

# Chatham News + Record

Chatham County, N.C. | **APRIL 7 - 13, 2022** | [www.chathamnewsrecord.com](http://www.chathamnewsrecord.com) | \$1

## WHEN VINFAST CAME CALLING

### For EDC's Smith, an unexpected question, a major economic win

Remembering a 'point-blank' ask from VinFast

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

MONCURE — The Sky Mart convenience store in New Hill, located just off U.S. 1 near Moncure, is a landmark for anyone traveling between Jordan Lake and the Shearon Harris area, as well as kind of a halfway point between Sanford and Cary and a place to gas up or pick up some homemade biscuits.

And as a rendezvous spot for Michael Smith — the president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation — and development prospects checking out Tri-

See **VINFAST**, page A6



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Chatham EDC Project Manager Sam Rauf, part of the local team working to secure VinFast as a tenant at Triangle Innovation Point, checks out the carmaker's VF 9 model in Raleigh last Tuesday.**

## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

### Chatham's loss turns into a win

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

When the door closed in January on Chatham County's "Project Autumn" — the code name for the multi-billion dollar semiconductor chip manufacturer considering Triangle Innovation Point as its home — local officials put a positive spin on the loss.

"Incredibly optimistic," without exception, was the sentiment. Chatham's TIP site, rumored to be the destination for Idaho-based Micron Technology, still had plenty of prospective tenants, despite the headline-making rebuff.

That confidence was well-placed. Today, Micron still hasn't chosen a home for its huge expansion. And VinFast, the Vietnamese carmaker which last Tuesday announced its

See **CHIP**, page A6

## CHATHAM CENTRAL'S CARLEIGH GENTRY

### Morehead Scholarship finalist powers through tough times

**BY TERI SAYLOR**  
News + Record Correspondent

After forging through a pandemic and personal tragedy, Carleigh Gentry is looking forward to a bright and hopeful future.

The Chatham Central High School senior was a finalist for the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship. While she didn't receive the honor — it would have covered all expenses for four years of undergraduate study at UNC-Chapel Hill — she forged strong friendships in the process and still plans to enroll in UNC next fall, where she will begin pre-pharmacy studies.

And this week, Gentry started an internship at Siler City Pharmacy, the first steps in her journey to a career in life sciences.

She comes by her devotion to science naturally. Gentry's mother, Maria, is a quality systems and compliance director at Pfizer and her father had a long career in the pharmaceutical industry as a scientist, most recently working in gene therapy.

He died of cancer last September.

"When I was at the hospital with



Submitted photo

**Carleigh Gentry, a senior at Chatham Central, was a nominee for UNC's Morehead-Cain Scholarship.**

my dad, I watched the pharmacists who were working with clinical medicine and new cancer drugs," Gentry said in a Zoom interview. "That really spoke to me, and I decided that's what I want to do — either work in a hospital giving out these drugs or work in the lab

creating them."

Gentry's twin sisters, Lucy and Marisa are also in the "family business," pursuing degrees in life sciences at Western Carolina University.

See **FINALIST**, page A3

### Guardians ad Litem give kids a voice in and out of court

**BY ZENDA DOUGLAS**  
News + Record Correspondent

Editor's note: first of two parts.

Every week, a volunteer guardian and the state-retained attorney from the Guardian ad Litem Program for NC District 15B appear before the Juvenile Abuse, Neglect and Dependency Court in either Orange or Chatham County. While the children and youth they represent may or may not be present, decisions regarding their well-being and where they will live are the focus of the proceedings.

For the children, the process and events leading up to this day in court can be confusing, traumatic and scary. The Guardian ad Litem Program (GAL) exists to give them a voice and advocate for their needs and wishes — theirs alone.

"These children are coming through these courts through no fault or act of their own and many of them have had terrible experiences," says Karen Davidson, District 15B's GAL attorney.

GAL is engaged and a volunteer advocate appointed for every child the Department of Social Services has determined to be abused

See **GUARDIANS**, page A3

## FROM THE BIG APPLE TO BBQ

### New York City natives open The Broken Spit in Siler City

Barbecue joint serves traditional Southern fixins with a new twist



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

**Owners Brian Ferguson (left) and Alex Maromaty moved to North Carolina from New York and opened their barbecue restaurant, The Broken Spit, in March.**

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — New York City natives Brian Ferguson and Alex Maromaty share several similarities — both grew up in the borough of Queens, have a passion for food and community, and even moved to North Carolina around the same time during the COVID-19 pandemic.

And now they've accomplished a shared dream: opening their own restaurant.

"Once we were both here, we had to do something together," Maromaty said.

Fast forward to early March, when the duo made that dream come true with the opening of The Broken Spit — which

serves up fresh brisket, pulled pork and a wide variety of Southern fixins to the people of Siler City and beyond at 2734 Old U.S. Hwy. 421 North.

Maromaty, who serves as The Broken Spit's general manager, and Ferguson, who works as head chef, met while working at a restaurant called Tony Roma's in New York City in 2013. But when the COVID-19 pandemic started in earnest in March 2020, the restaurant business took a massive hit, resulting in each making the independent decision to move south — Ferguson to Graham and Maromaty to Raleigh. Ferguson moved to be closer to family members who've gradually relocated to the region, and Maromaty moved

to North Carolina for what he felt would be a good economic opportunity.

While they moved for different reasons, Ferguson said once he relocated, he wanted to reconnect with Maromaty to create a new eating spot in North Carolina.

"Alex and I definitely wanted to do something," Ferguson said. "We looked at a bunch of different cities within a 20, 25 mile radius (of where we lived)."

The two found the perfect location in Siler City: a building site which previously held a variety of restaurants and a catering business. The proper-

See **BARBECUE**, page A8

**IN THE KNOW**

BY THE NUMBERS: A closer look at VinFast's \$4B project. **PAGE A7**

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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 Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors** will meet on Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, 1192 U.S. 64 W. Business, Pittsboro (west side entrance) in the conference room. If you wish to attend, please call 919-545-8440 for more information.

**Chatham County Parks and Recreation** invites the community to enjoy The EGGstreme Spring Fling. This event is back in person and will take place Saturday, April 9, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at C.C.C.C.'s Main Campus located at 764 West Street, Pittsboro. There will be balloon twisting, hula hoops, glitter tattoos, and multiple other community organizations hosting other spring-themed activities.

**The Silk Hope Rurians** are hosting a spring celebration at Silk Hope Farm Heritage Park from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. Activities include an Easter egg hunt (for children up to age 10), the Easter bunny, a kiddie train, face painting and other events.

**COA Caregiver Support Group:** the Chatham County Council on Aging's Family Caregiver

Support Group will meet Monday, April 11, at Chatham Community Library from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. with the topic being "Routine and Rhythms." For more information or to register, contact Rodney Dietrich, Aging Social Worker, at 919-542-4512 ext. 231 or email rodney.dietrich@chathamcoa.org

**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 base-running. **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, effective April 1, 11 a.m. until 5 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 spring 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.bstroom93.org for more information.

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

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

## How did you LAND here?



**Eric Andrews**  
Accredited Land Consultant

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

## 94 PROPERTIES SOLD IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS!

**LAND (Representing Sellers) 43 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)
- 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
- 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
- 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
- 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)

**LAND (Representing Buyers) 13 Units**

- 00 Quakenbush Road (46.2 Acres)
- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 0 Hawkins Avenue (9.7 Acres)
- 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)

- 27 Mt. View Church Road (4.04 Acres)
- 388 Wade Bright Road (10 Acres)
- 0 Roselle Road (46.204 Acres)
- 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
- 685 Revmont (3.893 Acres)
- 0 Mays Chapel Road (.365 Acres)
- 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
- 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
- 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Sellers) 3 Units**

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

**COMMERCIAL (Representing Buyers) 1 Units**

- 45 West Street (Pittsboro)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 23 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 Callie 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)
- 8798 Sylvan Road (Liberty)

**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) 5 Units**

- 13120 Strickland Road (16.25 Acres)
- 0 Hamlets Chapel Road (42.805 Acres)
- 0 Old Graham Road (161.97 Acres)
- 00 Thomas Kelly Road (36 Acres)
- 1475 Lewter Shop Road (4.445 Acres)

**RESIDENTIAL (Representing Sellers) 2 Units**

- 488 NC 87 N (Pittsboro)
- 4831 Old Graham Road (Pittsboro)



**Featured CN+R YouTube Video of the Week**  
[https://youtu.be/zz\\_PntbqfQc](https://youtu.be/zz_PntbqfQc)

**VIDEO TOPIC: Purchasing Landlocked Property in North Carolina**



**CAROLINA PROPERTIES**  
**919-542-0523**

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**eric@ericandrewsrealtor.com**

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**919-545-9911**

## NEWS BRIEF

### April proclaimed 'Child Abuse Prevention' month

PITTSBORO — On March 21, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Chatham County Department of Social Services is calling attention to this issue that greatly impacts the lives of the county's most vulnerable residents — its children. This year's statewide theme is "Growing better together, we CAN prevent child abuse, North Carolina!"

"Children are vital to the future of our community, and we must do everything we can to foster their healthy growth and development," said Chatham County Board of Commissioners chairperson Karen Howard. "Preventing child abuse and neglect is a responsibility that everyone shares, and I hope all Chatham County residents will do their part to ensure the children in their lives have safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities to thrive in."

In 2021, the Chatham County Department of Social Services had 159 children in its care and accepted 299 reports of child abuse and neglect. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina both provide resources for families related to the impacts of child abuse and neglect. They recommend learning about, recognizing, and reporting child maltreatment; they provide online trainings for parents and community members; and they share an affiliation of agencies that develop a strong support network.

"Effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of collaborations among residents, schools, faith-based organizations, medical providers, and others," said Chatham County Department of Social Services Director Jennie Kristiansen. "We encourage all Chatham community members to get involved by making connections, providing help to your neighbor in need, and making avail-

able services and programs in the community that provide treatment and support."

Individuals who are concerned about the safety of a child, may contact the Chatham County Department of Social Services at 919-542-6988 or after hours at 919-542-2911. Everyone in North Carolina is mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect and all reporter information is confidential.

—CN+R staff reports

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# GUARDIANS

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or neglected. Right now, the District 15B GAL office, which is a part of the administrative offices of the Court, is working with 94 children in Chatham County and 71 children in Orange County. Currently, there are 134 GAL volunteers serving newborns to 18-year-olds.

“Each child we work with has experienced trauma of some kind or another, many being separated from their families,” says Nicole Roman, the program’s district administrator. “Most of the children are in DSS custody and, possibly, foster care.”

Upon entering the court system, parents who have been investigated or are under investigation for child abuse or neglect have legal representation through a lawyer. The Department of Social Services has its own attorneys on board.

“Most kids like to know that there is someone on their team; someone who is there just for them; someone they can trust,” says Roman.

The Guardian ad Litem Program’s mission is to be a voice for the children in our community, she said.

“We advocate for a safe and permanent home as soon as possible for each child.”

“Permanence” is the key word and desired outcome.

“For some, a permanent resolution is being returned to their family or place of origin entering the system,” she said. “Another permanent path would be adoption. Foster home placement is not considered a permanent solution.”

“The system runs on reports — from individuals, from social workers, from guardians ad litem,” says Davidson.

## There for abused, neglected children

When DSS receives a report alleging abuse or neglect, the department conducts an assessment. In 2019 Chatham County reported that 28.7 out of every 1,000 children were assessed for abuse or neglect in the county, according to NC Child, an organization established to advance public policies for children. If DSS determines that the situation warrants further legal action or is in a high risk definition of abuse and neglect, they consult an attorney who files a petition on their behalf to the court. At that point, the court involves the GAL program.

Within seven days, either a non-secure custody hearing to temporarily remove the child from his or her home or a child-planning conference



Staff photo by Kim Hawks

## Nicole Roman (from left), Karen Davidson and Janice Summers work within Chatham’s Guardian ad Litem program.

is held. If there is an allegation of sexual abuse, DSS responds immediately. With neglect reports, it might be 24 to 48 hours, depending on the type of information DSS has received. Within 60 days, there will be a ruling on whether the child experienced abuse or neglect. Parent(s) will have opportunity to fight the decision. DSS must seek a judge’s signature to remove a child from his or her home.

“In District 15B, we sometimes have a child-planning conference first along with the parent to get everybody off to a good start and start problem-solving,” says Roman. “We do have families where there is report of abuse or neglect but DSS doesn’t remove the child, but the situation in the home is supervised. For GAL purposes, we are assigned from the time when a child is brought under the court system by the allegations made by DSS until they reach permanent placement.”

“The plan normally goes to reunification because an investigation has to be made,” says Karen Frisch, a GAL volunteer with about 12 years’ experience. “The initial determination is a process and gives the opportunity, even if there is a glimmer of hope, for the parents to work it out.”

Determination of parental rights can be a long process, not always involving termination. Options may include visitation rights or having others making decisions for the best interests of the child.

“It’s not a snap judgment. The important thing is that the child’s safety is not compro-

mised,” says Frisch.

Reunification only occurs about half the time.

Recently the state legislature has emphasized obtaining permanence as soon as possible so children are not left for long periods of time in uncertain situations. New laws came into effect in 2021 addressing that issue, according to Davidson.

“Children’s timelines are very different than for adults and they can’t just wait and wait and wait for parents to correct the issues that brought them into the system,” she said. “We don’t want children to languish in the foster care system,” Roman said. “Until a judge says otherwise, everyone is working towards reunification with the parents.”

Guardians ad Litem are required to meet with the child they are assigned to at least once per month. Beyond that, time spent varies significantly, depending on need. GALs are also required to have contact with parents and observe interaction during visitation and between court dates.

“I check in with placement providers, whether parents or foster parents, to get updates and find out about anything outstanding like dental appointments or enrollment in an activity,” says Janice Summers, who started with the GAL program in February of 2021. “I will see them when I visit the children.”

GALs are also required to maintain contact with the DSS social worker involved and daycare providers as well as teachers, counselors or social

workers at the child’s school.

The District 15B office in Chatham County has three staff members, with Roman reporting to the N.C. Guardian ad Litem Program Administrator. Each guardian ad litem is supervised by a staff member and has representation by the GAL attorney who presents their recommendations to the court. GAL volunteers come primarily through word of mouth, but there are also some recruitment efforts and the need for guardians ad litem is ongoing.

“We strive to have volunteers on board ahead of the need,” says Roman. “We don’t always have that but we are fortunate to have high interest in our area.”

There’s not been a time for more than 10 years when I haven’t had a case,” says Frisch.

Summers was assigned her first case the day after she was sworn in by a judge.

## Experience and inspiration

Motivation, inspiration and experience that lead individuals to become Guardians ad Litem volunteers vary widely.

Roman was headed for grad school to become an occupational therapist when she started volunteering for a rape crisis center. The experience changed the trajectory of her career, sending her instead to work in a child-advocacy center and with non-profits focused on domestic violence and sexual abuse. She has served the GAL program for the past 12 years.

Frisch is a certified yoga teacher. Since retiring from the workplace, she has used her certification to work with senior citizens, patients with dementia, young adults with cognitive challenges, youth with cognitive challenges and elementary and middle school students. She has been a guardian ad litem volunteer for 12 years.

Volunteer Marcia Cordova-Roth’s background is in public health — designing systems of care for women, children and families. She has been a disability advocate as an extension of her family and professionally. Through her daughter, she realized that kids who are out-of-home placed often don’t have an adult or parent to advocate for them in getting their needs met. She prefers working with adolescents and teens. She has volunteered as a guardian ad litem for the past eight years.

Janice Summers decided more than 25 years ago that she wanted to do GAL work. A college internship in juvenile services positioned her across the hall from a GAL court room. She was impressed with

the guardians standing up and fighting for the children there. Her career life took another path as a healthcare system program manager. Now retired, she honors her goal to advocate for children through the GAL program.

Davidson has been retained as legal counsel for the GAL program for more than thirty years. Working in the district attorney’s office in Wake and then Chatham County, she prosecuted child abuse cases as well as others. Later she practiced family law with the Epting and Hackney firm in Chapel Hill. Her mother’s illness led her to determine that she needed to be in a solo practice and she moved her practice into her home. She continues to practice, now focusing on collaborative family law.

## April: Child Abuse Prevention Month

“There are so many ways that communities, families and individuals can support children and youth in foster care such as mentoring, volunteering at schools, and paying attention to ways to include a child who is in and out of home placement in activities,” says volunteer Cordova-Roth. “Pay attention to foster families in your neighborhood, church sponsored families, and kids living with a grandparent or in a non-traditional setting. Help a child connect with his or her interests. You can operate in the world and not be aware of poverty, children’s needs, domestic violence or abuse or you can look at it.”

Davidson praises foster parents in Chatham and Orange counties, saying: “Sometimes children are placed with the most amazing foster homes and it’s incredible how sometimes when a child is placed in a great foster home, everything gets turned around. I wish we had many, many more of them. They are astonishing.”

“From the bottom of my heart, I have so much admiration for our guardian ad litem volunteers, the people who choose to do this work, to take time away from their own lives to work with these children,” says Roman.

Those interested in learning more about the Guardian ad Litem Program serving Orange and Chatham Counties and opportunities to volunteer may visit [www.volunteerforgal.org](http://www.volunteerforgal.org) or call Nicole Roman and the District 15B office at 919-644-4753.

Applications can be accessed and filled in online.

*In part 2, next week, we look at how guardians are trained.*

# FINALIST

Continued from page A1

If science is in Gentry’s DNA, then helping people is in her heart. She has spent most of her growing up years volunteering at Bear Creek’s Meroney United Methodist Church Food Pantry alongside her dad, who was the pantry’s leader for about eight years, she said.

“This past December, I organized the Carl Gentry Memorial food drive in honor of my dad on his first birthday in heaven,” she said.

The drive raised over \$2,000 and thousands of cans of food for the food pantry. The food pantry used the money to buy Christmas turkeys for underserved families.

“Doing the food drive made me really happy,

because it made his first birthday without us feel meaningful, and the day was more cherished than depressing,” she said.

Gentry, who turned 18 last week, has a 4.8 weighted GPA. She plays volleyball and basketball and is a high jumper on Chatham Central’s track team. She also finds time for student government leadership roles, serving as executive board

president at her school, a position that has taught her lessons in leadership.

“I’ve learned that to be a leader, you can’t do it alone,” she said. “You have to rely on everyone, and it takes a team to get something accomplished.”

If her role as president of her school taught her about leadership, the COVID-19 pandemic taught her about persistence, tenacity and resilience. She also learned about how technology can bring people together during tough times.

“One of our major efforts during COVID-19 was trying to keep the student body engaged over computers, and keeping everyone’s spirits up was hard,” Gentry said.

One of the student body’s biggest technological feats was planning homecoming during the pandemic. The kids held their planning meetings on Zoom and crafted a hybrid homecoming both in-person and lives-streamed on the network the school uses to broadcast sports.

“The homecoming was outside on the football field,” she said. “We were spaced apart and we had a limited number of guests, but we also broadcasted it for everyone.”

Growing up in a close-knit family, Gentry had to dig even deeper when her father’s illness and death followed on the heels of the pandemic.

She recalls sitting in her guidance counselor’s office, filling out college applications and applying for scholarships shortly after he passed away. She doesn’t know how she did it — crediting teachers and a guidance counselor for helping.

“My dad passed away September 6, 2021, and I had to turn my materials in for the Morehead the week after,” she said. “I had such an amazing support system that helped, and I got it turned in at the very last minute.”

Gentry counts among that support team Laurie Paige, a national developer for Advancement Via Individual Determination. She credits her AP teacher, Heather Brooks, for “helping me every step of the way through the hard times of COVID and my dad passing away.”

She also appreciates her guidance counselor Sandra Young, who helped her with college applications and the Morehead-Cain Scholarship paperwork.

Of her entire support team, Gentry says her mother is her role model and “the one person in my life that I really look up to.”

“My mom didn’t really have a lot when she was a child, but she worked hard, starting at age 15, graduated from college, and raised my sisters and me,” Gentry said. “Today, her career and her work

really motivates me.”

In a time when many teenagers like Gentry are dealing with full schedules, high expectations and many losses that the pandemic brought about, anxiety runs deep.

Gentry, who is highly organized, held her day planner in front of the camera on her computer screen to show her schedule in March. Every day was packed with notes and appointments and it’s key for enabling her to keep up with her busy life.

“I have to practice time management and I learned to write everything in my planner, because if I didn’t, I would get so anxious about it,” she said.

Gentry learned to reach out to teachers, friends, and family for support, and in turn, supports friends going through the same things.

“I have learned it helps to tell someone when you need help and guidance,” she said. “I’m not ashamed to say that I see a therapist, and shifting from having everything buried inside to expressing when I need support has helped me the most.”

Soon Gentry will say goodbye to her high school friends and teachers as she prepares to enter college in Chapel Hill. It is a bittersweet time.

“I’m sad that I will be leaving my high school friends, but I’m looking forward to this next chapter in my life,” she said.

## Kinsey For State House of Representatives 2022

**(Chatham and Randolph, District 54).**

### Conservative Opinion by Craig Kinsey:

**Voting is a Patriotic Duty**

Voting is an expression by Americans to control their destiny. Voting should be fair, so the results are accepted, even by those who do not like the outcome. If one’s vote is corrupted, why have elections?

Both Election Day and Early Voting are public events. This is as it should be. If chicanery occurs, it will be detected by workers/citizens inside the voting space. In contrast, voting processes occurring in private are vulnerable to mischief. Two examples: (Absentee mail-in voting) and (Early Voting workers). Absentee mail-in is further flawed because multiple people handle the envelope before it is counted, all outside of public sight. Concerningly, Early Voting workers are selected outside of public scrutiny.

