117 Fabric dye brand | 118 Retired NBAer | 119 Vote down | 120 "True —" ("Indeedy") |
|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|---|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		6		8		2		4
	3				5		7	
2			1					8
	8				2	9		
		3	9					5
5		1		6				4
	7				8			1
		5		2				3
4			6		9	5		

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 ● NECKLACE STYLES

S V S P D M T J H E B S Y V T
Q O L T I N G D B Y S W D T R
P M K **L A V A L I E R E** I E F
D B T D Y S W R C U T S Q E O
F M N A K I S N T A F D E N R
B E Z X I W I E U S B G C I E
P U S S Q R K D L O I N O T K
L J H T P C A F D L B T L A O
C A Y W O R V L G T U S L M H
Q P N L G O P E R A L K A U C
I H F E C B N Z S Y W V R U M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: Fits Tightly Around the Neck

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| Bib | Lariat | Multi-strand | Princess |
| Collar | Lavaliere | Negligee | Sautoir |
| Festoon | Locket | Opera | Tassel |
| Graduated | Matinee | Pendant | |

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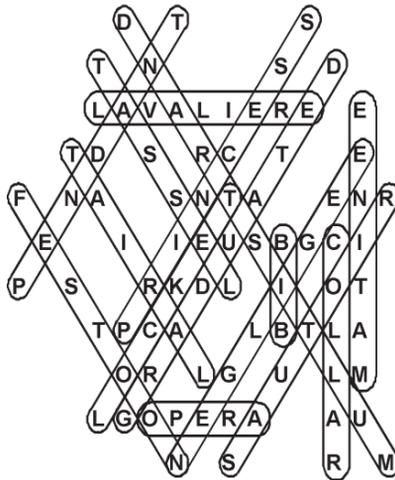
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NECKLACE STYLES



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

1	5	6	3	8	7	2	9	4
8	3	9	2	4	5	1	7	6
2	4	7	1	9	6	3	5	8
6	8	4	5	7	2	9	3	1
7	2	3	9	1	4	8	6	5
5	9	1	8	6	3	7	4	2
3	7	2	4	5	8	6	1	9
9	6	5	7	2	1	4	8	3
4	1	8	6	3	9	5	2	7

Day trippin' out west

My friend Darby asked me if I wanted to go to a vintage craft fair with her in a place called Fletcher, N.C. I said sure; I love vintage, crafts, and fairs.

I assumed it was a tiny town nearby. Nope. Fletcher is a town on the other side of Asheville.

Asheville! It's a good four-hour drive from our homes. I was nervous because I'm a little impatient (full disclosure? extremely impatient!), which makes me a tad restless on a road trip. Darby and I are good friends but had never spent that much time in a car together. I firmly believe that a road trip is an extremely effective yet brutal test of a relationship.

The drive to and fro went well; our friendship is intact. The fair was lots of fun, with tons of really cute stuff. I actually stayed within my self-imposed budget and California girl Darby experienced her first fried hand pie (she loved it).

After we left the fair, we headed to downtown Asheville for some grub.

One of our mangers at the dealership, NathanielT recommended we eat at a place called Tupelo Honey.

Everything was wonderful. I had a cocktail they call The Debutante (one of my nicknames from high school); a delicious refreshing blend of vodka and lavender lemonade.

Our appetizers were crispy Brussels sprouts and fried green tomatoes on a bed of these grits with a roasted red pepper sauce.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

A slice of pecan pie makes a perfect dessert.



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Appetizers of Brussels sprouts and fried green tomatoes.

They were both wonderful, but those Brussels sprouts were a revelation. They were flashed fried, crispy, and light. Next time I go to the movies, I want a bucket of them. I'm going to work with The Kid and try to recreate them (I'll fill you in on our results in a future column).

For my main course, I had a ginormous Cobb salad. The only disappointment of it was the replacement of blue cheese with grated cheddar that looked like it came from a bag from a big box grocery store —

I ate around it.

And dessert was their honey pecan pie. It was decadent and delicious. It made me think of my mom's pecan, and the pie I created which was inspired by hers.

If you've never had a chance to spend time in that funky little town nestled in the Blue Ridge, I highly recommend it. It's a curious combination of hippie and art deco.

And it works. Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

Mom's Pecan Pie with Vanilla Whipped Cream

Crust

- 1 cup butter (2 sticks), cubed and frozen
- 2 1/2 cups + 1/2 tablespoon cake flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons very cold vodka (Vodka is tasteless)

Put the butter, flour, and salt in the food processor, and pulse lightly just until the mixture resembles wet sand. Add vodka then water, 1 tablespoon at a time, pulsing briefly after each spoonful. Keep adding liquid until the dough just begins to gather into larger clumps. Pour dough onto flat surface and lightly knead just until it comes together.

Divide dough in half and transfer into re-sealable plastic bags and pat into disks. Let rest in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Or freeze for later.

Roll one disk to a 13-inch circle and place into 9-inch pan. DO NOT STRETCH the dough because it will draw up while cooking and no longer go up the sides of the pie pan and have an edge around the top.

Before baking, chill formed dough for 30-60 minutes. Remove the crust from the refrigerator and cover with a piece of parchment paper. Fill the crust at least halfway full with dried beans or pie weights. Bake for 20 minutes, or until the crust is pale and partially cooked. This step, called blind baking, ensures that the crust is crisp on the bottom (otherwise the wet filling will prevent the crust from cooking through). Remove the parchment and dried beans/pie weights and set aside while you prepare the filling.

Mom-Inspired Pecan Pie

- Makes 1 9-inch pie
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/3 cup unsalted butter,

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a mixing bowl, mix corn syrup, eggs, sugar, butter, bourbon and vanilla using a spoon. Sprinkle the pecans in the baked pie crust and then pour the filling over them. The nuts will float to the top.

Bake on center rack of oven, about 50-55 minutes. The filling should be slightly jiggly in the very center and the top should be nicely browned.

Remove the finished pie from the oven and place on a wire rack to cool completely, about 4 hours or overnight. Serve at room temperature with vanilla whipped cream.

Vanilla Whipped Cream

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar (the cornstarch in the powdered sugar

will stabilize the finished product) 2 teaspoons vanilla Pinch of salt Place all ingredients into a cold bowl and use a mixer with a whip attachment, an immersion blender, or a whisk and a strong arm until it reaches the stiff peak stage. Keep refrigerated.



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