The solution: **Restrict Absentee mail-in** voting to its original intent (excuse only). **Select Early Voting workers** using the same process as election day workers: (the candidate worker is proposed by party chairperson, then approved/rejected by County Election Boards during a public meeting). **Expand percentage of ballots audited** during post-election quality check of electronic voting machines. This way, machine counts are validated to a higher standard, workers are publicly selected, and citizens exhibit their duty of voting.

**Paid for by committee Kinsey for NC House 54**

# VIEWPOINTS

## When good news finds you

It is terribly easy to find tragic news stories. Just open the paper, turn on the news, check the internet.

To find good news, you might have to search like an investigative reporter.

Margaret Evans covers the war in Ukraine for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. When author Louise Penny asked about the Ukrainians she had met, Evans showed a picture of an elderly organ grinder. This gentleman had a Santa Claus beard and a pipe clenched between his teeth. Instead

of a monkey, a pet rabbit sat beside him. There was a paper bag by his feet that read "Kindness Everywhere."

Imagine believing that message in a country torn apart by war.

Sometimes you rely on others to inspire you; other times good news all but kisses you in the face. My friend tripped on an uneven sidewalk and managed to steady himself by grabbing a telephone pole. Hugging the wood, he read a small sticker right in front of his nose: "You Are Beautiful."

Another friend, who is having a difficult time, happened to glance down and see her favorite flower, wake robin trillium, blooming in an otherwise desolate parking lot.

Is receiving such a message just luck? Coincidence? God? I

know people who flip the Bible open at random, hoping for an answer to their questions or problems. This seems a little like a Chinese fortune cookie approach to faith. But who am I to judge?

Perhaps there are messages just waiting to be discovered in sacred texts or even telephone pole stickers. Maybe good news is found in the grass and sky, in trees and parking lots. Maybe even in offhand comments by complete strangers.

My kids and I are huge fans of the writer Beverly Cleary, including all of the Ramona Quimby books. (We actually named our dog Ramona!) Those familiar with Cleary's work may already know that the little girl Ramona originally appeared in novels about Henry Huggins, her neigh-

bor on Klickitat Street. One afternoon, Cleary realized that Henry and all of his neighborhood friends had no brothers or sisters. She needed to create a sibling. But what would be her name? Cleary was sitting at her writing desk before an open window. From the street outside, she heard a stranger's voice, "Ramona! Ramona, come here!" A literary hero was born.

Was this mere luck? Just coincidence? Or maybe a Divine Muse? Readers can answer such theological questions for themselves.

I call our attention to Cleary's story because it strikes me that, if there are messages just waiting for us, the key is what we do with them. I'm not suggesting that everyone will write novels.

Perhaps more of us can relate to my friend who stumbled into that telephone pole. He read the sticker: "You Are Beautiful." He couldn't help but wonder: Who, me? Is this real? But then he felt a bit lighter. The sun shined brighter in a bluer sky. As he walked more carefully down that sidewalk, he watched for more good news, hoping (as C.S. Lewis once put it) "to be surprised by joy." This kind of thing happens all the time; kindness really is everywhere.

*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."*

## Some dates take on really special meaning

Lately, I've started paying more attention to dates. Not the kind you eat and not the kind you go on with your sweet patootie.

Instead, those that come on calendars once yearly, which makes them even more special.

As a little fellow I knew about some, paid attention to them.

Example: I always knew when December 25 rolled around. And closely connected with Christmas was the school Christmas break, which by law, I thought, had to begin on Dec. 19 and end January 2 — just in time to watch what were then only four college football bowl games, all on January 1.

I was also big on Thanksgiving, which wasn't always the same date but always the fourth Thursday in November. For awhile I liked it because it was an excuse for some really big drumsticks. Later on, I cherished it because it was when my brothers came home from college and I got time with them.

Easter could be in March or April but it was always a good time because chocolate Easter bunnies would appear. Sometimes I'd bite off the ears; once I saved one for 10 years. It wasn't a pretty sight, all pale brown and dried up under the cellophane. Later I learned what Easter was about; then the eggs and bunnies paled in comparison.

There were others with particular boyhood significance, especially my birthday. But as I've aged out of little boy clothes into big boy pants for almost three-fourths of century, another date lives in my mind — and heart.

It came this week.

April 6.

My mama would have been 102, although for the last little bit of her life she couldn't remember if she came in 1917 or 1919 or 1918, the one I'd always heard.

When I was a little guy my mama was always there. She was the person who would send me to Sam White's store with a dime for us to share a Milky Way or who stirred Grandma's Molasses into a glass of cold milk, pronouncing it my supper dessert. She fried the best chicken and okra and had a gift for cutting sweet corn off the cob and frying it in fatback grease. That, in large part, explains my current figure, but what I'd give for one more meal like that.

Later as I struggled through the teen years — too old to be a boy and too young to be an adult — we had some disagreements. They never were violent. Vocal, sometimes, but never disrespectful. And on more than one occasion, my dad retreated to another room and broke out his harmonica to play "Be it ever so humble there's no place like home."

Later I realized I was just trying to figure out who I was, something I'm still working on.

In time, after Dad slipped away and Mama's health started doing the same I became a significant player in her caretaker game. I had help all along but it was me she called at all hours the years she was able to stay at home and those at the care facility. I think I averaged six and a half days per week seeing her.

While she could, we'd go for rides, for her pleasure or while I delivered newspapers. We'd stop for a hot dog or as we rode along she'd point out a particular house, telling me for the levity-umpteenth time who used to live there before moving somewhere else and so on and so forth. For I don't know how long after she died, I'd plan to call her to ask such a question about a family member or friend or think to myself, "I'll ask Mama" and, of course, you know how that goes ...

We had talks about this and that and I used to annoy her on purpose just to keep her blood pressure up and aggravate her. One day after she had told me the same thing for the 19th time, I asked her if she thought she had raised an idiot. Her reply was in the negative, and then she asked me why I wanted to know. I told her it was because she kept telling me the same thing over and over. Her reply was for me not to "get smart" with her.

I think about her a lot, not just on April 6 either. It's just that on that day ... well, you know.

If you've still got your mama, do like the late Paul "Bear" Bryant, legendary University of Alabama football coach, used to say in the telephone commercial: "Call your Mama." Better still, go see her.

Did I mention that I miss mine?

*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.*



### LETTERS

#### Be careful when it comes to 'zero-tolerance' policies

TO THE EDITOR:

As a 14-year old white kid growing up in a racist town, I could have been the one organizing a slave auction, thinking it was funny. Thankfully, people of every shade of skin over these 60+ years made it their business to save my heart from cruelty and hate.

However, I do not believe that had I been under the newly adopted rules of the Chatham County School Board, I would not have seen the light. A 10-day suspension for my first offense would have hardened my beliefs and made me an outcast among the people who I could most learn from.

There has to be a way to support teenage victims of racial bullying while also being sympathetic to perpetrators who have learned to hate. There's a narrow window in the minds of teenagers for them to learn new beliefs, and lowering the hammer of punishment on the first offense will not send the message, "We care about you."

In fact, it says the opposite: "We can throw you away." Then, he grows up to be a racist adult.

Zero-tolerance policies can quell the righteous anger felt by most adults, but eventually communities come to regret them. Like my old school system in Virginia that had an automatic suspension for anyone bringing knives on school property. A child in 12th grade was found to have a knife in the glove box of his car, leftover from a fishing trip with his dad, and was suspended from school. As a result, he lost an ROTC scholarship and never went to college.

These are KIDS, people. Don't expect them to find the path to goodness on their own.

Mark Barroso  
Pittsboro

#### Some additional thoughts about Putin

TO THE EDITOR:

I greatly appreciated the perspectives of Bill Janhonen and Christine B. Mayfield in the News + Record's "Viewpoints" pages last week [March 31-April 6 edition, page A5]. Add the angle of Special Forces intelligence officer and jump school and Davidson College graduate D.

G. Martin, and we readers were provided a broad look at complex possibilities in this tragedy. (D.G.'s dad was president when I was at Davidson.)

Labeling this "Putin's War" seemed to be a viable strategy after Zelensky stood his ground and did not flee to a government in exile, and the only excuse for not responding early with a prevent the war buildup of NATO force. For this to work with sanctions and not U.S. troops, Putin must be "bogged down," NOT "backed into a corner." Recent rhetoric tends to back him into a corner. "War criminal" was off the cuff walking from one group to another. True, but not compatible with "bogged down." "Removed from power" was added to a prepared speech. These are either our president's famous gaffes, or a major shift in policy. Either way, these remarks have made Putin's powerful propaganda to the Russian people more effective. Putin may still end up isolated by failure and find himself a dictator with no one to dictate to. Putin's war was NOT shock and awe. And there would be no purple fingers, only middle fingers.

Or, Putin may actually be branded a war criminal (which he is) and taken to the Hague for trial. A wonderful outcome for the future, but not likely.

Another way out would be to install Putin as an endowed professor at Harvard, teaching about the stress of running a nation transforming from a Communist state where every pitchfork was owned by the state to a wild west free market where the strong grab what they can.

The irony is that Russia should be an active part of Europe and an active ally of the U.S. Only it should not be two thugs collaborating in a rape of both treasuries. "Every War Is An UnCivil War."

John Dykers, M.D.  
Siler City

#### With VinFast, be careful what you ask for

TO THE EDITOR:

When I heard about VinFast and the Moncure Megasite, my first thought was the company isn't even listed on the Stock Exchange. They have announced a planned stock IPO (initial public offering) for late this year and are suggesting a market capitalization of over \$60 billion. As a car company this would put

them at #8, one spot behind GM. That would be quite an accomplishment for a far-east oligarch whose company was formed just five years ago and sold only 45,000 cars in 2021, compared to GM's 6.3 million. Tesla, #20 and founded in 2003, sold 936,000 cars last year.

This stuff is too good to be true. Governor Cooper and his comrades must be smoking something other than cigars.

With huge far-eastern companies like Alibaba and TenCent Holdings facing regulatory problems with China (granted VinFast is Vietnamese), I suggest Gov. Cooper, state bureaucrats, and county officials may be grossly over-estimating this venture. It could easily crash, resulting in a huge loss of state and county outlays.

I have some experience with N.C. incentives. In the 1990s due diligence was not important. The state was only interested in "properly completed forms" with believable math that promised additional jobs and above-average wages. When a company is begging, these requirements are easily put to paper. The state then hits the newspapers and TV taking credit for its largess and the wonderful job its governor and bureaucrats have done for the taxpayer. They never publish how many of those incentives and other outlays eventually are lost with no refunds from the companies involved.

Let's hope the state and county have done their due diligence, but with a company that's not even listed on the U.S. stock exchange, I'm suspicious. I think VinFast is looking for this deal to give them legitimacy and propel them through the IPO process, regardless of whether they succeed with their megasite plans. And Cooper, who likely is looking to 2024 for national political opportunities, is certainly loving the publicity. Should it collapse both VinFast and Cooper will have attained their goals while we taxpayers, one more time, will have paid the cost.

I'm not wishing this project to fail. It's just that I've always expected officials giving away our hard-earned taxes to address incentives with extreme skepticism and care.

With VinFast, and its assorted cheerleaders, I have great concern. Let's be careful what we ask for.

Philip H. Johnson  
Siler City

# VIEWPOINTS

## Conservatives see freedom as progress

Although the definition and priorities of American conservatism have been the subject of much debate among the chattering classes in recent years, most actual American conservatives will readily tell you what unifies their sometimes-raucous ranks: freedom.

Consider the latest political typology produced by the Pew Research Center. Assembling hundreds of survey responses and then looking for clusters of like-minded voters, Pew came up with nine discrete groups — four on the Right, four on the Left, and a group in the middle, “Stressed Sideliners,” whose swings back and forth often determine electoral outcomes.

The four right-of-center groups — Committed Conservatives, Faith & Flag Conservatives, the Populist Right, and the Ambivalent Right — exhibit

notable differences in demographics, political engagement, and views on specific issues. What draws them together as a coalition, however, is their preference for individual freedom and voluntary solutions over government paternalism and compulsion.

Pew asked respondents, for example, whether “government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals” or “government should do more to solve problems.” The Committed Conservatives (87%), Faith & Flag Conservatives (88%), Populist Right (77%), and Ambivalent Right (67%) picked the first response. The four left-leaning groups picked the second response by comparably large majorities.

Similarly, the right-leaning groups all favored “a smaller government providing fewer services” while the left-leaning groups preferred “a bigger government providing more services.” And while the conservatives agreed “it’s not the government’s job to protect people from themselves,” the

progressives said. “Sometimes laws to protect people from themselves are necessary.”

Yes, some conservatives deviate from the general principle in specific cases. Some progressives do, too. Humans are messy creatures who create complicated problems that resist easy solutions. But that doesn’t mean we’re all an indistinguishable mass when it comes to political behavior. For some, our strongest impulse is for government, an inherently coercive institution, to butt out of our private affairs and decisions. For others, the strongest impulse is to butt in.

These differences help to explain why the conservative movement tends to evaluate its progress with measurements of freedom. Here in North Carolina, my colleagues and I at the John Locke Foundation look at state-by-state rankings to gauge how far we’ve come — and how far we still have to go.

One popular metric is the Fraser Institute’s Economic Freedom of North America study, which integrates information on taxes, regulations,

expenditures, and related concerns. Using the most-recent data available, North Carolina ranks 10th in economic freedom. On the Tax Foundation’s narrower measure of “tax costs for doing business,” North Carolina ranks 3rd best for new firms and 5th for mature ones.

In the latest edition of the Cato Institute’s Freedom in the 50 States, North Carolina’s best rankings are in labor freedom (11th) and educational freedom (6th). Speaking of which, North Carolina ranks 10th in funding for school-choice programs and 8th in the share of students enrolled in schools other than those run by districts, which are a useful proxy for the extent of freedom and competition in education.

When conservatives see such results, we’re heartened but hardly satisfied. For North Carolina to move into the top five in economic freedom, for instance, state lawmakers will have to do more to deregulate our health care system, insurance markets, and occupation-

al licensing. When it comes to personal freedom, North Carolina is egregiously out of step when it comes to gambling (45th in the Cato study) and alcohol (40th), the latter of which suggests we ought to sell our government-owned ABC stores.

Those last two examples illustrate the larger point. I would never deny that addictions to gambling and alcohol can be disastrous. I simply believe such problems are best combatted by families, friends, and religious communities, not by state compulsion. Some conservatives disagree. They see these issues as exceptions to the general rule.

So the debate continues — but not about that general rule, you see. Not about the primacy of freedom. It remains the primary dividing line between Left and Right.

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



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation

## Who is our best-known?

Who is the best-known living North Carolinian today?



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

Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski? Legendary basketball star Michael Jordan? Gov. Roy Cooper? Activist Rev. William Barber? Senators Thom Tillis or Richard Burr? Anybody else?

Maybe one of these could be our best known. But none of them or anybody else is better known today than a young politician from western North Carolina.

The Honorable Madison Cawthorn, a freshman U.S. congressman for the mountain district of North Carolina, is clearly the best-known North Carolinian at this moment.

How does that make you feel?

The cheerful, good-looking, wheelchair-bound Cawthorn comes to the mind of people across the country when they think about North Carolina. He is like a cute, charming kindergarten kid, but one who has a big, deeply embedded mean streak that shows itself regularly.

Cawthorn uses effective tactics to become well known by getting his name in the paper, appearing on television, and saying outrageous things wherever he appears.

Here are a few examples. On Jan. 6, 2021, he spoke at the rally at the White House before the march to the Capitol, alleging fraud in the election. A few days earlier, he tweeted, “It’s time to fight.” Later, he described the arrested rioters as “political hostages” and “political prisoners.”

Criticizing President Biden for ordering troops to Europe to respond to Russian actions in Ukraine, Cawthorn urged a “one finger” salute. He said “The sons and daughters of America are not foot soldiers for your party’s inept, geriatric despot. They’re not expendable pawns to be dispatched at the whims of an idiot, tossed carelessly around the world to godforsaken caves and bloody sandboxes. They are Americans, worthy of honor and dignity. The only salute from them Joe Biden deserves involves one finger.”

More disturbing is a report by Republican strategist Karl Rove in a Wall Street Journal op-ed. At a town hall in Asheville on March 5, Cawthorn called Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky “a thug” and Ukraine’s government “incredibly evil.”

Cawthorn’s methods of getting attention are now being condemned by most Democrats and by an increasing number of Republicans.

These reports and similar ones helped make Cawthorn the best-known North Carolinian. His status was confirmed on March 30 when both the Washington Post and The New York Times published front page articles about him. Both papers tried to explain what Cawthorn had done to make himself so famous and outrageous and why some former supporters and Republican party leaders are backing away from supporting him.

According to the Post, Cawthorn claimed “on a podcast that a colleague had invited him to an orgy and that he witnessed someone in a position of power using cocaine right in front of him.”

Making such allegations, especially if they are false, was too much for House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy who, according to the Post, “has stomached plenty along the way to what he hopes will be a GOP House majority that elects him as speaker.”

But McCarthy “signaled a bright red line when it comes to the conduct of freshman Rep. Madison Cawthorn.”

According to the Post, “McCarthy signaled he had given his colleague an extensive dressing-down. He said Cawthorn had admitted the stories weren’t strictly true. He also indicated that Cawthorn needs to rethink his life choices and straighten himself out. And he even alluded to potential consequences if that doesn’t take place.”

Meanwhile, back in North Carolina, Cawthorn faces seven other Republicans in the May Republican primary for his congressional seat.

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, state Senate leader Phil Berger, and state House Speaker Tim Moore are backing the candidacy of state Sen. Chuck Edwards.

Another candidate, former Cawthorn supporter Michele Woodhouse, said, “People of western North Carolina are tired of the antics.”

If Cawthorn wins his primary, he could continue as the most famous living North Carolinian.

If he loses, he will be the youngest has-been congressman in the country, on the way to being a nobody.

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

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



## Children paying the price for partisan arguments

Once again, we see that justice is not blind in North

Carolina; it is tainted by partisanship. If it please the court or, more importantly you, let me argue my case.

Since 1994 — 28 years — our state has been embroiled in a lawsuit over equality in education. It’s called the Leandro lawsuit, initiated by smaller, low-wealth counties which maintained they were not able to provide the same level of education as wealthier counties. They asked the state to require necessary funding to do so. The Supreme Court ruling never really got into who should get what amount of money, but they did state emphatically that every child in our state is guaranteed access to a “sound basic education.” The case was then delegated to Wake Superior Court Judge Howdy Manning to help in living up to that assurance.

Manning worked tirelessly to understand the inequalities and what could be done to address them. It wasn’t surprising that when he retired in 2016, we were not much closer to that goal. Superior Court Judge David Lee was then assigned the case and struggled with many of the issues Manning had faced. In 2021, Lee asked WestEd, an independent educational consultant, to recommend ways for the state to comply with Leandro. They negotiated with the various parties and came back to Lee with a negotiated “Comprehensive Remedial Plan,” an eight-year process identifying specific investments needed to ensure all children have that guaranteed access. Lee accepted the conclusions and ordered the defendants to take

necessary actions to implement them.

A chorus arose saying Lee didn’t have authority to issue such an order or demand funding. Lee finally got tired of lawmaker’s unwillingness to act, saying the court had waited long enough. In November 2021 he ordered the state controller and state treasurer to appropriate \$1.7 billion over a two-year period to initiate the plan. Then things really got hot.

A joint release from House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro-Tem Phil Berger called it absurd to think a document (our Constitution) written in 1868 could have predicted necessary funding levels for education in 2021, saying the ruling was “a circus.”

Additional lawsuits ensued over whether the state should fund the \$1.7 billion. Many reasoned, the state had more than \$8 billion in reserves, so we could easily afford it. A three-judge panel of Court of Appeals Judges ruled the state wasn’t required to fork over the cash. Plaintiffs appealed to the Supreme Court to once again hear the case, asking whether the courts could force the state to pay.

Now for the partisanship. Our Chief Justice Paul Newby is a Republican, overseeing our high court having a 4-3 plurality of Democrats. Turns out Judge David Lee is a Democrat; Newby obviously didn’t like Lee’s politics or his ordering the state to provide \$1.7 billion. Newby knew it was likely he was going to be outvoted when the matter came before his colleagues, so he did the old “end-around” play. On Monday, March 22, Newby surreptitiously removed Lee from the Leandro case, without warning or explanation. Lee didn’t even know about it until he heard it from news sources. The only response given is that Newby

has the authority to do so and Lee had reached the mandatory retirement age of 72 earlier this year. It is not uncommon for retired judges to be brought back to the bench in “emergency service” or in special cases, so Lee could have easily continued a case he has overseen since 2016. So why the urgency right this moment?

Curiously, that same day (March 22nd) our Supreme Court agreed to hear an appeal of Lee’s decision to mandate the transfer of the money and directed the lower court to review, within 30 days, whether any changes or revisions needed making. The new judge named to handle the case is — wait for it — a Republican, who had previously run for a Supreme Court seat and lost, Superior Court Judge Michael Robinson.

What’s going to happen? Robinson is likely to either overrule Lee’s decision or greatly modify it. Then the revised ruling will come before the Supreme Court. It’s a safe bet that the final decision will be 4-3 with Democrats voting in unison one way and Republicans, also in unison, the other.

I rest my case. Justice is not blind. It is just as partisan as everything else in our country today. This reaffirms that the most important elections this year will be high court judges. It also screams why we need a better system than partisan elections to put people on the bench.

Sadly, those paying the price for our arguing these 28 years are our children.

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

# VINFAST

Continued from page A1

angle Innovation Point, it was also the scene of a rather awkward moment back in December.



**Michael Smith** VinFast, the Vietnamese carmaker which last week announced it planned to build a \$4 billion manufacturing facility here, Smith was parked at the Sky Mart with a VinFast executive after a tour of the area.

The employee, in the middle of a conversation, paused and looked hard at Smith. He may have noticed the number of cars in the lot or the hive of activity taking place — or perhaps had heard “word on the street” rumors about activity at the site, which ultimately became public in January.

But whatever the reason, he asked Smith point-blank: Is anyone else looking at this site seriously?

“And we, you know ... I didn’t go into detail about it, certainly, about the company” Smith remembered of the moment. “Other than to say, ‘Yes, a large semiconductor project is looking at the site you’re looking at.’”

How pivotal the moment was is hard to gauge. VinFast had only been considering Chatham County for a short time, and it wasn’t until early March that it informed state and Chatham officials that the TIP site was on its shortlist for an electric vehicle manufacturing plant. But for Smith, it was particularly memorable — and unique in his long career in economic development.

“It was interesting, because I had never run into that before,” Smith said of his prospect’s sense of other interest in the former Moncure Megasite — and the pointed question, which might be considered taboo in some economic development circles. “And just the way that happened ... I remember thinking how fascinating it was because I think in all things, we want to be as truthful and transparent as appropriate. And we’re not hiding things from anybody — but it was ... it was kind of a question I wasn’t expecting.”

Smith, whom state and local officials credit and

laud for the work he did to help bring the state’s largest economic development project to Chatham County, was measured in his response. He didn’t want to come across “as a salesman, trying to trick somebody” with a “you better act fast” tactic.

“There’s a fine line,” he said, “between sharing information that they’ve asked about and pressing it and making it look like you’re trying to twist somebody’s arm into doing something.”

But VinFast, of course, did do something: the company signed a memorandum of understanding with Gov. Roy Cooper and North Carolina last Tuesday to bring the state its first automotive manufacturing facility.

VinFast will occupy nearly 2,000 acres at the TIP site and build a plant there that will eventually produce 200,000 EVs (electric vehicles) and car batteries and employ 7,500 workers.

And the company, the chip manufacturer which the VinFast employee inquired about? Smith wouldn’t confirm that it was Idaho-based Micron Technologies, which in January announced it had focused its sights in Texas — not North Carolina — for a major expansion. (See sidebar story.)

For Smith, moments like the one in the Sky Mart parking lot, while out of the ordinary, are a part of the job. The VinFast work and the 11-hour time difference between North Carolina and Hanoi, Vietnam, meant lots of night work; he and dozens of other local and state officials worked most nights and every weekend in March and spent hours in a variety of conference rooms in downtown Raleigh law offices. Nothing was certain until last Tuesday.

Were there other anxious moments?

Yes, he confirmed. Another came extremely late in the game. Gov. Roy Cooper’s office released a statement on Sunday, March 27, saying there’d be an economic development project announcement involving Chatham County on Tuesday in Raleigh. At 10:30 the following night, as Smith was reviewing his long list of to-dos for Tuesday’s event before heading to bed, he received a message: VinFast executives wanted one more visit to the site on Tuesday morning, just hours before they were scheduled to gather at the Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh for the big unveiling.

So Smith drove his



**N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper officially announces the agreement to bring Vietnamese carmaker VinFast to the state. The company will invest \$4 billion in a facility in Chatham County, with plans to employ 7,500 workers.**

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**VinFast’s two SUV models were on display during last week’s announcement at the Raleigh Convention Center.**



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper and Le Thi Thu Thuy, Vingroup’s vice chairman and the CEO of VinFast Global, check out the front seat of one of the two VinFast SUVs in Raleigh last Tuesday.**



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**VinFast’s VF 8 and VF 9 are projected to be rolling out of the company’s plant in Chatham County by July 2024.**

freshly-washed black Jeep back to the Sky Mart at 8:30 the next morning for yet another tour. And as he waited for VinFast’s team members to arrive, he couldn’t help but reflect on the role the Sky Mart played — and will play — in the project.

“I paused to take one more look around this nice, small convenience store,” he said. “I couldn’t mention it at the moment, but all I could think of was what was about to happen and how pretty soon, that store will have a line for those homemade biscuits every morning, for a long time to come.”



Courtesy of VinFast

**A VinFast car moves through a painting line.**

# CHIP

Continued from page A1

intention to build a \$4 billion manufacturing facility at the TIP megasite, is being celebrated as the biggest economic development project in North Carolina history.

But there’s more: Micron may have been “the one that got away,” but those close to the TIP site and economic development in Chatham County found themselves happy as a lark last week for another reason because, by comparison, VinFast provides a much better scenario for the site, and for Chatham, all-around. During and after the ceremony in Raleigh officially introducing VinFast’s project, those close to activity at the TIP site have told the News + Record privately and for the record that the loss of Micron had other definite upsides.

“Micron probably put a lot of environmental demands on us,” said Rep. Robert Reives II (D – Dist. 54). “And it’s not that we don’t want the demands, but it was going to be



Courtesy of the Chatham EDC

**A screen grab from a video promoting the Triangle Innovation Point.**

tough. And that’s probably the best way to say it.”

Reives, like most who spoke on the record, was hesitant to provide other specifics. But he also acknowledged that in addition to the “physical challenges” putting a company like Micron at the TIP site would create for infrastructure, the incentives the chip manufacturer sought were rumored and reported to be extraordinary — far more than the \$1.25 billion package VinFast

is getting.

And the incentives package ultimately given to VinFast — which includes \$450 million to come from the General Assembly for road expansion and other site improvements — will ultimately provide other fixes needed at the site anyway, he said.

Sanford City Manager Hal Hegwer cited confidentiality concerns surrounding the negotiations with Micron, but agreed that VinFast pro-

vided a better fit for the region — specifically because of the demands on water and sewer, which Sanford and the eventual Pittsboro will eventually team up to provide.

Vinfast’s needs were more doable, according to Hegwer.

“We have a higher level of comfort being able to accommodate the requirements of Vinfast’s size, scope and timeline,” he told the News + Record.

Pittsboro restaurateur

Greg Lewis, who serves as chairman of the Chatham Economic Development Corporation’s board of directors, was more direct.

“At the end of the day, VinFast will employ more people,” he said. “More employees, less incentives. And that’s that for me. And it will be a much cleaner operation than a chip manufacturer.”

Chatham EDC President Michael Smith said he remained grateful that a number of large companies have looked as closely as they have at the TIP site.

“That obviously says a lot for that site and our region,” he said. “And I know that that has played a role in other large companies wanting to look at the TIP site and the CAM [Siler City’s Chatham Advanced Manufacturing] site. So I’m grateful that they get that, you know.”

But he, too, pointed out the “quite extraordinary demands” the chip manufacturer — he declined to specifically name it as Micron — would have put on the water and sewer systems that would serve it.

“They were just so much that certainly we were positioned to do with a great deal of help from our neighbors in Sanford and certainly from the state of North Carolina,” he said. “But nonetheless, it would have been extremely ... it would have been a challenge.”

Smith said the TIP site was “really set up and built” to be home to an OEM — original equipment manufacturer, and in its marketing specifically targeted carmakers.

“And so, in essence, it took us longer than collectively we wanted it to, but we got what we wanted — which was an automotive assembly facility here in our neighborhood,” he said. “We think that’s a better fit for the utilities that are there, and the utilities that can come there more easily and less costly. And certainly North Carolina has a lot of automobile parts manufacturers already. So from a workforce standpoint, we’re also extremely well-positioned in that regard.”

BY THE NUMBERS

# Here's a breakdown of the VinFast project and more — from 1 to 1.25 billion

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

1

The number of automotive manufacturers North Carolina can claim as of now, thanks to last week's VinFast announcement. Carmakers N.C. was in the running to land over the years, but missed out on, included Volvo, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Audi, Tesla, and Toyota-Mazda. Ford looked at both of Chatham County's megasites — including Triangle Innovation Point (TIP), where VinFast will go — but eventually picked Tennessee as home.

2

Models of vehicles VinFast will produce in Chatham County: the VF 9, a seven-passenger all-electric Sport Utility Vehicle, and the VF 8, a five-passenger, all-electric mid-size SUV. The VF 9 has a range of 422 miles, while the smaller VF 8 has a range of 316 miles.

4

Investment, in billions of dollars, VinFast plans for its EV (electric vehicle) and electric battery assembly plant in Chatham County's TIP East site. The initial phase of construction is projected to be \$2 billion.

6

The number of EV projects under consideration in North Carolina as late as December, according to state officials in published reports.

7

Amount in capital investment, in billions of dollars, from seven major projects announced in North Carolina since Jan. 1 of this year. The state has been a hotspot for development: last year, in 2021, \$10 billion in economic development projects were announced, with companies promising more than 23,000 jobs.

7.44

The number of indirect jobs created by each manufacturing job, according to the U.S. Economic Policy Institute.

11

Time difference, in hours, between Hanoi, Vietnam, and Raleigh — meaning lots of Sunday night/Monday morning conferences between Chatham County and state officials and VinFast's team.

20

Years ago that efforts to establish Chatham County as an OEM (original equipment manufacturer) destination began. Past Chatham Economic Development Corporation Presidents Dianne Reid, Kyle Touchstone and Alyssa Byrd, along with key real estate partner Steve Stroud, helped laid the foundation for Chatham's future success, according to those involved. Past EDC chairmen included Jeff Wilson, Douglas Emmons and Chris Ehrenfeld. County officials and commissioners also worked for years behind the scenes, developing an incentive program and more.

24

Minutes VinFast says its VF 8 battery needs to charge from 10% power to 70%. The larger VF 9's battery requires 26 minutes to achieve the same.

35

Dollars, in billions, representing Vingroup's estimated total market capitalization — which includes three publicly traded companies and its private businesses. An initial public offering the company is said to be considering could increase that number significantly.

50+

Number of potential sites VinFast evaluated — across 29 states — before it began to narrow sites down.

The company focused its search on sites in 12 states before choosing Chatham County. VinFast made its first visit to Chatham County in December, then told local officials in early March the TIP site was a part of its focus. At the very end, VinFast officials picked Chatham over a site in Savannah, Georgia.

71.59

Dollars, in billions, by which the VinFast's project is estimated to grow the state's economy over the next 32 years

174

The number of business expansion, relocation, or site selection projects announced in N.C. in 2021. Nearly 200 other potential projects were still considering N.C. as of Jan. 1 of this year.

200

Amount, in dollars, required to put your name on the reservation list for a VinFast vehicle. Those who took advantage before the program's deadline of Tuesday received a \$3,000 e-Voucher towards a VF 8 or a \$5,000 e-Voucher towards a VF 9.

709

The estimated population of Moncure, the unincorporated town located near the TIP site.

1,500

Miles of EV corridors in North Carolina — sections of roads with planned or actively available charging stations.

1,802

Size, in acres, of the Chatham-Siler City Advanced Manufacturing Site in Siler City. Interest in the CAM site, already high, has reached a fever pitch in the last week or so, according to economic development observers.

1993

The year Vingroup, the parent company of VinFast, was founded — in Ukraine, selling instant noodles. Vingroup began work in Vietnam in the early 2000s; VinFast was founded in 2017.

1993

The same year The Washington Post reported North Carolina had made the winning bid for a new Mercedes-Benz facility, citing anonymous sources on Sept. 23. A week later, Mercedes announced it would locate in Alabama.

1,977

Size, in acres, of the site VinFast plans to construct its manufacturing center in Chatham's TIP site. Triangle Innovation Point's total size is 2,158.5 acres. VinFast will occupy TIP East and other parcels of land, while the 420 acres of TIP West are being developed separately. The site, formerly known as the Moncure Megasite, was originally developed beginning in 2005 by members of the Kaplan family, which formed Moncure Holdings LLC after acquiring tracts of land there.

2024

The year VinFast expects to produce its first vehicles here. Company officials have targeted July 2024 as the date for the first cars

6,000

The minimum number of jobs VinFast will be required to provide at its Chatham facility in order for the company to receive any of the state incentives promised to it under an agreement known as a Job Development Investment Grant, or JDIG.

39,000

Approximate cost, in dollars, VinFast will charge for its mid-size VF 8 SUV. A VinFast executive told the News + Record that pricing will likely start at around \$49,000 for the VF 9 in the U.S. — but incentives may bring prices lower, particularly as the plant's production ramps up.

51,096

The average annual wage, in dollars, for the 7,500 jobs expected to be filled at the site in Chatham County. The county's average annual wage is now \$41,638. All told, VinFast will boost the region's total payroll by \$383 million.

150,000

The annual vehicle capacity of the first phase of VinFast's plans for the TIP site. Production capacity is expected to grow to between 200,000 and 250,000 per year. Along with its facility in Hai Phong, Vietnam, VinFast says it will make 950,000 cars a year by 2026.

187,000

Average annual wage, in dollars, Apple says it will pay the 3,000 employees it plans to hire for its proposed campus in the Triangle. The Apple project's initial investment will be \$1 billion, a quarter of VinFast's.

1 billion

The loss, in dollars, VinFast suffered on its gasoline-powered vehicles in 2021, according to Nikkei Asia — leading the company to prioritize its EV production and stop production of gas-powered cars.

1.25 billion+

The total value, in dollars, of economic incentives VinFast is projected to receive — including a state incentives package worth \$854 million over 32 years. Chatham County will add \$400 million in incentives, based on parameters such as number of jobs, job benefits, wage level compared to county and state averages, number of Chatham residents hired, level of capital investment and environmental impact.

Sources: News + Record research, Raleigh News & Observer, Triangle Business Journal, VinFast.

NEWS BRIEFS

Council on Aging moving to optional mask status

The Chatham County Council on Aging has announced that mask wearing for its participants and volunteers would become optional beginning Monday, April 4. This change involves both centers, including

the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro and the Western Chatham Senior Center in Siler City. It also includes any satellite site that is used by the Council for services, including but not limited to, Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and Chatham Grove Community Center. Persons who desire to wear a mask for their own comfort or

safety are free to do so.

The decision was made following a decline of positive cases and hospitalizations in Chatham County and North Carolina at-large. Overall, 58% of the Chatham County population is fully vaccinated, while 75% of North Carolinians aged 18 and older have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Of that total, 51% have received a booster shot.

"We are pleased to see the numbers trending downward," COA Interim Director Lacey Monte said. "It does not mean, however, that COVID-19 is no longer a threat. Our ability to remain in a voluntary mask status depends on all of us. Continue to respect people's personal space, physically distance, take

precautions in large gatherings and recognize that everyone's comfort level may not be the same."

Participants are reminded to stay home if they do not feel well and should not come to COA centers if they experience fever or chills, acute cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell,

sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea in the last 10 days. Persons who have had close contact with someone suspected or known to have had COVID-19 in the past 30 days should also not come to the centers. Council staff will abide by identical guidelines.

Four CCS students earn honors at state Science Fair

PITTSBORO — Four students from Chatham County Schools earned honors at the recent state Science Fair.

In the elementary division, Elias Koshy ("Friction experiment") from Chatham Grove and Anna Barsallo ("What is the best greasing agent for cooking eggs?") from Pittsboro both received exemplary mentions.

In the middle school division, Jacob Hoopes from Margaret B. Pollard placed second in the Biological Sciences A category for his project "Body part ratios in Saturniidae: A Leonardo DeVinci style to the average Saturniidae." He also received a nomination for the Broadcom Masters, the nation's premier middle school STEM competition.

In the high school division, Kyle Hickey from the Chatham School of Science and Engineering received an Honorable Mention in the Physics category ("Does the shape of a car affect the drag coefficient?").

"We are thrilled that our students did so well at the state competition," said Sherri Homan, middle school instructional program facilitator. "Our students worked very hard on their projects, and we're so proud of the work they have done."

Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson agreed with Homan. "All of our competitors created really advanced, high-level projects," he said. "I am tremendously proud of these students, and the instructors who helped them reach this level of success."

— CN+R staff reports

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# County's P&R department hosts 'EGGstreme Spring Fling'

## In-person Easter egg hunt set for Saturday

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Parks and Recreation invites the community to step into spring with the EGGstreme Spring Fling.

This epic Easter Egg Hunt is back in person and will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, at

Central Carolina Community College's Main Campus located at 764 West St., Pittsboro.

Community members are invited to enjoy the many different activities that the EGGstreme Spring Fling has to offer, including balloon twisting, hula hoops, glitter tattoos, and multiple other community organizations hosting other Spring-themed activities, including the Maple View Mobile Ice Cream Truck.

Starting at 11 a.m., there will be field games including a sack race, water

balloon toss, and egg and spoon relay. Participants will have a chance to win a prize during these games. The egg hunts will begin at 12:15 p.m. and will wrap up the event. The egg hunt will be teased into age groups: Under 4 years old, 5 years old to 8 years old, and 9 years old and older. Community members are encouraged to bring their own baskets for the egg hunt.

"Spring is here, and it's been a while since we have been able to offer the traditional outdoor easter egg hunt," says

Chatham County Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Burnett. "We are so excited to announce The EGGstreme Spring Fling, and we can't wait to lots of Chatham County families in person."

For more information, individuals may visit The EGGstreme Spring Fling event on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CCParksandRecNC/events>, or contact Mallory Peterson at 919-545-8553 or [mallory.peterson@chatham-countync.gov](mailto:mallory.peterson@chatham-countync.gov).

## BARBEQUE

Continued from page A1

ty was already equipped with a kitchen, freezer and cooler storage and a dining area mostly ready for customers.

The next step was to figure out what cuisine the new eatery would offer, and Maromaty and Ferguson quickly made that decision when they noticed a lack of local barbecue options.

"We saw that there was only Smithfield's (Chicken n' Barbecue) here, so it's not really a fresh barbecue spot," Maromaty said. "We (have) put a lot of effort in making sure that the core of our menu stays true to us and true to who we are, which is just making things from scratch, making food fresh as ever and having our own mark on it."

Broken Spit's menu offers a wide variety of meat and sides — ranging from fresh smoked brisket to diverse sauce options, such as the classic vinegar based North Carolina sauce, Bourbon style sauce and more.

"The stuff that we have caters to most of the people that are around here, but then there's a whole bunch of different things so people can try something new," Ferguson said. "We've tried to have certain things that were completely different from the crowd to bring ourselves above the rest of the pack."

The Broken Spit aims to bring a new life into classic barbecue, according to Maromaty. By providing a different experience, the restaurant provides customers with more of an ability to try new styles of barbecue typically found outside of Chatham County.

"A lot of people here are used to just plates where you get to order your meat, and you get two sides and stuff like that," Maromaty said. "Me and Brian — both being chefs from New York, coming down here, working on this menu together and really trying to build it — I think we really came up with a good little menu."

The community has come out to support them. In their first month, the pair says Broken Spit has received overwhelming praise from customers — and according to Maromaty, some say the barbecue is the best they've tasted.

"The people are really surprised that two New Yorkers serve up really good barbecue," he said.

Ferguson said since opening, he's received both praise and new ideas from customers regarding what tricks he could do to make his barbecue different or better than before.

"I think it's awesome, and it's fun to learn how opinionated people are on their barbecue," he said. "There's so many different ideas that we've even considered, and it's fun to try to incorporate that kind of stuff into our menu and try to make every person that we can as happy as possible."

The owners are looking to expand their business



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Broken Spit opened in Siler City on March 7.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Friends and family enjoy barbecue on Sunday at The Broken Spit.

**The people are really surprised that two New Yorkers serve up really good barbecue.**

**ALEX MAROMATY, The Broken Spit**

to provide more good eats to the Chatham County community. Maromaty said he and Ferguson are hoping to offer an outdoor seating area for customers, add beer to their menu and possibly turn one of the buildings outside of the restaurant into an ice cream shop.

"You'll get the best of both worlds," he said, "You'll be able to come here and eat barbecue, grab a beer, sit outside or sit inside, and then be able to walk out with your family and grab some ice cream or a shake."

Ferguson said by expanding the restaurant, customers will be able to get even more out of their experience at The Broken Spit.

"We really wanted to become more of a community place where everybody who comes in here can have something that they want," he said. "The ice cream shop, once we get that open, and events that we have coming in (such as) bike shows, car shows, live music — all those kinds of things incorporate a reason for every kind of person to come here at least once."

While Ferguson and Maromaty hope to continue expanding their business, they have grown to love their new home in North Carolina and the new community they serve in Siler City.

"Everyone here knows everybody, and I love that feeling," Maromaty said, "Which is something that we're not 100% used to coming from New York — being in the hospitality

business, it's something we do on a day-to-day basis in our stores, but once you leave there, it's like a completely different world."

"Southern hospitality" is something Ferguson has appreciated since he moved to North Carolina, and it has become something he's grateful for in the food service industry.

"People make time for other people, and that's a very important thing," he said, "Everybody has the time to be able to put into a small conversation, everybody has the time to sit down and help a neighbor where in cities like New York it's just nonstop."

Maromaty and Ferguson want the community to understand the food they provide is not just a job to them — it's a labor of love.

"Brian and I are family people — we care about the people close to us,"



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Cars parked in The Broken Spit's gravel parking lot.

Maromaty said. "We care about giving back to the community for all of our blessings and everything that we get. That's the type of people we are."

Ferguson's passion goes beyond smoking brisket or slow roasting a Boston butt for a pulled pork sandwich. He wants



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A server at The Broken Spit checking her tables' tabs.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Broken Spit, located in Siler City, offers both dine-in and take out options for customers.

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

# OBITUARIES

## JEAN ANNE VOLLRATH



On Wednesday, March 30, 2022, Jean Anne Vollrath passed away peacefully at the age of 67. Jean was born June 29, 1954, in Indianapolis, Indiana, to Victor and Isabelle (Burnside) Vollrath. Jean was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Ruth and her husband Greg Talbott. She is survived by her sister Dona, stepson, Matt Talbott (wife Angela) and his daughter Addilyn, and her children Jessie Talbott, Ben Talbott (wife

Sydney Williams), along with many other nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jean came to North Carolina in the 1980s and proceeded to weave together a rich life full of chosen family and quirky children. An independent woman, Jean loved fiercely and gave everything she had to the project at hand. Together with her husband she ran two small businesses, Twin Birch Products and Hickory Mountain Weavery. When her love, Greg, was taken too soon, Jean worked through her grief and raised two teenagers while earning a Master of Library Science, one of several advanced degrees. Jean loved weaving and many of her lifelong friends were found through teaching the hand craft to others.

Jean often served as a moral compass, a voice of reason, and a role model but her favorite thing in life was being a mother to Jessie and Ben. She was so proud of the humans they became, and often gave credit not just to herself but to the many mentors that lent their love and knowledge. In her later years, Jean became adventurous. She pushed through her fears and learned to kayak, bought a 5th wheel camper, and kept a travel blog that can be found at almostintrepid.blogspot. Jean drove into Canada more than once, across the U.S. more than once, and burned up the roads of the Southeastern U.S. with such ferocity that it was often hard for her kids and travel companions to keep up!

In her last months Jean reflected how lucky she was to know so much love and community in one lifetime. Though her speech waned, she made sure to express her love and gratitude daily. She will be missed by many in the community who knew her as a friend and teacher. If you knew our mother and would like to join us, there will be a jolly potluck in the fellowship hall at Spring Friends Meeting after the service. Bring your comfort food but be ready to take a plate home with you because our pantries have already been filled with love this week!

Her funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at Spring Friends Meeting, 3323 E Greensboro-Chapel Hill Road, Snow Camp.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Heifer Project International, an organization she supported throughout her life.

## BRYAN SIDNEY JOHNSON



Bryan Sidney Johnson, 52, of Siler City, died Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Funeral services were held at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 3, 2022, at Sapling Ridge United Methodist Church, Pittsboro.

Officiating were Pastor Jason Dickerson and Rev. Jerry Johnson. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Bryan was a native of Chatham County and a body technician at White's International Trucking Company for more than 10 years. He was preceded in death by his father, Lester Eugene Johnson.

Survivors include his son, Hunter Johnson of Asheboro; his mother, Sarah Ellis of Stanley; a brother, Neal Johnson and wife Allison of Snow Camp; and girlfriend, Dawn Bampton, of Siler City.

Visitation was held from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, Loflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ramseur.

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

Arrangements by Loflin Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ramseur.

Memorials may be made to Sapling Ridge United Methodist Church, 5016 Silk Hope Gum Springs Rd., Pittsboro, NC 27312.

## TERRY DEAN ANDREWS



Terry Dean Andrews, 78, of Siler City, passed away surrounded by his loved ones at his home.

Mr. Andrews was born on August 6, 1943, the son of Walter Brown "Brownie" and Bessie Anderson Andrews.

Terry was a Navy Veteran during the Vietnam War where he received the National Defense, Vietnam Service, and the Vietnam Campaign Medals. He attended UNC-Chapel Hill. Prior to retiring as the Owner/

Operator of Carolina Restaurant for 28 years, Terry was an engineer at Selig Manufacturing. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he served on several committees, and attended the combined Adult Sunday School Class. Terry was also a member of the Siler City Masonic Lodge #403 A.M. and A.F., the American Legion Post 93, and the Moose Lodge. He served on the Board of Directors for the Chatham County Wildlife Club, and the President of the Chatham County Chamber of Commerce from 1984 to 1985. Terry loved to get out on the golf course and watching Carolina sports. He was a chauffeur for many weddings using his 1950 Silver Dawn Rolls Royce. Terry adored his dogs Annie and Sissy. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his son, David Todd Andrews.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Patsy Farmer Andrews; sister-in-law, Jane Farmer; and his caregivers, Joan Herring, Gloria Josey, Pam White, and many Guardian Angels that cared for him as if they were family.

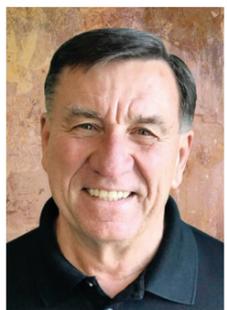
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 1101 West Raleigh Street, Siler City, NC 27344 or to Liberty HomeCare and Hospice, 401 E. Third Street, Siler City, NC 27344.

The family will receive friends on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 11 a.m., followed by a Celebration of Life at 12 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1101 West Raleigh St., Siler City, with Rev. William Sabiston officiating.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Andrews family.

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

## CHARLES RONALD 'RON' GRIFFIN



October 4, 1946 - March 29, 2022 Ron Griffin, 75, passed away in the early morning on Tuesday, March 29, at his Chapel Hill home after a brief and intense battle with cancer. Ron is survived by his wife, Bitsy, his sons Brandon and Joe, and grandchildren Levi and Elliot.

Ron was raised in Galveston, Texas, where he was active in scouts, was a cheerleader, and worked as a lifeguard during high school. Ron was drafted into the Marines after

graduating with a degree in communications from Baylor University in 1969. He returned to Baylor for a master's degree in interpersonal communications, and then went to Oklahoma University to work on his Ph.D. in the same field. In 1975, Ron went to work for General Portland Cement and began his lifelong career in sales. He retired from Pine Hall Brick in Winston Salem in 2012 but didn't stop working. He went on to become an independent real estate agent associated with Coldwell Banker Advantage and taught Public Speaking at Forsyth Tech and Durham Tech until this past fall.

Ron never met a stranger! He loved to play golf, travel, and try new restaurants. His favorite vacation spots were Disney World and Myrtle Beach. Ron served as a deacon and taught Sunday School most of his adult life. When the boys were younger, he was their Cub Master. He served in many roles with the church, as well as served on various home builder and realtor associations.

Celebration of Ron's Life: April 23 at 2 p.m., College Park Baptist Church, 1701 Polo Road, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to Amedisys Foundation who were incredibly helpful and caring during Ron's last days [www.amedisys.com/about/foundation](http://www.amedisys.com/about/foundation); College Park Baptist Church <https://collegepark.ws/>, or Mount Carmel Baptist Church <https://www.mcpc1803.org/>.

## ZANETTA VIOLA WHITE

August 27, 1970 ~ March 22, 2022

Zanetta White, 51, of Siler City, passed away Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at Carolina Pines in Greensboro.

Service will be provided By Knotts and Son.

## LEVADA MORRISON

April 6, 1945 - March 30, 2022

Lavada Morrison, 76, of Pittsboro, passed away on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at UNC Hospice Home in Pittsboro.

Sevices provided by Knotts funeral Home, Sanford.

## THURMAN KINNEY

Thurman Kinney, 78, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at his home.

Funeral service was held Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 2 p.m. at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following at Lee Memory Gardens.

## MARVIN HEDGEPEETH

August 18, 1937 ~ March 29, 2022

Mr. Marvin Hedgepeth, 84, of Siler City, passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill.

Service will be provided by Knotts and Son.

## CHAUNCEY DEAN RUSSELL

Chauncey Dean Russell, 60, of Las Vegas, Nevada, passed away on Friday, March 25, 2022, in a hospital in Las Vegas.

Services will be provided by Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

## HENRY W. CRUTCHFIELD

March 20, 1932 ~ March 29, 2022

Mr. Henry W. Crutchfield, 90, of Siler City, passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro.

Service will be provided by Knotts and Son.

## CHRISTINE MCGILBERRY

Christine McGilberry, 72, of Sanford, passed away on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at Tower Nursing and Rehab in Raleigh.

The funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Mt. Nebo F.W.B. Church with burial following at Lee Memory Garden.

## NEHEMIAH A'MERE ELLISON

Nehemiah A'Mere Ellison, 5, of Raleigh, passed away Monday, March 28, 2022, at Wake Med in Raleigh.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 4, 2022, at Try Jesus Ministries with burial following in Lee Memory Gardens.

## MAYNA ANDERSON DIGGS

Mayna Anderson Diggs, 79, of Sanford, passed away Thursday, March 31, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

A graveside service was held Sunday, April 3, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Broadway Town Cemetery with David Anderson presiding.

She was born in Hamlet, on February 8, 1943, to the late James Author Anderson and Annie Bristow Anderson. Mayna worked for GKN Driveline Automotive Manufacturing Co. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James Robert "Bobby" Diggs; a son, James "Robbie" Diggs Jr.; and siblings, Robert and Tommy Anderson.

She is survived by sisters, Bonnie Anderson of New Bern, Glenda Anderson of Texas; and three grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be made to Jonesboro Heights Baptist Church, 316 W. Main St., Sanford, N.C. 27332.

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

## SHIRLEY ANN EDWARDS THOMAS

Shirley Ann Edwards Thomas, 82, of Lillington, passed away Saturday, April 2, 2022 at Harnett Central Hospital.

The funeral was held at Holly Springs Baptist Church on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 2 p.m. with Rev. Jerry Parsons and Rev. Scott Yow presiding. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She was born in Harnett County on October 27, 1939, to the late Jesse Ray and Allie McNeill Edwards. She worked as a Registered Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Central Carolina Hospital of Sanford, Veterans Administration of Fayetteville, and Betsy Johnson Hospital of Dunn. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Elbert Ray Thomas; sister, Eunice Gilmore; brothers, Gerald, J.R. Edwards and a great-grandchild. Shirley was a member at Holly Springs Baptist Church.

She is survived by her children, Shirley Yarborough of Sanford; Daryl Wilson, of Lillington; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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

## RITA LANEL (ALSTON) WILLIAMS

November 24, 1966 - March 31, 2022

Rita Lanell (Alston) Williams, 55, of Pittsboro passed away Thursday, March 31, 2022, at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. A memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Monday, April 4, 2022 at Knotts Funereal Home.

## MELANIE FRANCIS (GOLDSTON) PARTRIDGE

November 30, 1964 - April 2, 2022

Melanie Francis (Goldston) Partridge, 57, of Pittsboro passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2022, at Chatham Hopital in Siler City.

Serices entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home, Sanford.

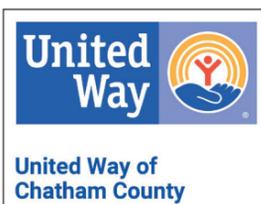
## NEWS BRIEF

### United Way surpasses 2021-22 campaign fundraising goal

The United Way of Chatham County's 2021/2022 annual campaign generated \$704,000 — the most

in its 36-year history, surpassing its goal of \$645,000.

Eighty-four percent of the campaign support came from Chatham residential areas, which is unique to United Ways across the state. In fact, the 2021 neighborhood campaigns are among the highest grossing residential campaigns of all time in North Carolina. Chatham businesses also showed their support, sponsoring the Day of Service, becoming



United Way Corporate Donors, and by joining the \$100 by 100 campaign challenge. UWCC also welcomed more individual donors, and more volunteers than ever before.

"I am so proud of our community and its com-

mitment to improving the lives for all in Chatham," said Katie Childs, United Way of Chatham County's executive director. "Residents of all ages and stages of life see the United Way's impact, and throughout the pandemic the support has been unwavering."

Although the campaign has ended, UWCC is still hard at work. More than 50 volunteers are currently reviewing funding requests and meeting with agencies through

the annual allocations process. UWCC staff and board are also in the midst of strategic planning, which will become a three-year roadmap to help navigate the ever-changing needs of Chatham County.

For more information about UWCC, or to get involved, please visit [www.UnitedWay-OfChathamCounty.org](http://www.UnitedWay-OfChathamCounty.org) or call 919-542-1110. For community resources or assistance, please dial 2-1-1.

—CN+R staff reports

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VOTE '22: CHATHAM COMMISSIONER

# Delaney, Hendricks square off in primary for Dist. 3 seat

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

Democratic voters in Chatham County will choose between two candidates in that party's May 17 to decide who will be on the general election ballot come November.

The choice is between David Delaney and Lewis Hendricks for the Democratic nomination, each seeking to take the seat currently held by Commissioner Diana Hales, who is not seeking reelection.

The winner will face Republican candidate Tom Glendinning, who doesn't face a challenger in his party's primary, in November.

**David Delaney:** Political newcomer Delaney — a cybersecurity and privacy attorney at Truist Financial — decided to file for office on the first day filing reopened after the gerrymandering legal proceedings came to a close.

Delaney has also served as an army officer, law and policy professor and executive cybersecurity attorney for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which he said gives him a certain level of experience other first-time candidates may not have.

“What’s essential to good policymaking is strategic thinking, collaboration, a willingness to learn, and experience balancing the benefits and costs of policy options,” he said. “Those roles, and my recent work as a private-sector attorney, shaped me as a coalition-builder, problem solver, and innovator.”

Chatham faces several challenges as the county continues to grow, according to Delaney. He said infrastructure capabilities and environmental impact are two challenges Chatham faces, as well as new social and economic issues.

After VinFast and the state announced the electric car manufacturer would be coming to the Triangle Innovation Point in Moncure, Delaney said it would hopefully provide some relief for residents and a chance to make important structural changes.

“Our tax base is heavily residential, which limits our ability to build

See **ELECTION**, page A14

## 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

# David Delaney

**Name:** David Delaney  
**Current Home Address:** 222 Landover Circle Chapel Hill NC 27516  
**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** 919-545-4910  
**Best daytime number:** Same  
**E-mail:** DelaneyForChatham@icloud.com  
**Cell phone:** Same  
**Date/place of birth:** 50 years old. Born in New York, raised in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.  
**Current occupation:** Cybersecurity and privacy attorney with Truist Financial.

**Campaign website/social media:** <https://www.facebook.com/DelaneyForChatham>

**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** David and his wife Hilary have two children in Chatham County schools.

**Party affiliation:** Democratic  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** First candidacy for elected office

**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** Sharon Goldenberg

**Why are you seeking this office?**

I'm running to ensure we advance smart, strategic development, protect our environment, and promote equity for all county residents. Those goals are not in conflict. Chatham County planning processes continue to improve. The emerging unified development ordinance, master plan for parks and recreation, and wastewater commission are positive signs. We must keep innovating and improving in those areas, and we must take a strategic approach to the education, public health, economic, and technological inequities that limit many residents' lifelong opportunities. All of that takes community-minded partnership, and I would like to bring that perspective to our efforts.

**What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in 100 words or less, why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?**

The county commission provides strategic vision, policy direction, budget decisions, and oversight to ensure the community's wellbeing. Commissioners' decisions set our community priorities from zoning and development to school funding, local tax rates, public health, public safety, and emergency preparedness and response capabilities. What's essential to good policymaking is strategic thinking, collaboration, a willingness to learn, and experience balancing the benefits

and costs of policy options. My experience in those areas comes from 20 years of public service as an army officer, law and policy professor, and executive cybersecurity attorney for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Those roles, and my recent work as a private-sector attorney, shaped me as a coalition-builder, problem solver, and innovator. I have drafted new laws and policies, managed large budgets, developed and led strong teams, and worked through cybersecurity and other crises. I have also provided executive leadership to my community as chair of the NC Veterans Business Association, an incorporating director of Innovate Chatham, and committee chair with the Chatham Community Branch of the NAACP.

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected.**

- Create environmental, social, and governance goals for residential developers to aspire to, above and beyond basic state legal requirements, to match residents' goals and values.
- Allocate new funds and align government and nonprofit programs to sharply reduce today's equity gaps in broadband access, digital equity, K-12 disciplinary practices, and juvenile delinquency reports.
- Elevate public health as a primary factor in community wellbeing and equity, from preschool nutrition to K-12 mental health services, addiction, poverty, racism, and other factors.

**What are the biggest challenges in Chatham right now and how would you address them?**

That depends largely on where you live. Rural areas like the south and west lack broadband access, meaning those residents have less economic and educational opportunity than others. In the north and east, large residential developments have substandard wastewater systems, overcrowded roads, and other infrastructure challenges. Environmental concerns abound, from Haw River water quality to polluted feeder streams, development threats to native habitats and species, and near-term climate change impacts. The county is also confronting the ugly, difficult American legacy of inequality and racism in many forms. All of these challenges require community learning, visioning, and engagement to choose the future we want, then chart paths forward.

**Chatham County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. What do you see as the major challenges due to growth and how would you address them?**

Growth challenges us not just in the infrastructure and environmental ways I have mentioned, but also in social and economic ways. Our tax base is heavily residential, which limits our ability to build public infrastructure that will attract larger businesses. VinFast's arrival is welcome news to create jobs and increase the business tax base. We need a similar win for the Chatham-Siler City megasite. More regional and state-level collaboration will do that, and also help us plan with neighboring cities, counties and utilities. We must also enable small-business growth and innovative ways to preserve and use Chatham's rural landscapes.

**Parts of Chatham County's future development plans are closely tied to the comprehensive development plan. What do you see as the next steps working toward Chatham's future and the role of the comp plan?**

Chatham's move toward a unified development plan is essential. Norms and community interests change over time, and the compact community goals and construction methods of the past are now outdated. We should be aiming for highest quality, environmentally sound land use and construction. That means land preservation or development based on forecasted climate impacts and environmental disruption. It also means adopting a "serve the residents well" mindset. Wastewater management is one essential next step, along with broadband expansion and parity of resources across Chatham County Schools.

**What is your view of the expansion of rural broadband and how do you see the county's role?**

Broadband is an essential element of the modern age. Quality of life and opportunity are vastly different along the continuum from "none" to "limited speed" to "high-speed" access. Solving this problem can unify all parts of the county. State law prohibits the county from innovating and delivering broadband service. For now, the county plays the role of advocate and resource connector. The county technology team has researched this issue extensively, and I hope we are poised to benefit from new federal and state grants. From there, I would like to see the county

partner with nonprofits like Innovate Chatham (for which I am a board member) and the Right Here Right Now Project to launch a digital equity and inclusion plan.

**What's your overall view of the role of county government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?**

Chatham County government is most certainly fulfilling its mission, and I am very positive about the work of our civil servants, boards, committees, and other groups. In my experience, our commissioners and other county officials live the motto I learned in federal service—public service is a public trust. I saw the professionalism of the Board of Elections staff first-hand when I filled an open seat for several months in 2019, and again when I filed for the District 3 race. They are diligent, courteous, and knowledgeable, as were all members of the planning department, sheriff's office, library, public health, and I have spoken with over the years.

**What differentiates you from your opponent which makes you the better candidate to represent your party?**

I was surprised to learn that my opponent was a Republican candidate for the NC legislature in 2016 who also voted Republican in other years. In contrast, I have been an active, unifying leader in the Chatham County Democratic Party by proposing numerous CCDP platform resolutions, chairing and serving on our CCDP resolutions committee, serving as delegate to county and state conventions, and staying active in the Manns Chapel precinct and Briar Chapel Democrats club. In 2019 I formed an exploratory committee to assess a challenge to Republican Congressman Mark Walker, so all my efforts have been to embody the best in Democratic leadership values.

**Biographical Facts**

- Political/government hero:** Abraham Lincoln
- Book most recently read:** Wilmington's Lie: The Murderous Coup of 1898 and the Rise of White Supremacy in North Carolina
- Hobbies:** Any family activity, running, skiing, hiking, camping.
- Church/civic involvement:** Lifetime member, Chatham Community NAACP Branch #5377, founding director of Innovate Chatham.

## 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

# Lewis Hendricks

**Name:** Lewis Hendricks  
**Current Home Address:** 227 Bluffwood Ave - Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** 828-434-0678  
**Best daytime number:** 828-434-0678  
**E-mail:** lewis\_hendricks@yahoo.com  
**Cell phone:** 828-434-0678  
**Date/place of birth:** 3/31/1973 - Milford, Delaware  
**Current occupation:** Small Business Owner - Restaurant

**Campaign website/social media:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100076085323211>

**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):**

- Megan - wife - 38
- Madilyn - 13
- Owen - 11
- Matthew - 11
- Benny - 6

**Party affiliation:** Democrat

**Why are you seeking this office?**

The greatest impact we can have on our community and society is through a great education system. The support our teachers and school system have received is embarrassing.

**What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in 100 words or less, why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?**

The responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners is to make policy including land use planning, recreation, utilities, building inspections and permits, waste disposal and recycling, libraries, tourism and emergency response. They also play a key role in funding education at the K-12 and community college levels. I feel qualified to fill this roll because of my budget experience in government agencies, being a small business owner, and have lived in Chatham county for over 20 years.

**Chatham County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. What do you see as the major challenges due to growth and how would you address them?**

Waste water, clean water, and pressure on our school class sizes are a few of the major challenges due to growth. Increased capacity of our infrastructure in regard to these issues must be in place before development begins. If capacity can't be increased to meet the proposed development then the proposed development won't be able to move forward.

**Parts of Chatham County's future development plans are closely tied to the comprehensive**

**development plan. What do you see as the next steps working toward Chatham's future and the role of the comp plan?**

The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is the next step. The UDO will serve as the primary regulatory document guiding all development and land use within the county. It is critical for the residents of Chatham and our environment that the Board gets the UDO right.

**What is your view of the expansion of rural broadband and how do you see the county's role?**

Access to broadband for all of Chatham schools and residents is critical in creating equity for all students in the county.

**What's your overall view of the role of county government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?**

The county government is doing a very good job during difficult times. From the full time county staff to the Sheriff to the Superintendent of Schools the county has a very thoughtful and hard working team in place to move Chatham forward.

**What differentiates you from your opponent which makes you the better candidate to represent your party?**

Whether in the Army, the State Department, or small business I have always looked to be part of a team that leverages the strengths of each member to accomplish great things together.

**Biographical Facts**

- Political/government hero:** Abraham Lincoln
- Favorite book:** The Wealth of Nations by Adam Smith
- Book most recently read:** Raving Fans by Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles
- Favorite film:** Swingers
- Hobbies:** Running
- Church/civic involvement:** Ronald McDonald House
- Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Just because you can doesn't mean you should.
- Strongest childhood ambition:** Military Service
- Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Army Commander
- Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Serve Chatham county as an elected official.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

## REAL ESTATE

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## RENTAL APARTMENTS

**POWELL SPRINGS APTS.** Evergreen Construction introduces its newest independent living community for adults 55 years or older, 1 and 2 bedroom applications now being accepted. Office hours: Tues & Thurs, 9 to 4 p.m. Call 919-533-6319 for more information, TDD #1-800-735-2962, Equal housing opportunity, Handicapped accessible, A2,tfnc

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## YARD SALE

**FAMILY YARD SALE** - Saturday, April 9 at 17915 US Hwy 42; across from the Radio Station. Women's, men's clothes, Shoes, small furniture items, household items, upholstery frames, 7:30 a.m. until. A7,1tp

**MOVING SALE**, 1436 SC-GLENDON RD, Furniture, Household items, 8 a.m. Until, Saturday, April 9. A7,1tp

## FOR SALE

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

## AUCTIONEERS

**RICKY ELLINGTON AUCTIONEERS** - Equipment, Business, Liquidation, Estates, Land, Houses, Antiques, Personal property, Coins, Furniture, Consignments, Benefits, etc., NCAL #7706, 919-548-3684, 919-663-3556, rickyellingtonauctions@yahoo.com, J6,tfnc

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**TOWN OF PITTSBORO - CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST.** The Pittsboro Planning Department is excited about adding a new Customer Service Specialist to our team. We are looking for an individual of high moral character with a genuine desire to serve. We are an equal opportunity employer and welcome applicants from diverse backgrounds. This is a continuous recruitment; review of applications will begin immediately. Hiring Range: \$34,181 - \$41,724. Full-Time (Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm). The complete job description and employment application is available on the Town's website at <https://pittsboronc.gov>. Mail applications and resumes to the Planning Director at P.O. Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or email to [thompson@pittsboronc.gov](mailto:thompson@pittsboronc.gov), M31,A7,2tc

**JORDAN LAKE RECREATIONAL AREA is now hiring seasonal positions which will last thru September/October, 2022.**

All GENERAL UTILITY WORKERS (GUW) positions are responsible for park clean-up and daily maintenance of camping areas, restrooms, shelters, trails and parking lots. Some may mow, trim or blow specific areas of the park. Hiring some 16+, but 18 and over must have valid license to operate state vehicles and equipment. (\$14 hr). TICKET BOOTH OPERATORS (PA) park attendants are primarily responsible for collecting fees from all visitors who enter the park's campgrounds or recreational areas. Good communication skills and computer skills required. Will be trained to use the reservation system proficiently. Some general park clean up may be required. (\$12 hr) M31,A7,14,21,4tp

**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

**FOOD SERVICES STAFF** - Pittsboro Christian Village is accepting applications for Server, Pantry Cook, and Cook. Apply in person 8:30 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday, at 1825 East St. in Pittsboro. O21,tfnc

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

**VEGETABLE PLANTS** (including German Johnson's) are ready at Vestals, 969 Poe Road, Siler City; 50 cents each (except large German Johnson plants).

Closed Saturday and Sunday, Call or text, anytime, 919-200-3755. A7,14,21,28,4tc

## LEGALS

### 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

### CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

Having qualified on the 2nd day of March 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **DALE BALLIE EYERLY COLSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the decedent to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 17th day of March 2022 Robert M. Colson, Executor of the Estate of Dale Ballie Eyerly Colson 1380 Bradford Place Pittsboro, NC 27312 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 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, Executrix 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 payment. This 17th day of March, 2022. Gladys Miller Kofalt, Executrix c/o STEVEN B. LONG Ward and Smith, P.A. Attorneys at Law Post Office Box 33009 Raleigh, NC 27636-3009 M17,M24,M31,A7,4tc

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 123

All persons having claims against **ANN POWERS BRADY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Jeffrey S. Boggs, Executrix 5551 Bonlee Caribonton Rd Goldston, NC 27252 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 20 E 554

All persons having claims against **MARK DANIEL FLYNN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Kathleen A. Flynn, Ltd Personal Rep c/o Brown Estate Planning PO Box 920 Graham, NC 27253 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 159

All persons having claims against **WINIFRED LIU FU**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Derrick Fu, Executrix 713 Burnaby Ct Cary, NC 27219 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 148

All persons having claims against **SYLVIA LORRAINE WILLIAMS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Tracy Lorraine Pakornsawat, Executrix 2892 Silk Hope Liberty Road Siler City, NC 27344 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY

All persons having claims against **SUSAN J. BACH** aka Susan Jane Bach of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on the 25th day of May, 2017, are notified to present them to Nicholas R. Bach, Jr, Executor of the Estate of Susan J. Bach aka Susan Jane Bach 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 30, 2022. Failure to present a claim in timely fashion will result in this Notice being pleaded in bar of recovery against the estate, the Executor, and the devisees of Susan J. Bach aka Susan Jane Bach. Those indebted to Susan J. Bach aka Susan Jane Bach are asked to make prompt payment to the Estate.

## CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

**Line ad deadline** Tuesday — Noon  
**Display ad deadline** Monday — 5 p.m.  
**Rates and payment** Minimum charge of \$5 for each classified advertisement of 25 words or less per week. For each additional word, no matter how many insertions, add 20¢ per word. Payable in advance.  
**Blind ads** No information will be given out by this office to the identity of person placing "keyed" or "blind" ads.  
**Errors** In advertisements that run more than one week, we are responsible for errors appearing in the first week only. If you find an error in your ad, report it immediately.

David R. Frankstone Higgins, Frankstone, Graves & Morris, P.A. 1414 Raleigh Road, Suite 203 Exchange West at Meadowmont Chapel Hill, NC 27517-8834 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 150

All persons having claims against **TONY R. BOWERS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Vanessa B. Mewborn, Executrix 2003 Horizon Ct. Greenville, NC 27858 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 77

All persons having claims against **BARBARA A. MURPHY**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Sara A. Murphy, Executrix 6305 Reeves Dr. Sanford, NC 27332 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 135

All persons having claims against **PAUL MERRITT JONES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 24th 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 24th day of March, 2022. Kathryn J. McReynolds, Co-Administrator CTA 161 Crows Creek Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 Merritt M. Jones, Co-Administrator CTA 160 Stone Wall Rd Pittsboro, NC 27312 M24,M31,A7,A14,4tp

**PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO. 17-CVD-315 NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY COUNTY OF CHATHAM Plaintiff, VS NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION MARK CURTIS LIEB a/k/a MARK C. WARREN, et al Defendants. TO: The HEIRS, ASSIGNS or DEVEISEES OF MARK CURTIS LIEB a/k/a MARK C.**

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Featuring 1, 2 & 3 BR units: conveniently located in Siler City, NC  
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Office Hours: M-T-TH-FRI • 8:30AM - 5:00PM  
Equal Housing Opportunity  
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**CHATHAM COUNTY**  
**Career Opportunities Available**  
Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://www.chathamcountync.gov) and click Jobs.

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

**HIRING CNA's 2ND & 3RD SHIFT**  
CALL: 919-542-3151  
Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm for appointment to complete application and interview.  
Pittsboro Christian Village  
1825 East Street, Pittsboro, NC

**HELP WANTED**  
Chatham Monument Co. has an opening for a monument installer. Work involves working in Siler City and surrounding area installing monuments as part of a 3-person team.  
**Apply in Person, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
227 N. 2nd Ave. Siler City, NC 27344

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 31, 2022, or by May 10, 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 22nd day of March, 2022.

**ZACCHAEUS LEGAL SERVICES**  
By: /s/ 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  
M31,A7,A14,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **STEPHEN RAY FARRIS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, does hereby make notification of all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned attorney on or before June 29, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All person indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned's attorney. This 31st day of March, 2022.  
Scott J. Rizzo,  
The Rizzo Law Firm, PLLC  
Attorney for Administrator for the Estate of Stephen Ray Farris  
15720 Brixham Hill Avenue, Suite 300  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
Stephen Ray Newby, Administrator of the Estate of Stephen Ray Farris  
10359 U.S. Hy 64E  
Stanley, NC 27355  
M31,A7,A14,A21,4t

**CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY**  
Having qualified on the 9th day of March 2022, as Executor of the Estate of **JEAN LOIS BOGGESS**, 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 29th day of June 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the estate should make immediate payment. This the 31st day of March 2022  
Keifer W. Boggess III, Executor of the Estate of Jean Lois Boggess  
3603 NC Hwy 87 North  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A.  
206 Hawkins Avenue  
Sanford, NC 27330  
M31,A7,A14,A21,4tc

**NOTICE OF PRIMARY AND MUNICIPAL ELECTION CHATHAM COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
The statewide Democratic Primary, Republican Primary and Municipal Elections for The Town of Cary, NC and The Town of Siler City, NC will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. One-stop early voting will be held at the following locations from Thursday, April 28, 2022, to Saturday, May 14, 2022: Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center (in lieu of BOE Office), 1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Goldston Town Hall, 40 A Coral Ave., Goldston, NC 27252  
Paul Braxton Gym, 115 S. 3rd



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aPlaceforMom.  
THE PLACE FOR SENIOR LIVING ADVICE

Ave., Siler City, NC 27344  
CCCC Health Science Building (Off 15-501), 75 Ballentrae Ct., Pittsboro, NC 27312  
New Hope Baptist Church, 581 New Hope Church Rd., Apex, NC 27523  
Hours  
Monday – Friday – 8:00 A.M. – 7:30 P.M.  
Saturdays – 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
Sundays – 12:00 Noon – 3:00 P.M.  
Absentee ballots will be mailed to voters who have requested them beginning March 28, 2022. A voter can fill out an absentee ballot request at [votebyemail.ncsbe.gov](http://votebyemail.ncsbe.gov), or by filling out a request form provided by the county board of elections office. The request must be received through the website or by the Chatham County Board of Elections by 5 p.m. May 10, 2022. In the Primary Elections, voters will select nominees for a political party to move on to the November 8 General Election. Contests on the ballot include:  
U.S. Senate Democrat and Republican  
U.S. House of Representatives District 09 Republican  
N.C. General Assembly NC House 54 Republican State, and Local Judges  
NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 05 Republican, NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 09 Republican, NC Court Of Appeals Seat 11 Republican, District Attorney District 18 Democrat  
County Offices  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners District 3 Democrat,  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners District 4 Democrat,  
In primaries, voters affiliated with a political party will be given a ballot of candidates for their party. Unaffiliated voters may choose the ballot of candidates for any party primary. Registered voters who live within the boundaries of Town of Cary and Town of Siler City may vote in the Municipal Election. Municipal contests include the mayor and members of the municipality's governing board. These contests will appear on the same ballot as the statewide primary contests above. Voters can view their eligible contests and sample ballot on or before March 28 at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>. The voter registration deadline for this election is 5 p.m. Friday, April 22, 2022. Eligible individuals who are not registered by that deadline may register and vote at any early voting site during the early voting period. New registrants will be required to provide documentation of their residence. Voters who wish to change party affiliation must do so by the April 22 deadline. Questions? Call the Chatham County Board of Elections Office at 919-545-8500 or send an email to [elections@chatham-countync.gov](mailto:elections@chatham-countync.gov).  
Laura Heise, Chairman  
Chatham County Board of Elections  
M31,A7,A14,3tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 154**  
All persons having claims against **BARBARA BECKWITH MARKHAM**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of March, 2022.  
Barbara M. Yates, Executrix  
6504 Whitney Rd  
Graham, NC 27253  
M31,A7,A14,A21,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 172**  
All persons having claims against **WILLIAM CLEVELAND PHILLIPS, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of March, 2022.  
William Christopher Phillips, Administrator  
3774 Edwards Hill Church Rd.  
Siler City, NC 27344

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 178**  
All persons having claims against **WILLIAM DALE GOODRICH II**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 1st day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 28th day of March, 2022.  
Brenda Rudisill Goodrich, Co-Administrator  
1175 M. Carmel Church Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
William Dale Goodrich, Co-Administrator  
1175 Mt. Carmel Church Rd. Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
M31,A7,A14,A21,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 184**  
All persons having claims against **EDITH LAURIE SLADE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of April, 2022.  
Cecelia Anne Slade-Weeks, Executrix  
412 Central Blvd.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 186**  
All persons having claims against **INEZ MARKHAM POE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of April, 2022.  
Jerry C. Poe, Executor  
420 Bob Horton Rd  
Apex, NC 27523  
A7,A14,A21,A28,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 191**  
All persons having claims against **JAMES LYNCH SMOOT**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of April, 2022.  
Nichole Smoot Rapuano, Administrator  
94 Pine Cone Loop  
Pittsboro, NC 27312  
A7,A14,A21,A28,4tp

**TOWN OF SILER CITY LEGISLATIVE HEARING NOTICE**  
The Board of Commissioners will conduct a legislative hearing on Apr. 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the multipurpose room of the Wren Memorial Library located at 500 N. 2nd Ave. Legislative hearing and Board discussion will be conducted on the following requests: Town of Siler City proposes the following text amendments to the UDO: §18 Definitions (overflow parking), §41 Definitions (subdivision, other exceptions), §136 Uses Defined (manufactured home park), §149 Planned Unit Developments (development of nonresidential portions), & §194 Access To Lots (overflow parking). The proposed items are available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at [jmeadows@silercity.org](mailto:jmeadows@silercity.org) or 919-742-2323. All persons interested in the outcome of the items are invited to attend the legislative hearing and present comments, testimony, and exhibits on the above referenced item. The Planning Board will meet on Apr. 11 @ 6:30 pm to consider a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 184**  
All persons having claims against **EDITH LAURIE SLADE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of July, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This the 4th day of April, 2022.  
Cecelia Anne Slade-Weeks, Executrix  
412 Central Blvd.

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Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or [nhannah@silercity.org](mailto:nhannah@silercity.org) or 919-726-8625 or on 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.  
A7,A14,2tc

**CHATHAM COUNTY REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
**BYNUM SEWER REHABILITATION - CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
Hydrostructures, P.A., on behalf of Chatham County, is soliciting proposals from qualified Contractors for the installation of approximately 2,960 LF of 8 inch Cured-in-Place liner, and approximately 27 VF of cementitious coating with misc. manhole repairs. The work area will include the Bynum Sewer Collection System in the small neighborhood referred to as Bynum Mill Village. Proposals should be inclusive of all labor, equipment and materials required to complete the work detailed in the attached plans and specifications by Hydrostructures, P.A. sealed by Becky Smith, P.E on March 17, 2022. Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of Bynum Sewer Rehabilitation will be received by Chatham County until 2:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, April 26, 2022, and then publicly opened and read aloud at 12 East Street, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312. A virtual pre-bid conference will be held at the office of the engineer, Hydrostructures, 126 Commerce Court, Pittsboro, NC 27312 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time, April 13, 2022. Contact the office of the engineer (919) 542-5002 for a link to the virtual pre-bid meeting. All prime contractors and sub-contractors are encouraged to attend. If not delivering to the bid open location, the hard copies

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6208-0721

# Chatham residents share growth and development concerns with county commissioners

**BY KEITH T. BARBER**  
News + Record  
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Less than a week after VinFast — a Vietnamese electric vehicle manufacturer — announced plans to build a \$4 billion manufacturing facility at Triangle Innovation Point, the county's megasite near Moncure — a number of residents expressed concerns about the county's rapid growth during the public comment portion of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners' regular meeting on Monday night.

Chatham resident Tim Moore directly addressed the impact of a projected 7,500 VinFast employees moving to the area once the manufacturing facility is up and running. Moore said the school system in Chatham County is already at maximum capacity and the influx of thousands of new residents and their children will make a challenging situation much worse. Moore advocated for the construction of new schools to address the issue.

"You've got 7,500 [employees] coming to work at VinFast," Moore said.

"They'll bring their 14,000 children with them. And you got 2,500 employees going to the Toyota plant [at the Greensboro-Randolph megasite]. They'll bring their 5,000 kids with them ... Shovels need to start hitting the ground."

Chatham residents also raised concerns about the Chatham-Cary Joint Land Use Plan during Monday night's commissioners meeting.

Jim Stevens said he understands development of the northeast portion of Chatham County is inevitable, and believes in the goals of the land use

plan. However, he said, the current implementation of the land use plan is not acceptable.

"There are no bad plans, just bad implementation," Stevens said. "And we're concerned that there is this bad implementation by the town of Cary and these would much have bigger problems for Chatham County if the current needs are not addressed."

Stevens said the scale of development requires an integrated plan, not the current approach of piecemeal annexation development, which has led to environmental degradation and a host of other issues.

"Property damage and cost to residents is occurring," Stevens said. "When we raise our concerns with Chatham County, we're sent to the town of Cary. The town of Cary tells us this problem with the engineering plan or the engineers. The engineers say all plans are starting point need to be adjusted based on conditions on the ground ... so we really do need your help."

Patrick O'Neill also shared his concerns regarding the joint plan during the meeting.

O'Neill encouraged commissioners to increase the minimum lot size for development in its upcoming review of the plan to help protect the environment and quality of life for Chatham residents. O'Neill also advocated for an updated schools plan when commissioners review the land use plan in the weeks ahead.

"The education of our children is very important," O'Neill said. "There isn't a schools plan for the east side, none at all."

Jim Fletcher, a resident of the Windy Hill subdivision, pleaded with commissioners to reconsider how they specify housing density in the land use plan to address adverse environmental impacts of rapid growth and development. Fletcher said housing density as prescribed in the land use plan should better reflect an understanding of its overall environmental impact.

"I strongly recommend you only consider buildable acres in determining the number of homes on a given tract," Fletcher said. "The beauty of Chatham County is its rolling wooded landscape. You must find a way to better fit developments in your land you have versus destroying the land to maximize homes per acre."

Carrie Strickland Ward, a resident of Old Thompson Creek development, said nearby developments are causing water runoff issues in her neighborhood.

"So much water runoff from [nearby developments] have flooded our creek — the Rocky Ford Branch Stream — several times," Ward said. "One time, it completely washed out our driveway. We were stranded. We had no driveway. We had no way to leave because we have a bridge."

Because of water runoff from nearby developments, Ward said she and her family have incurred \$15,000 in repair fees, and the environmental issues are beginning to mount in her neighborhood.

"They're compromising our septic fields, our wells, our properties, and if they take out all the natural vegetation — which goes against the [Unified Development Ordinance] of trying to keep natural vegetation and environmental areas — it's just going to create more problems for us."

Ward pointed out there is no mention of the Chatham-Cary Joint Land Use Plan in the county's newly proposed Unified Development Ordinance.

On Monday night, Tyson Smith of White & Smith LLC presented commissioners with a draft audit report of a revised Unified Development Ordinance for Chatham County.

The draft audit report stipulates the last comprehensive update of the county's zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations occurred nearly 15 years ago. The report states that significant growth in the county since 2008 necessitates the updating of land use, zoning and development ordinances in the county.

In other business, County Manager Dan LaMontagne provided county commissioners with an update on the work of the Northeast Chatham Wastewater Study Commission.

LaMontagne informed commissioners that the 12-member study commission had developed a list of seven possible solutions to the wastewater challenges in the northeast corner of the county.

On March 23, the study commission discussed the seven potential solutions — including short-term transitional options, like the possibility of creating a new centralized management entity to manage the current

existing package plants in the northeast corner of the county; extending service from Pittsboro and Chatham Park to the northeast; extending service from Sanford to the U.S. 15-501 corridor; as well as extending service from Siler City's wastewater system to the northeast corner of the county.

Study commission members also mulled the possibility of connecting into the Orange Water and Sewer Authority to provide wastewater treatment for the northeast area of the county.

LaMontagne said the list of seven potential solutions seems like the final word on the subject and in his opinion, goes beyond the scope of the study commission's purpose.

"I didn't feel that what you appointed them for was that level at this point," LaMontagne said.

LaMontagne suggested the co-chairpersons of the study commission make a presentation to the board of commissioners at its next meeting.

"Is there a possibility that our instruction or our requests of them was not sufficiently clear?" Karen Howard, the chairperson of the county commission board, inquired.

LaMontagne responded by saying the scope of the study commission was clearly defined during its first meeting earlier this year.

"I'm also not extremely comfortable with saying scrap it either — I don't think that's the direction to go," Howard responded. "Because I want the decision to be ours, but we're not the experts."

"We're not the subject matter experts," she continued. "This was an opportunity for us to hear from and get input from the subject matter experts and have it brought to us as part of the study commission's work ... And we would have we would have the information presented to us — we could do the work once we collated it, once we've collected all that sort of background."

Howard said the study commission's presentation of seven possible ways to address wastewater needs in northeast Chatham County feels like they are giving the commissioners a solution, which is premature.

"I am not comfortable with that," Howard said. "Having them present is probably the best way forward."

The commissioners' next meeting is April 18.

## Pre-Retirees: Plan Now for Health Care Costs

If you're close to retirement, you'll have several financial issues to consider. But you'll want to pay attention to one of the most important of these issues: health care costs. How can you prepare yourself for these expenses?

First, get an early start on estimating health care costs. More than two-thirds of those planning to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their health and long-term care costs will be in retirement, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave *Four Pillars of the New Retirement* study. And some people don't worry much about these costs, which may be considerable, thinking that Medicare will pay for most of them.

While Medicare does cover many medical expenses, it also has its own costs. You probably won't pay a premium for Part A (inpatient/hospital coverage), since you likely had this cost deducted from your paycheck when you were working. But if you are hospitalized, you'll have to pay deductibles and coinsurance (the percentage of costs you pay after you've paid your deductible). Part B (doctor's visits) requires a premium, deducted from your Social Security checks, and you must pay an out-of-pocket deductible. After you meet this deductible for the year, you typically pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount for most doctor's services. And when you enroll in Part D (prescription drug plan), you will likely also have to pay a monthly premium, an annual deductible and coinsurance or copays.

To help pay for the Medicare deductible, coinsurance and copayments, you may want to get supplemental insurance, known as Medigap. Premiums for Medigap vary, depending on the plan you choose.

As an alternative to original Medicare, you could select Medicare Advantage (sometimes called Part C). Medicare Advantage plans are offered by private companies approved by Medicare, but the benefits and costs vary by plan.

These plans generally will incorporate Medicare Parts A and B and will provide additional medical coverage, such as prescription drugs.

When you incorporate all the above, the annual out-of-pocket costs for traditional medical expenses likely will be about \$4,500 to \$6,500 per year, per person — not insignificant, but certainly a number that can be addressed by careful planning.

But there's one more expense to keep in mind: long-term care. The average cost of a private room in a nursing home is more than \$100,000 per year, according to the insurance company Genworth. And Medicare typically pays few of these expenses.

Clearly, between regular medical costs associated with Medicare or those not covered by it, and costs resulting from the possible need for long-term care, your health care bills can mount. To meet these costs, you need to plan ahead — and take action.

For example, it's essential that you incorporate health care expenses into your overall financial strategy. You can also work with a financial professional to run some "what-if" analyses to see if your strategy would be derailed by a potential long-term care stay. And the professional you work with may be able to suggest specific protection vehicles that can help you meet the costs of long-term care.

The best time to prepare for your health care costs during retirement is well before you retire. So, if you haven't already started, now is the time to do so. When it comes to paying for health care, the fewer surprises, the better.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

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# ELECTION

Continued from page A10

public infrastructure that will attract larger businesses,” he said. “VinFast’s arrival is welcome news to create jobs and increase the business tax base — we need a similar win for the Chatham-Siler City megasite.”

Delaney ultimately wants to help ensure a “community-minded partnership,” and he wants to do that by bringing his life experience to the board of commissioners.

“I’m running to ensure we advance smart, strategic development, protect our environment, and promote equity for all county residents,” he said. “We must keep innovating and improving in those areas, and we must take a strategic approach to the education, public health, economic, and technological inequities that limit many residents’ lifelong opportunities.”

**Lewis Hendricks:** Hendricks was among one of the first people to file for office when filing originally opened in December before coming to a halt due after the gerrymandering lawsuits were brought before the North Carolina courts.

He said his experience as a business owner and a veteran help give him the level of experience needed to fulfill the duties of a county commissioner.

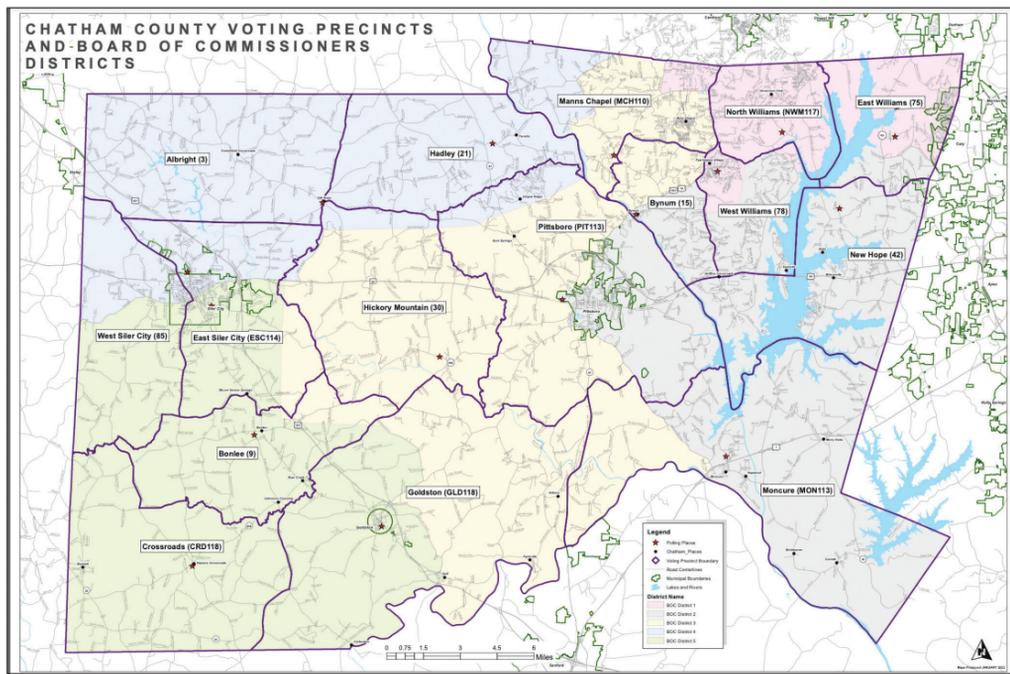
“The responsibilities of the (county) board of commissioners are to make policy including land use planning, recreation, utilities, building inspections and permits, waste disposal and recycling, libraries, tourism and emergency response,” he said. “I feel qualified to fill this role because of my budget experience in government agencies, being a small business owner and having lived in Chatham county for over 20 years.”

Hendricks voiced his support for teachers and a need to support K-12 education, as well as provided three goals for Chatham County he wants to see come to pass: increasing teacher pay, establishing a County Bond Fund to buy county land to preserve waterways and expand natural parks and increasing the funding in schools to provide an equitable education for students.

“Teacher pay and overall teacher support has to be dramatically improved to maintain and improve our school system,” he said. “Making sure we are thinking of secondary and tertiary effects of development decisions is critical to managing Chatham’s growth.”

Chatham County continues to grow at an unprecedented rate, with companies such as VinFast deciding to come to the area, bringing more jobs and people with them.

Hendricks said he believes



Courtesy of the Chatham County Board of Elections

**A map showing color-coded county commissioner voting districts.**

infrastructure needs to expand to accommodate the increased population. By doing so, the county can be sure it is prepared for future economic and social development.

“Waste water, clean water, and pressure on our school class sizes are a few of the major challenges due to growth,” he said. “If capacity can’t be increased to meet the proposed development then the proposed development won’t be able to move forward.”

County government has had a lot to face in the last two years — ranging from handling a pandemic to navigating the challenges brought by it, Hendricks said the county has done a good job in providing relief for the county’s residents.

Hendricks said he wants to do his part and be a part of a body he said actively worked to support his community in the hardest times.

“From the full time county staff, to the sheriff, to the

superintendent of schools, the county has a very thoughtful and hard working team in place to move Chatham forward,” he said. “Whether in the Army, the State Department, or small business I have always looked to be part of a team that leverages the strengths of each member to accomplish great things together.”

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

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Individual Income Tax Return filing deadline is Monday, April 18

**RALEIGH** — The deadline for filing calendar year North Carolina individual income tax returns is Monday, April 18, unless you request an extension. Electronically filed returns must be submitted electronically by midnight on April 18. For taxpayers filing via paper, returns must be postmarked by April 18.

The deadline to file and pay state income tax was extended to April 18 because state government is closed on Friday, April 15, to observe the Good Friday holiday.

A taxpayer who receives an automatic extension to file their

federal individual income tax return will be granted an automatic extension to file their North Carolina individual income tax return if the individual certifies on their North Carolina return that they received an automatic federal extension.

If a taxpayer is not granted an automatic federal extension, the taxpayer may still request a State extension to file their North Carolina individual income tax return by filing Form D-410 by midnight on April 18. The extension, however, is only for filing a return and is not an extension of time to pay any tax that may be owed.

A taxpayer who does not pay the amount of tax due by April 18 may incur late-payment

penalties and will be charged interest at the statutory rate. The late-payment penalty will not be due for taxpayers who pay at least 90 percent of their tax liability through withholding, estimated tax payments, or with Form D-410 by April 18.

For more information, please visit [www.ncdor.gov](http://www.ncdor.gov).

### Council on Aging receives NCSMP virtual capacity expansion grant

**PITTSBORO** — Clients of the Seniors’ Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) at the Chatham County Council on Aging will have their experience

bolstered by a virtual capacity expansion grant recently awarded by the North Carolina Senior Medicare Patrol Program.

Valued at \$1,500, the funding will allow the Council to invest in upgraded, modern computer equipment designed to exclusively service the SHIIP program, which provides free and unbiased information regarding Medicare to the growing senior population in Chatham County. During the 2020-21 fiscal year, a total of 208 individuals sought counseling through SHIIP at the Council, collectively realizing \$97,111 in health care savings.

According to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Chatham County’s 65-and-over population stood at 17,129 — or

24% of its total as of November 2021. That figure ranks inside the 20th percentile of North Carolina counties and makes roughly one quarter of Chatham County residents eligible for SHIIP services.

“The vital role of the SHIIP program at the Council on Aging will only expand as Chatham County’s population continues to age,” COA Director of Grants and Communications Jimmy Lewis said. “This funding will equip our SHIIP volunteers — the backbone of our work — with needed technology upgrades that will be returned to clients in the form of increased efficiency of service. In turn, we will be able to retire obsolete equipment in an expedient manner.”

—CN+R staff reports



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'THE BEST PITCHER WE'VE FACED'

# Jordan-Matthews clobbers Seaforth in first trip to Siler City to earn season sweep

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — It's been nearly a month since Seaforth Principal Tripp Crayton threw the first pitch to kick off the school's first baseball season on March 2.

Yet, even though it was 27 days late to the party, Jordan-Matthews made sure it didn't miss the opportunity to give the Hawks a warm welcome to the neighborhood.

In the schools' first-ever meeting on March 29 in Pittsboro, the Jets handed the Hawks a shutout loss, 7-0, after scoring three runs in the seventh inning to secure the

comfortable win.

Seaforth had just four hits on the evening — including two from sophomore Dane O'Neill — as the Jets' pitching staff pummeled them, striking out nine batters in the process.

Then, just three days later, a chance at redemption was on the line for the Hawks as the teams met for the rematch in Siler City.

But J-M wasn't finished.

The Jets round-housed the Hawks, shutting them out in a 10-0 affair that lasted just five innings. In the bottom of the fifth, J-M anticlimactically walked it off on a dropped third strike, triggering the mercy rule and prematurely ending

the contest.

The Hawks may have had the same number of runs scored as they did in the first matchup with the Jets, but they struggled mightily to even put themselves in a position to reach home plate.

In total, Seaforth mustered just three baserunners all night, which came on two hits and one walk.

Jets sophomore starting pitcher Ian McMillan, who threw all five innings, struck out four batters and appeared to be in control the whole way.

"We just wanted to throw strikes and put balls in play,"

See **SWEEP**, page B5



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

The Jordan-Matthews baseball team breaks a pre-game huddle ahead of their rematch with the Seaforth Hawks last Friday. The Jets went on to sweep the season series with their cross-county foes after a 10-0 shut-out win.

'WE FELT PRETTY DOMINANT'

# Northwood wins 19 events, takes home Chatham crown in county meet

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Over the weekend, two sporting events captivated Chathamites like no other, bringing the county together to witness intense rivalry battles, talented student-athletes and a blue-blooded champion taking home the crown.

One took place at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, the other at Jordan-Matthews High School in Siler City.

As an appetizer to Saturday's Tobacco Road showdown between North Carolina and Duke, five of Chatham County's high schools spent last Saturday morning competing in the 2022 Chatham County Invitational track & field meet, hosted at J-M.

The crowd of dedicated parents and supporters watched as Northwood — a perennial contender — took first place in both the men's and women's team scoring as the Chargers earned 205 points (out of a possible 349 points) in the men's events and 100 points in the women's events.

In total, the Chargers won 19 out of 34 events, accounting for 56% of the meet's champions.

"I think we felt pretty dominant," Cameron Isenhour, the Chargers' head coach, told the News + Record after the meet. "We didn't have all of our people, we had to scratch a few here and there, so we weren't at full strength, but the girls did very well with only nine girls in the meet. ... I was pretty happy with today." Shorthandedness was a common



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth freshman Wyatt Parker clears a hurdle during the Chatham County Invitational on Saturday at Jordan-Matthews High School. Parker, who placed 7th in the men's 300-meter hurdles, was praised by his coach, Tommy Johnson, for 'getting everything right' during the event.

theme in this year's meet, with all five teams — the Chatham Central Bears, the Chatham Charter Knights, the Jordan-Matthews Jets, the Northwood Chargers and the Seaforth Hawks — missing some of their athletes for one reason or another.

The Bears were missing most of their women's runners, including all of their women's relay teams.

The Jets were suffering from an injury bug, being down a good chunk of their men's runners.

The Knights, who were on spring break last week, were competing without senior distance runner

Brandon McKoy and senior field specialist Brooke Garner, both of whom typically sweep their events.

And the Woods Charter Wolves were the lone Chatham team that missed the meet entirely due to their own spring break.

But the absences didn't distract from the product on the track, which saw some of the county's finest rise to the occasion.

**Northwood's familiar faces**

Part of Northwood's dominance in Siler City came at the hands

See **MEET**, page B3

# Thanks for nothing, Kansas

The Jayhawks really put a damper on things, huh?



VICTOR HENSLEY  
Sports Editor

Waking up Tuesday morning after hitting the snooze button one too many times, I'm sure I felt like most Tar Heels out there: deflated and defeated, yet proud.

The first two descriptors were immediate.

I'd hoped that — like a movie director lazily explaining a this-can't-be-real plot — everything I'd witnessed on Monday night was just a bad dream.

The 15-point halftime comeback by Kansas, the absolute chaos and disorganization down the stretch, the injuries, the mistakes, the tears, all of it.

But, as my senses came back to me and my eyes adjusted to the sunlight, I knew what my brain recalled was reality. Every bit of it.

UNC had choked away an absolutely winnable national title game. And there was nothing any of us could do about it.

While we in the News + Record office are (legally required to be) happy for our Editor/Publisher Bill Horner III — the only KU graduate I've ever met — the sting of a championship loss is unlike any other.

Especially when you're so dang close. I've already been through most of the five stages of grief.

I've expressed denial in refusing to believe that Monday night's title game wasn't anything but a nightmare.

I've felt anger at Caleb Love for playing hero ball late in the game, at Hubert Davis for not calling a timeout to draw up a play with 20 seconds left and even at the court itself for flexing so hard that it practically snapped the ankles of Love, Armando Bacot and Brady Manek.

I've bargained with myself by asking a million different "what if?" questions, including: "What if Manek hadn't have been dealt a concussive blow to the head early in the game?" or "What if the NCAA chose to play the title game the weekend following the Final Four to

See **KANSAS**, page B5

# What it's like to watch your school's biggest rival win a championship

I still remember storming Memorial Stadium back in 2013. After failing to make a bowl game in 2012, the Missouri Tigers did what nobody thought was possible. They knocked off Texas A&M and Johnny Manziel, clinching their first SEC East title since joining the conference.

I remember dancing to "We Are the Champions" and "Georgia on my Mind" in a sea of black. It was an unreal moment in my young sports fandom.

But what does it feel like to watch your school's biggest rival win the National Championship?

Exhausting, frustrating and flat-out demoralizing.

The NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament always lives up to the hype. We got a double-overtime First Four game, the St. Peter's Peacocks and even a thrilling Final Four game between the game's biggest rivals.

Every year, however, it seems I'm disappointed in the final.

I don't particularly like the Tar Heels or any blue blood program, but watching the University of Kansas win is unbearable, even if it makes my editor, Bill Horner III, a Kansas graduate, smile.

Kansas isn't a lovable school from the outside. They're likely going to be handed down a hefty punishment for cheating by the NCAA, but it's not like they're the only program committing

recruiting violations.

Earlier this year, they clobbered Missouri, 102-65, in the first matchup since the Tigers left for the SEC. It was a brutal showing for the Tigers and one that proved how large the gap was between their biggest rival.

I saw the writing on the wall when Kansas reached the Final Four. They were the only No. 1 seed remaining and the Jayhawks played a relatively easy path on their way to New Orleans — No. 16 Texas Southern, No. 9 Creighton, No. 4 Providence and No. 10 Miami. None of those teams were a top three seed and they played an injured Villanova team in the semifinals. When Kansas entered as the favorite in the national title game, I had already prepared myself for the worst.

On Monday, I went out to a sports bar with some school friends and it was almost like we went to school in North Carolina. Each Tar Heel bucket received a roar from the customers and then a subsequent groan when Kansas' Remy Martin knocked down 3-pointer after 3-pointer.

While sitting in the bar, I realized that no matter what happened, I wasn't going to feel good. A third of the game's starting lineups came from the state of Missouri. Kansas guard Dajuan Harris is from Columbia and Christian Braun's mom and brother both attended Mizzou.

I wasn't watching my school play for a title. I was actively rooting for another team, who had made it farther than my school has ever gone.

There was no winning for me on Monday night.



MAX BAKER  
CN+R Intern

**CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN**

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

**BY VICTOR HENSLEY**  
News + Record Staff

Last week, a couple of teams dealt with spring break-related hiatuses, including Woods Charter. This week, however, all six local high schools are in full action — including the undefeated charter teams from Woods Charter women's soccer (6-0-2) and Chatham Charter baseball (3-0). Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, April 6**

Tennis: Seaforth men at Orange, 4:30 p.m.  
Track & Field: Chatham Central, Chatham Charter, Jordan-Matthews at North Moore, 4:30 p.m.  
Track & Field: Seaforth vs. Woods Charter, 4:30 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Charter vs. Southern Wake, 5 p.m.  
Soccer: Chatham Charter women vs. Ascend Leadership Academy, 5 p.m.  
Soccer: Woods Charter women at Triangle Math & Science, 5 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Northwood women vs. Riverside, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women at Bartlett Yancey, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Seaforth women at Graham, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Chatham Charter at North Moore, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Northwood at Orange, 6 p.m.  
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Chapel Hill, 7 p.m.  
Baseball: Northwood vs. Union Pines, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, April 7**

Tennis: Northwood men vs. Williams, 4 p.m.  
Tennis: Chatham Central men vs. Jordan-Matthews, 4:30 p.m.  
Tennis: Seaforth men vs. North Moore, 4:30 p.m.  
Track & Field: Northwood at Williams (Cedar Ridge, Western Alamance also participating), 4:30 p.m.  
Baseball: Seaforth at Southern Wake, 5 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Northwood men vs. Eastern Alamance, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Chatham Charter women at North Moore, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Seaforth women at Bartlett Yancey, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Roxboro Community, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Chatham Central vs. North Moore, 6:30 p.m.  
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews at Lee County, 7 p.m.  
Baseball: Northwood at Southern Lee, 7 p.m.

**Friday, April 8**

Tennis: Chatham Central men at Uwharrie Charter, 3 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Central at Bartlett Yancey, 5 p.m.  
Baseball: Seaforth vs. Walkertown, 6 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Northwood men vs. Seaforth, 6 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Northwood women at Jordan, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Chatham Central at Bartlett Yancey, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Northwood vs. Williams, 6 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Charter vs. Triangle Math & Science, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 9**

Baseball: Chatham Central vs. Vandalia Christian, 1 p.m.  
Baseball: Northwood vs. Northern Durham, 1 p.m.

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, March 28**

Tennis: The Chatham Charter men were swept by the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 9-0, on

the road.  
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women shut out the Cummings Cavaliers, 9-0, on the road.  
Soccer: The Seaforth women trounced the River Mill Jaguars, 7-1, at home. Scoring for the Hawks in the win were sophomore Abby Kava (5 goals, 1 assist), freshman Caitlin Erman (1 goal, 1 assist) and freshman Morgan York (1 goal).  
Soccer: The Northwood women lost to the Williams Bulldogs, 4-1, to fall to 3-7 on the season. Scoring for the Chargers was junior Sarah Emrich (1 goal).

**Tuesday, March 29**

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men clobbered the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 10-1, to stay unbeaten on the season at 3-0. Leading the Knights in the win were senior Colton Nixon (2-for-4, 2 2B, RBI), freshman Aiden Allred (2-for-4, 2B, 3B, 2 RBI), freshman Zach Carrette (1-for-4, 2 RBI; 4.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, BB, 6 K) and junior Landon Hussey (2-for-3, 2B, RBI).  
Softball: The Chatham Charter women lost an offensive barnburner to the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 16-15, to fall to 4-6 on the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were senior Ally Bare (3-for-5, HR, 5 RBI), senior Taylor Jones (4-for-4, 2B, 3B, BB, 3 RBI), senior Taylor Brewer (3-for-5, 3 RBI) and sophomore Delana Loflin (4-for-5, 2B, RBI).  
Lacrosse: The Northwood men crushed the Western Alamance Warriors, 15-2, at home. Scoring for the Chargers were junior Taylor LaBerge (8 goals), junior Will Smith (6 goals), junior William Johnson (1 goal, 1 assist) and junior Jason Walden (1 goal, 2 assists).  
Lacrosse: The Seaforth men earned a narrow win over the Williams Bulldogs, 12-11, to snap their 4-game losing skid. Scoring for the Hawks in the win were sophomore James Swenson (6 goals), freshman Cameron Exley (5 goals) and sophomore Ethan Hughes (1 goal, 4 assists).  
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men shut out the Seaforth Hawks, 7-0, in the teams' first meeting in program history.  
Softball: The Chatham Central women downed the Jordan-Matthews Jets at home, 8-4. Leading the Bears on the night were junior Mary Gaines (1-for-3, 2 RBI; 4.1 IP, 3 H, 1 ER, 2 BB, 5 K), junior Jaylee Williams (4-for-4, 3 R), senior Lindsey Johnson (1-for-3, 2B, RBI) and sophomore Shelby Holder (2-for-4, 2B, RBI).  
Baseball: The Northwood men lost a close one to the Person Rockets, 4-3, on the road. Leading the Chargers on the night were junior Jackson Shamer (1-for-1, RBI), senior Mason Bae (1-for-3, BB, R; 2.0 IP, 2 H, ER, 2 BB) and junior Salvador Delgado (3.0 IP, 5 H, 2 ER, BB, 3 K).

and senior Emmanuel Cortez (6-1, 6-0), while the duos of Thornton/Lujan (8-1), Dekaney/junior Ricardo Rocha (8-0) and junior Angel Gonzalez/senior Dawson Clark (8-0) won their doubles matches.  
Track & Field: The Jordan-Matthews Jets competed in a road meet against the Cummings Cavaliers, where the Jets took first place in the women's events (60 points) and second place in the men's events (36 points). Winning their respective women's events for the Jets were Charley Lemons (women's 400-meter dash, 1:20.10), Jasmine Basilio (women's 800-meter run, 3:05.90; women's 1,600-meter run, 6:57.50) and Damisela Rivera (women's shot put, 23-09.00; women's discus throw, 73-00). Winning their respective men's events for the Jets were Aiden Harrison (men's 1,600-meter run, 5:44.70) and Alex Morgan (men's 3,200-meter run, 11:55.00).  
Track & Field: The Seaforth Hawks and Chatham Central Bears competed in a meet against the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, hosted at Seaforth, where the Hawks placed first in the women's events (65 points) and second in the men's events (49 points), while the Bears took second in the women's events (57 points) and third in the men's events (18 points). Winning their respective events for the Bears and Hawks were Seaforth freshman Malana Mclean (women's 100-meter dash, 13.24), Seaforth freshman Gabby White (women's 200-meter dash, 27.54; women's 400-meter dash, 1:10.34; women's long jump, 16-06.00), Seaforth sophomore Lily Cox (women's 800-meter run, 2:56.00), Chatham Central junior Samantha Scott (women's 1,600-meter run, 6:39.00), Seaforth sophomore Juliette VanOlinda (women's 100-meter hurdles, 19.54; women's 300-meter hurdles, 56.44), Chatham Central junior Kailey Green (women's high jump, 4-08.00), Chatham Central senior Sadie Gaines (women's triple jump, 29-04.00), Chatham Central junior Livvy Brooks (women's discus throw, 67-11.00) and Chatham Central freshman Mattie Caviness (women's shot put, 26-05.00). Winning their respective men's events for the Bears and Hawks were Seaforth freshman Sebastian Calderon (men's 200-meter dash, 24.44), Seaforth freshman Will Cuicchi (men's 800-meter run, 2:22.70), Seaforth freshman Jack Anstrom (men's 1,600-meter run, 4:39.00) and Chatham Central senior Malachi Moore (men's long jump, 19-05.00).  
Softball: The Northwood women lost a lopsided game to the Apex Cougars, 12-4, on the road. Leading the

Chargers on the night were freshman Jasmine Wichowski (3-for-3, 2 2B, 2 R), freshman Courtney Talbert (2-for-3, RBI), junior Carlee Harris (2-for-4, R, 2B) and senior Natalie Bell (5.2 IP, 5 H, 3 ER, 3 BB, K).  
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women narrowly defeated the Seaforth Hawks, 5-3, to improve to 5-2-2 on the season and extend their 5-game winning streak.  
Tennis: The Seaforth men routed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-2, to improve to 6-2 on the season. Winning their respective singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Walker Magrinat (6-2, 6-1), sophomore Felton Burleigh (6-0, 6-0), freshman Broden Jones (6-2, 6-1), sophomore Shivam Patel (6-1, 6-3), freshman Gavin Maley (6-2, 6-2) and freshman Kyle Stinson (6-2, 6-1), while the duo of freshman Matthew Bowser/Jones (8-4) won its doubles match.  
Baseball: The Chatham Central men dominated the Providence Grove Patriots, 12-2, to improve to 4-5 on the season. Leading the Bears in the victory were freshman Zane Overman (3-for-3, 2 R, 3 RBI), freshman Matthew Murchison (2-for-3, 3 R, 3B, 2 RBI), senior Collin Lagenor (2-for-3, BB, 2 R, RBI) and sophomore Anthony Lopossay (4.0 IP, W, H, R, 0 ER, BB, 6 K).  
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a close one to the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 7-5, at home.

**Wednesday, March 30**

Tennis: The Chatham Charter men were beaten by the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 8-1, to fall to 1-8 on the season. Earning the lone doubles win for the Knights was the duo of sophomore Colton Todd/freshman Zane Morgan (8-5).  
Tennis: The Jordan-Matthews men trounced the Graham Red Devils, 8-1, to improve to 6-3 on the season. Winning their respective singles matches for the Jets were junior Weldon Thornton (6-0, 6-3), junior Paul Lujan (6-1, 6-0), junior Ronald Huang (6-1, 6-0), senior Ben Dekaney (6-0, 6-2)

Chargers on the night were freshman Jasmine Wichowski (3-for-3, 2 2B, 2 R), freshman Courtney Talbert (2-for-3, RBI), junior Carlee Harris (2-for-4, R, 2B) and senior Natalie Bell (5.2 IP, 5 H, 3 ER, 3 BB, K).  
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women narrowly defeated the Seaforth Hawks, 5-3, to improve to 5-2-2 on the season and extend their 5-game winning streak.  
Tennis: The Seaforth men routed the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 7-2, to improve to 6-2 on the season. Winning their respective singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Walker Magrinat (6-2, 6-1), sophomore Felton Burleigh (6-0, 6-0), freshman Broden Jones (6-2, 6-1), sophomore Shivam Patel (6-1, 6-3), freshman Gavin Maley (6-2, 6-2) and freshman Kyle Stinson (6-2, 6-1), while the duo of freshman Matthew Bowser/Jones (8-4) won its doubles match.  
Baseball: The Chatham Central men dominated the Providence Grove Patriots, 12-2, to improve to 4-5 on the season. Leading the Bears in the victory were freshman Zane Overman (3-for-3, 2 R, 3 RBI), freshman Matthew Murchison (2-for-3, 3 R, 3B, 2 RBI), senior Collin Lagenor (2-for-3, BB, 2 R, RBI) and sophomore Anthony Lopossay (4.0 IP, W, H, R, 0 ER, BB, 6 K).  
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men lost a close one to the Southwestern Randolph Cougars, 7-5, at home.

on the season.  
**Saturday, April 2**  
Track & Field: The Chatham Central Bears, Chatham Charter Knights, Jordan-Matthews Jets, Northwood Chargers and Seaforth Hawks all competed in the 2022 Chatham County Invitational, hosted by J-M, where the women's scores were as follows: Northwood (1st, 100 points), Jordan-Matthews (2nd, 76 points), Chatham Central (4th, 28 points) and Chatham Charter (5th, 1 point). Winning their respective men's events were: Seaforth sophomore Anthony Vesce (men's 100-meter dash, 11.82; men's 200-meter dash, 23.94), Northwood senior Marco Sanchez (men's 400-meter dash, 54.37), Northwood senior Colin Henry (men's 800-meter run, 2:15.76), Northwood junior Christian Glick (men's 1,600-meter run, 4:45.64), Northwood junior Matthew Sullivan (men's 3,200-meter run, 11:11.85), Northwood junior Ethan Wilson (men's 110-meter hurdles, 18.18; men's 300-meter hurdles, 45.84), Northwood junior Zachary Peterson (men's high jump, 5-04.00), Northwood junior Jack Nicholson (men's long jump, 19-00.00; men's triple jump, 37-03.50) and Northwood junior Cameron Stevenson Jr. (men's shot put, 39-10.00; men's discus throw, 102-10), while the Chargers swept the men's relay races, including the 4x100 (48.09), 4x200 (1:34.71), 4x400 (3:32.91) and 4x800 (9:13.34).

**Thursday, March 31**

No events scheduled due to inclement weather.

**Friday, April 1**

Lacrosse: The Seaforth men were decimated by the Western Alamance Warriors, 22-2, at home to fall to 2-8 on the season. Scoring for the Hawks were sophomore Ethan Hughes and sophomore James Swenson, each with 1 goal apiece.  
Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women lost to the Bartlett Yancey Buccaneers, 6-3, to fall to 3-9 on the season. Leading the Jets on the night were senior Erin Maddox (1-for-1, 2B, RBI), freshman Riley Gibson (1-for-2, 2 BB, RBI), freshman Sophia Murchison (2-for-3, 2B) and freshman Marcy Clark (7.0 IP, 7 H, 2 ER, 5 K).  
Softball: The Northwood women were shutout and no-hit by the Eastern Alamance Eagles, 15-0, on the road.  
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men shut out the Seaforth Hawks, 10-0, for the second time in just a few days to improve to 5-7 on the season.  
Baseball: The Northwood men lost to the Person Rockets, 8-2, for the second-straight game to fall to 8-5 on the season.  
Lacrosse: The Northwood men lost in a close game to the Williams Bulldogs, 8-6, to fall to 7-3

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4x200-meter (2:00.59) and 4x800-meter (14:03.66) relays, while Northwood took home first place in the womens' 4x400-meter relay (4:57.00). The men's results were as follows: Northwood (1st, 205 points), Jordan-Matthews (2nd, 76 points), Seaforth (3rd, 39 points), Chatham Central (4th, 28 points) and Chatham Charter (5th, 1 point). Winning their respective men's events were: Seaforth sophomore Anthony Vesce (men's 100-meter dash, 11.82; men's 200-meter dash, 23.94), Northwood senior Marco Sanchez (men's 400-meter dash, 54.37), Northwood senior Colin Henry (men's 800-meter run, 2:15.76), Northwood junior Christian Glick (men's 1,600-meter run, 4:45.64), Northwood junior Matthew Sullivan (men's 3,200-meter run, 11:11.85), Northwood junior Ethan Wilson (men's 110-meter hurdles, 18.18; men's 300-meter hurdles, 45.84), Northwood junior Zachary Peterson (men's high jump, 5-04.00), Northwood junior Jack Nicholson (men's long jump, 19-00.00; men's triple jump, 37-03.50) and Northwood junior Cameron Stevenson Jr. (men's shot put, 39-10.00; men's discus throw, 102-10), while the Chargers swept the men's relay races, including the 4x100 (48.09), 4x200 (1:34.71), 4x400 (3:32.91) and 4x800 (9:13.34).

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

**Phone and Internet Discounts Available to CenturyLink Customers**

The North Carolina Utilities Commission designated CenturyLink as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier within its service area for universal service purposes. CenturyLink's basic local service rates for residential voice lines are \$27.50-\$29.50 per month and business services are \$40.00-\$44.00 per month. Specific rates will be provided upon request.

CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, and can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.







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**Sheriff's Office Animal Resource Center**

725 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: 919-542-7203 [facebook.com/chathamsoar](https://www.facebook.com/chathamsoar)

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Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11am-5pm and Saturday 10am-4pm, Closed Sun.

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For a printable application, visit:  
[www.chathamsheriff.com](http://www.chathamsheriff.com)

# Basketball Blues

Students, fans come together across Chapel Hill to host watch parties dedicated to Monday's NCAA Men's Basketball National Championship Game, including UNC-Chapel Hill's official party at the Dean E. Smith Center, where Northwood students worked concessions.

Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

# MEET

Continued from page B1 of some of their usual suspects.

Caroline Murrell — a state champion in the women's 3,200-meter run last season — earned three distance wins on Saturday, including the women's 800- (2:29.77), 1,600- (5:23.79) and 3,200-meter runs (14:14.19).

She hasn't finished below first place in any of her nine races this season.

"She just ran whatever she needed to do to win, which is exactly what I wanted her to do," Isenhour said of his star. "She's not going to run the next two races. We're going to train hard and really try to hammer down at a few invitationals at the end of April and in both the regional and state meets."

The Chargers got a hand from senior Colin Henry and junior Christian Glick, who won the men's 800-meter run (2:15.76) and men's 1,600-meter run (4:45.64), respectively, and came together to win the men's 4x800-meter relay (9:13.34) with sophomore Noah Nielson and freshman Trey Hudson.

Glick and Nielson were also part of the men's 4x400-meter relay team with seniors Jack Spatz and Marco Sanchez, which captured the win by nearly 26 seconds after posting a time of 3:32.91 as part of the Chargers' men's relay sweep, winning all four races.

"It's pretty impressive," said Isenhour, referring to what his men's relay teams accomplished despite not being at full strength. "Especially considering we just practiced the 4x100 for the first time yesterday and held off a late charge by Jordan-Matthews and Chatham Central. We still got the job done."

Adding to Northwood's sweeps were the junior trio of Cameron Stevenson Jr. (men's shot put, 39-10.00; men's discus throw, 102-10.00), Jack Nicholson (men's long jump, 19-00.00; men's triple jump, 37-03.50) and Zachary Peterson (men's high jump, 5-04.00), who combined to win all five men's field events, beating out a host of athletes from the Bears and Jets.

## Siler City strikes back

Between the Knights and Jets, Siler City's representatives didn't make it easy for their Pittsboro



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Northwood senior Colin Henry lies in the grass to catch his breath following a relay event on Saturday at the Chatham County Invitational. Henry took first place in the men's 800-meter run (2:15.76) and was part of the first-place men's 4x800-meter relay team that contributed to the Chargers' sweep of the men's relay events.**

counterparts.

Chatham Charter junior Tamaya Walden flew by her competition during the women's sprints, snagging first place in the 100- (13.08), 200- (27.51) and 400-meter (1:04.87) dashes.

She's been one of the stars of a small Knights team that's slowly making a name for itself within the county.

"In track, we're seeing her grow because — especially in the 100(-meter) — I can tell she's faster, and in this meet, this was the fastest 200(-meter) she's run this season," Tammy Walden, the Knights' co-head coach and Tamaya's mother, said after the meet. "I laugh at her because the 400(-meter) is one race she never wanted to run, and in my personal opinion, I think she runs that one the best."

Walden — who has recently adopted the 400-meter dash as one of her primary races — is one of many Knights who are trying out new events this season, headlined by senior Alexis Baldwin, who took first place in the women's shot put on Saturday (29-05.00) and has become a "powerhouse" in the event this year, according to Tina Rakes, the Knights' co-head coach.

"The ones that came out today, a lot of them (got personal records) and it's awesome," Rakes said. "Our boys have never run the 3,200(-meter) before ... and Meredith (Reese) shaved 30 seconds off of her two-mile run and Ariana (Rivera-Roma) ran it for the very first time."

And even though some of the results didn't always stack up to their opponents, with Chatham Charter claiming the fifth-place spot in both the men's (1 point) and women's (39 points) events, Rakes mentioned

that track & field is all about improving each and every meet.

"Everybody can be successful," she said. "Because all you have to do is run faster and jump further than you did the last time."

Jordan-Matthews, on the other hand, saw a perfectly balanced showing from both its men's team (76 points) and women's team (76 points), earning second place in both sections just behind the Chargers.

The Jets came close to a clean sweep in the women's relay races, their strongest events of the day, winning the 4x100-meter (59.07) — taking first place due to a disqualification of Seaforth for running in the wrong lane — the 4x200-meter (2:00.59) and the 4x800-meter (14:03.66), but falling short in the 4x400-meter, which was claimed by the Chargers at 4:57.00.

They also got a couple of strong pushes in some of the short-distance races, coming second to Northwood in the men's 4x100-meter (48.16), men's 4x200-meter (1:40.39) and men's 4x400-meter (3:58.21) relays.

The duo of senior Calvin Schwartz and sophomore Jaiden Gorham, second and third in both events, respectively, scored much-needed points in both the men's 100- and 200-meter dashes, leading to praise from their head coach, Lamont Piggie.

"Jaiden did well in the 100(-meter) and 200(-meter) and surprised me a lot," Piggie, the team's second-year coach, said. "A lot of people hit their personal bests today."

That includes sophomore Damisela Rivera, who was the lone Jet to earn an individual win, doing so in the women's discus throw by earning a personal best of 77 feet,



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Jordan-Matthews sophomore Cassidy DeShazo competes in the women's long jump event at the Chatham County Invitational last Saturday. DeShazo placed second overall in the event.**

4 inches.

Having lost a sizeable chunk of the men's team from last year due to graduation, Piggie appears to be excited about what they've been able to do to replace them — a fact that'll only become more true once the team's fully healthy again.

"Overall, with the kids we had out today, I'm very impressed with the way they handled themselves and ran well against this competition," Piggie said. "Our teams finished second overall, and that's going against Northwood, who just won the state championship in some events. I'm very proud of them."

## Stepping up for Seaforth

Just like the rest of the teams in the Invitational, the Hawks were missing some key athletes heading into Saturday.

But rather than look at it as a negative, Seaforth chose to embrace it and use the meet as a platform to see which of their athletes could step into the spotlight and perform.

One of those athletes was freshman Wyatt Parker, who, despite finishing 7th in the men's 300-meter hurdles with a time of 53.19, caught the eye of men's head coach Tommy Johnson.

"That (race) is one where you have to put all three pieces together and he's put two out of three on a number of times," Johnson said, "but today, he ran a 53(-second race), so that's him getting everything right."

Johnson noted that the Hawks' typical 4x800-meter relay team had two of its strongest runners missing, allowing freshmen Henry McFall and Johnson Brekke to step in and run along-

side freshmen Nathan Smith and Jack Anstrom, coming in second (9:56.09) behind Northwood.

"It would be their 800(-meter personal record) if it were a normal race," Johnson said, "so things like that really matter to us."

He praised the women's 4x400-meter relay team, which ran a 5:01.24, eight seconds faster than its season-high, along with sophomore Lily Cox, who finished third in the 800-meter run (2:50.17), just behind Murrell and Northwood senior Emma Serrano and ahead of Northwood freshman Avery Adams, who she passed late in the race.

"Everybody ran out of their minds, and then Lily Cox having those girls from Northwood to chase down and catching one of them, running 2:49-2:50," Johnson said. "Those kinds of things are going to mean a lot when we get to the latter part of the season. I'm really pleased."

The Hawks placed third in both the men's (39 points) and women's (51 points) team scoring, but for a program comprised of what Johnson said was 80% freshmen, a third-place finish isn't anything to scoff at.

Seaforth earned five event wins on the day, including two men's sprint first-place finishes from sophomore Anthony Vesce in the 100- (11.82) and 200-meter (23.94) dashes and two women's hurdle wins from sophomore Juliette VanOlinda in the 100- (18.90) and 300-meter (57.25) hurdles.

In the field, they grabbed the first-place spot in the women's long jump thanks to freshman Malana Mclean (14-03.00), rounding out the event wins for the Hawks.

"Our team is about 80-20 9th grade and today, it

really felt like 9th grade," Johnson said. "You come here and you see a 3A school with a bunch of seniors and you're like, 'We're in a different league.'

"But then to come out and actually chase some of them down, it shows them that by the time they're juniors and seniors, they'll really have it put together," he added. "It's really fun, just getting to build something with them here."

Chatham Central, which placed fourth in both the men's (28 points) and women's (49 points) events just behind Seaforth, was the only team without a win in any of the running events.

It did, however, have two first-place finishes in the field, courtesy of junior Kailey Green in the women's high jump (4-10.00) and senior Carleigh Gentry in the women's triple jump (29-09.50).

Results aside, Piggie said he was happy with the meet's ability to bring Chatham together to not only give each team a chance to see how it stacks up with one another, but also showcase just how talented track & field programs are across the county.

"(I wanted to host this meet) to get the community involved because I'm big on community involvement," Piggie said. "And just to show that we have talent on this end of Chatham County, as well. You've got Seaforth and Northwood over there and they always do big events — Seaforth just came up, but you can tell they're going to do a lot of stuff. So I was like, 'Let's get something on this side of town.'"

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

THE CLIPBOARD | GRAEME STEWART, WOODS CHARTER WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Through growth and leadership among its youth, Woods Charter's Stewart has high hopes for 2022 season

The Woods Charter women's soccer team is practically perfect through eight games this season, sitting with zero losses at 6-0-2 and its only blemish coming in two draws to start the season against Franklin Academy (3-2-1) and Jordan-Matthews (5-2-2).

The Wolves — who lost five seniors from its Elite Eight team last season — have found their groove, leaning on a youthful mixture of sharp goal-scorers, aggressive mid-fielders and near-perfect goal keepers to fuel their hot start.

This week, the News + Record spoke with Graeme Stewart, Woods Charter's longtime head coach, ahead of Monday's game against River Mill — which the Wolves won, 5-0 — to discuss his star players, his familiar coaching staff and his team's ceiling.

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

**Through seven games, your team is 5-0-2, which isn't too shabby. How do you feel like this team stacks up against last year's squad that made it to the third round of the playoffs?**

GRAEME STEWART: I think we've matured as a group. Obviously we lost some important seniors, but what we've been able to do with the rest of the team being a year older — plus, we've added one person through the lottery that came to the school and she's a fantastic player — so that sort of aging of the younger group that we had has really kept the balance. And I think we've actually moved forward from last year, so, in my opinion, we're stronger than we were last year.

**You mentioned that you lost some seniors from last season, such as Anna Mitchell and Eloise Maclean. How have you been able to replace the production void they left when they graduated?**

We've moved some players around into those positions that were missing and that's worked out pretty well, so far. Within the group, some went off to play club, but the way they've started, they're leveling each other up. When we're working in practices, everybody's

pushing each other, so the group right now is gelling really well and they're pushing each other to get better and better, which is music to my ears. The record to me is not necessarily the important thing, it's the fact that we've played good teams. Jordan-Matthews has got a winning record, they're playing well, they just beat Seaford. Franklin Academy is Franklin Academy and they're a powerhouse every single year. So I'm really pleased with the way the girls have matured this early in the season and that we're competing against very good teams.

**When you talk about maturity, one person I've got to bring up is sophomore Leyla Noronha. She was a goal-scoring machine last year, scoring 18 in 13 games, but this year, she's already gotten 13 goals through 7 games. What has she done to grow even stronger as a player and a goal scorer?**

We talked about some things that we wanted her to do and to develop, and I'm always talking to all of my players, but with Leyla, it was specific. She doesn't realize how good she can be yet. We are working to help her realize that. She plays on a high-level club team, so that's always good. She's been keeping practices with that group, which is clearly helping her. She came in this season fit, strong with another club season behind her, plus the things that we've been talking to her about. And as she's just growing, she's getting more and more confident in her own ability. She's willing to try some things she may not have tried last year.

**You've been doing this a long time, so you've had the opportunity to coach some extremely talented players, including a couple that are on your coaching staff. Do you think Leyla has what it takes to be one of Woods Charter's all-time greats?**

Yes, for sure. I've not seen a game-changer in our group like Leyla since Isabel Pearce. Now, she's got a long, long, long, long way to get to that level, but I've not seen somebody who can just change a game and go at people and take people out like she does.

She's got everything going for her. If we can continue to develop her and develop that confidence, she'll be the complete package.

What's working for us right now, too, is the spine of the team. In losing Samana Young from last season, we've moved back Maddie Sparrow, who played the midfield last year, and she's just taken to it like a duck to water. Plus, we had a 10th grader who didn't play as a freshman, but she's come in and she plays club and she's added another bit of steel to the backline.

But another key player that we've brought in, who transferred from Northwood, is Lucy Miller. She's a junior. And she's an outstanding player. She has maturity and an IQ beyond her age, she really does. She's fierce to win the ball back. The way I described it to them is that she goes hunting when we don't have the ball. She's got great touch. She knows when to give, she knows when to push, she knows when to hold. She's provided a glue next to Chloe Richard in the middle. The two of them have worked superbly together so far and, up until now, they've won all the midfield battles that we've had. And I'm old-fashioned: if you win the midfield, you've got a good chance of winning the game.

**It seems like this team also has a leadership quality about it that you love to see as a coach, right?**

Yes. And that's why we've got four captains, because I saw it in all of them. We're actually a pretty young team, we have very few seniors, so we're pretty much sophomore- and junior-driven in terms of numbers. Although we're obviously going to lose a lot of experience, like we always do, this offseason, but we're still going to have a core coming back next year. We've got good leadership. As an example, a game we played against Research Triangle last week, it was one of those where we didn't play very well. Even though we were sort of possessing the ball, we weren't happy with the way we were playing and Research Triangle scored to go up 1-0. Fair play, they scored, even

though we had most of the possession. So I looked at them and I said, "All right, well, what are you going to do about it?" and it took them a little while because sometimes you just have to play through it. There's no coaching needed, they've just got to figure it out. And that's exactly what they did. And in the second half, once we talked about it formally at halftime, their mental approach was completely different. And they really played to their potential. And I was very happy about that.

**As I mentioned earlier, you've got a couple of your former players on your coaching staff this season. What have they brought to the team and how do they make your job easier?**

I'm the luckiest coach there is. Obviously, there's Elliot and Isabel Pearce. Caleb Smith is a former goalkeeper of ours who went to play semi-professionally in Germany. So he works on our goalkeepers for us. But Elliot and Isabel know what we're trying to do. They've been there. What they can also do, because they're much younger than me, is they can still play and show the type of movements, show the type of touch, show what we're expecting them to do on the field, whereas at my age, I can only talk about it. My brain says, "I know where I'm supposed to be, I just can't get there anymore." Aside from the fact that we bounce ideas off of each other, the two of them, even though they're young, are very mature coaches in terms of their outlook and the way we're trying

## Graeme Stewart

**ROLE:** Head Coach, Women's Soccer

**EXPERIENCE AT NORTHWOOD:** 10th season

**NOTES:**

- He's led Woods Charter to the playoffs every season since being hired (aside from the 2019-20 season, when the season was cut short and the tournament canceled due to COVID-19).
- He has one Final Four appearance (2016-17).
- He's also acted as the Woods Charter men's soccer head coach since 2012, having just completed his 10th season.
- From the coach: "I love being around the kids, I love seeing them challenged, I love challenging them, watching them respond to that challenge ... I get more nervous as a coach than I did as a player."

## Woods Charter Wolves

**CONFERENCE:** Central Tar Heel 1A

**RECORD:** 6-0-2 (3-0 in Central Tar Heel 1A)

**NEXT UP:**

- Wednesday, April 6: at Triangle Math & Science (0-6-2), 5 p.m.
- Monday, April 11: vs. River Mill (1-6-1), 6 p.m.
- Thursday, April 14: vs. Clover Garden (4-4), 6 p.m.

to do it and changes that we need to make and the flow of the game, they can both see that. But sometimes what we'll do is, for example, just thinking about Leyla, I'll say, "Isabel, go and talk to Leyla about this certain topic." And they'll have that one-on-one conversation. So from Leyla's point of view, she's got somebody like Isabel, who's played at the D-I level, and she's telling her what to do. So they both command respect because of what they've done and the kids really listen to them.

**What's this team's ceiling at this point? Do you actually think this team could go as far as last year's team or even further?**

Yes, I think that should be a realistic goal for us. That's not trying to be big-headed or anything. I haven't seen or looked at any of the other good teams like Hobpton or Voyager Academy, so there's a lot of good teams around and on any one day, anyone can beat each other, but if we play to our potential, I think we can be very successful to (a) get to the tournament and (b) go further than we did last year.

# CCCC Foundation Golf Classic coming to Chatham

From Central Carolina Community College

PITTSBORO — Golfers, grab your clubs for a day of fun and fellowship for a good cause as the Central Carolina Community College Foundation hosts its Ninth Annual Chatham County Golf Classic on Wednesday, May 4, at the Chapel Ridge Golf Course.

The proceeds from the Golf Classic will be used to help provide scholarships and other financial assistance.

George Lucier and Barber Holmes are tournament co-chairmen. Other tournament committee members are Chris Ehrenfeld, Emily Hare, Mark Hall, David Harris, Linda Harris, Josh Lee, and Greg Vassie, as well as CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman.

Shotgun start at 9 a.m., with lunch from 1-2 p.m.

The format for the Chatham County Golf Classic is four-person Captain's Choice Flighted. Prizes will be awarded to top teams in each flight.

Sponsorships are available at various levels: a \$1000 Platinum Sponsor receives sponsorship recognition and two foursomes; a \$600 Gold Sponsor receives sponsorship recognition and one foursome; and a \$300 Silver Sponsor

receives sponsorship recognition.

"We are so grateful for the support we have received in Chatham County," said Dr. Emily Hare, Executive Director of the CCCC Foundation. "Chatham County has given so much to us and we will use funds raised in the tournament to go directly back to our students, faculty, and staff. We look forward to the event and hope everyone will come out and join us!"

The Chatham County Golf Classic registration form can be downloaded from the Foundation's website, [www.cccc.edu/foundation/events/golf-classics/](http://www.cccc.edu/foundation/events/golf-classics/). Registration is also available by contacting Hare at 919-718-7230 or by email at [ehare@ccc.edu](mailto:ehare@ccc.edu)

The CCCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization affiliated with, but independent of, Central Carolina Community College. It receives donations of money and equipment on behalf of the college and uses them to promote its educational mission and assist students through scholarships and grants.

For more information about the Foundation, its work and events, visit [www.cccc.edu/foundation/](http://www.cccc.edu/foundation/). For more information about classes and programs at Central Carolina Community College, visit [www.cccc.edu](http://www.cccc.edu).



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

April 11th through April 15th

### Monday, April 11

- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Yoga for Senior Athletes w/Liz](#) at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)
- [Virtual Health Fair: Eating for a Healthy Heart](#) at 10:30 AM (at WCSC Holly Brooks Room and on Zoom)
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC)

### Tuesday, April 12

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Walking at CCCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (RSVP w/Liz, meet at ECSC Parking Lot)

### Wednesday, April 13

- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM
- [Yoga for Senior Athletes w/Liz](#) at 9:00 AM (at Chatham Grove Community Center and on Zoom)

### Thursday, April 14

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills)
- [Senior Tar Heel Legislature Collection w/Robin Leto](#) (at Holly Brooks Room, WCSC and on Zoom)
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia at 2:00 PM](#) (Aerobic Room, WCSC)

### Friday, April 15

- [COA Office Closed For Good Friday.](#)

RSVP Contact: Liz Lahti - (919)-542-4512 ext. 228 or [liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org](mailto:liz.lahti@chathamcoa.org)

For more information or to register for these and other programs, visit our website: [chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/](http://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/)

**In-person - Pre-registration Required**

**Programming Hosted On Zoom**

**Fee Required for Participation**

## The Chatham COA is Here for You!

For more information on our ongoing programs & services visit our website at [chathamcoa.org](http://chathamcoa.org) or call our centers, Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm.

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

# SWEEP

Continued from page B1

John Headen, the Jets' head coach, said after the win, boiling down his team's strategy. "(Ian got) a little bit (of work on the mound) last season, so there's been some growth there."

"He was literally the best pitcher we've faced all year," Brian Ledford, Hawks' assistant coach, claimed when discussing McMillan's outing.

The team's recent pitching depth has Headen breathing a sigh of relief.

"We've finally got kids that can go throw 80-90 pitches, 100 pitches, without being completely gassed," Headen said of his promising pitching staff, McMillan included. "And most of them are not really sore the next day. So that's good in comparison to where we had been. Sixty pitches used to be the max, they couldn't hardly get past it, so them being able to show that they can go out and throw a game, get through a lineup three or four times, that's a big deal for them."

Up to this point, it's been a fairly chaotic season for the Jets.

After starting the season 3-2 with a win over Hillside (1-6) and a sweep of Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference foe Bartlett Yancey (4-6), the Jets lost four in a row before their dominant win over Seaforth last Tuesday.

Those four losses came at the hands of sweeps by two strong opponents: North Moore (7-1), one of the favorites to compete for the Mid-Carolina crown, and West Stokes (9-3), which has a pitching staff unlike any the Jets have seen up to this point as junior Jacob Smith and senior Mason Howell combined for 19 strikeouts between the two matchups.

In the Jets' seven losses this season, their opponents have outscored them 69-12, a testament to the sheer strength of their competition.

"If we're fortunate enough to make the playoffs, we'll be prepared to play some of those teams, because those are 2A schools that will be in the playoffs," Headen said, "so you've got to beat those guys if you want to do anything. I think they've grown from some of those games, too."

Speaking of growth, Ledford said that, despite the game's results, last Friday's rematch with the Jets was one of the



Jordan-Matthews sophomore Kelton Fuquay (in white) swings at a pitch in the Jets' 10-0 win over the Seaforth Hawks last Friday. Fuquay was 2-for-3 with a triple in the win.



Staff photo by Simon Barbre  
**Jordan-Matthews junior second baseman Conner Martin (18) strolls off of the field during the Jets' 10-0 win over the Seaforth Hawks last Friday. Martin was one of five Jets to record an RBI in the win.**



Staff photo by Simon Barbre  
**Seaforth freshman first baseman Griff Burk records an out in the Hawks' shut-out loss, 10-0, to the Jordan-Matthews Jets last Friday.**



Staff photo by Simon Barbre  
**Jordan-Matthews sophomore starting pitcher Ian McMillan fires a pitch in the Jets' 10-0 win over the Seaforth Hawks last Friday. McMillan (5.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, BB, 4 K) was called 'the best pitcher we've faced all year' by Seaforth Assistant Coach Brian Ledford.**

most impressive games he's seen from his young squad.

"I know it didn't come to fruition with runs, but the approach at the plate was, by far, the best game we've had all year," Ledford said. "They were mentally into it."

"Their pitcher was probably throwing in the low 80s and they weren't scared to death," he added with a chuckle. "That's a huge improvement. They were almost going up expecting to hit the ball, whereas, when we first played River Mill, if he'd have been throwing 80, they would have said, 'Oh dear Lord, we're screwed.'"

As is the case for all of Seaforth's programs this season, the Hawks are made up of a youthful group of freshmen

and sophomores — including just three that have played high school baseball before, all on junior varsity.

And to start the season, it showed.

Aside from two dominant wins over River Mill (2-10), including a 19-6 thrashing in the season-opener on March 2 and a 16-1 clobbering on March 14, the Hawks (3-8) have struggled against a majority of its opponents.

But Ledford claims that his team is swiftly improving — and it doesn't take a lot to prove it.

"They started out as a really good J.V. baseball team, without the understanding of what it takes to be varsity athletes and compete against

17-18-year-old guys," Ledford said. "And they've learned what the focus takes and what the mental preparation takes. ... They're making the small adjustments, they're adapting to the game and adapting to the speed of the game."

If the Hawks stay on this trajectory, Ledford said he has little doubt that this team can become one made up of "quite a few true varsity athletes."

While the Jets and Hawks won't meet again this season — barring a potential clash in the postseason — it's safe to say

that, in the future, the blow-out wins one way or the other might be a thing of the past.

"They're really young, they're just getting started," Headen said when asked about the Hawks' season. "They've got a hard road to hoe, but they've gotten themselves some wins, too. Those guys are good ballplayers, they're going to grow up and be fine."

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

# KANSAS

Continued from page B1

give players some rest?" because our guys were clearly gassed.

And, of course, I've wrestled with the depression, the sadness and the disappointment of it all.

But now, even though it pains me, I'm ready to fully accept the loss.

Because, at the end of the day, I'm so proud of this team.

Before the tournament started, I thought there wasn't a chance in hell UNC could make it to the Final Four, much less the national title game.

The Tar Heels were a bubble squad.

They had nine losses entering the NCAA Tournament.

Honestly, had it not been for the win over Duke at the end of the regular season, which spoiled Mike Krzyzewski's final game at Cam-

eron Indoor Stadium, there's a chance they could have missed the tournament entirely — or at least been forced to play in the First Four.

They exceeded every single expectation I, or anyone else, had for them.

They dominated No. 9 Marquette by 32 points, downed No. 1 seed and defending champion Baylor in the Round of 32, eked out an upset win over No. 4 UCLA, ended

the Cinderella story of No. 15 St. Peter's and vanquished No. 2 Duke and Coach K in the Final Four, doing it all as a No. 8 seed.

It was an incredible run. And that's probably an understatement.

Even though I couldn't shake the fact that Love was 5-of-24 from the field on the biggest stage — and said plenty of choice words about him in text messages to various friends in the

moment — I knew this team wouldn't have been playing for a national title without him. And he should go down as a UNC legend for that reason.

There's little doubt that the Tar Heels — especially the six players who got the majority of the minutes in the title game and beyond — left it all on the court.

Up until the final minute against Kansas, the Tar Heels fought.

They may have suffered a sprained ankle here, a concussion (or upset stomach) there, but they never gave up. Not once.

Originally, I planned on writing about UNC's win over Duke on Saturday night in what Bacot deemed "the greatest college basketball game in history" after the victory.

I was going to rub the win in Duke fans' faces, brag about how the Tar Heels sent Coach K to the retirement home with a loss that undoubtedly mars his coaching legacy and describe how it feels to "one-up Duke for eternity," as Jon Rothstein so eloquently put it.

I had photos of the post-game celebration ready from CN+R reporter Taylor Heeden, who nearly suffered an asthma attack as she rushed Franklin Street with about 40,000 other folks that were thankful to be on the correct — and clearly better — side of the rivalry.

But after suffering a heartbreaking loss on Monday night, why would I ever want to throw salt in the wounds of my Blue Devil counterparts? Especially since we're now in the same boat — watching another team celebrate a title.

However, while the Jayhawks may have put a damper on what was otherwise a picture-perfect weekend, at least UNC didn't get knocked out by its arch-rival and have its Hall-of-Fame coach sent home in the most soul-crushing loss in program history.

Oof. That would've been rough.

# CHATHAM IS BOLD!



# Parental rights group forms here to protect children's liberties

As a mother of four, Amy Kappelman says she's always believed in the importance of active parent involvement in K-12 education. She has put that belief into practice by taking on PTA leadership roles at several of the schools her children, who currently range in age from 11 to 17, have attended over the last 15 years in four different states — most recently serving as president of the Margaret B. Pollard Middle School PTA.

Kappelman says the turmoil and upheaval of the past few years motivated her to gain a broader perspective on K-12 education, so she began to attend Chatham County school board meetings on a regular basis. Her experiences at these meetings stirred in her a desire to help extend parents' impact not just within the specific schools her children attend, but in the schools of her wider community — and that's how Moms for Liberty - Chatham County came about.

This week, we speak with Kappelman about the new local chapter of the national organization.

**For those not familiar with it, what is Moms for Liberty?**

Moms for Liberty is an organization whose mission is to support individuals who wish to stand up for parental rights at all levels of government. Founded by two former school board members who had grown tired of the growing overreach in public education, Moms for Liberty connects and unites parents so they may have an equal voice in their children's education and ensure their liberties are being protected.

**What led you to the decision to start a chapter in Chatham County, now one of 11 in North Carolina?**

I have attended the Chatham County school board meetings on a regular basis



Submitted photo

**Amy Kappelman, who started Chatham's 'Moms for Liberty' chapter.**

over the past couple years. At these meetings, I continually met like-minded parents who were dismayed by the behavior of the school boards. We witnessed harmful decisions being made that had nothing to do with education and, in fact, oftentimes, these decisions were impeding the education of the children of Chatham County. This group of parents represented families from several different schools in the county and we all shared the same frustrations. I wanted to find a way to connect parents from all across the county who may be feeling similarly. The mission and goals of Moms for Liberty aligned with our way of thinking and I decided to start a chapter in our county.

**What's the interest been like for your chapter?**

Definitely enthusiastic. Within one week of deciding to start the chapter, I had 30 people signed up ... and that was only through word of mouth. We



continue to have one in-person meeting a month and with all the options of social media, chat rooms, etc., we are in regular communication. We are working hard to make sure we continue to be a positive force for the parents and educators of our county.

**Have you developed specific objectives for your work here?**

Our specific objectives are to help our schools focus on educating our children. Schools are not healthcare facilities nor are they platforms for social justice. We want to focus on directing attention away from the "noise" and back to education — reading, writing and arithmetic, critical thinking, organizational and learning skills. As well, our schools need support inside the classroom. Parents have increasingly been deterred from providing teacher and classroom support and we would like to bring those support systems back. Our goal is to help our schools create and foster a positive, achievement-oriented environment that builds our children into productive and empowered members of our community.

Whether we can make a difference in these areas is yet to be determined, but we are hoping to find a way to connect parents by virtue of the fact that we simply want the best for our children and

our community. Even with all of our differences, we all have the same basic goal — the best possible education for our children.

**Moms for Liberty's co-founders both served on local boards of education, and much of the work of chapters so far has focused on lobbying local boards for the end of mask mandates. You spoke at length on that subject at a Feb. 14 board of education meeting. Can you share your thoughts about the mandates and what your focus will be now that masking is optional in Chatham County Schools?**

I am extremely grateful my four children now have the option not to wear a mask. As there has been absolutely no difference in the spread of the virus now vs. when they were wearing masks, I am hopeful there will not be any more mask mandates or school shutdowns. However, based on the current mindset of our school board, I am concerned there will be issues ahead. Moms for Liberty will continue to defend our parental rights and redirect the school board to common sense solutions.

**Some Moms for Liberty chapters around the county have drawn criticism for sowing division among parents and using disruptive tactics. You've previously said the Chatham County chapter**

**would use a positive, proactive approach in your work. Can you elaborate?**

I, personally, have been nothing but impressed with the teachers and schools here in Chatham County during the five years I have lived here. I, and the parents I have been talking to, have wanted to support them in their efforts to teach our children as best we can.

How can we provide help in the classroom? How can we help teachers to be liberated to do their jobs and teach without worrying about being suspended for some unexplained "policy"?

I am not aware of any "sowing division" or "disruptive tactics" by any chapters. I am frustrated at the mainstream media's negative spin on all the positive changes that members of Moms for Liberty have accomplished. If "division" is created by virtue of reading and explaining legislation or highlighting classroom reading materials viewed as harmful to a child's development, then perhaps we need to reconsider the way in which we perceive constructive conversations.

Parents should be considered the priority stakeholder in decisions being made on behalf of their children by the school boards and it is imperative their voice be heard. Putting education at the forefront is the only way to make a difference in our children's lives and their future. Moms for Liberty believes parental rights and putting children first is essential to making this happen. The best form of social justice is to educate children — all children.

**How can people find out more about Moms for Liberty?**

Visit <https://www.moms-forliberty.org/chapters/chatham-county-nc/> or email [Moms4LibertyChathamNC@protonmail.com](mailto:Moms4LibertyChathamNC@protonmail.com).

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Courtesy of the Council on Aging

## March Madness

As part of March Madness, seniors at the Council on Aging's Western Center in Siler City recently took part in the center's 'Hat Day,' 'Shirt/Jersey Day' and 'Color Day,' demonstrating support for their favorite college teams.

# StoryBook Walk planned for downtown Pittsboro

Family-friendly event encourages reading, walking, and exploring downtown

From Main Street Pittsboro

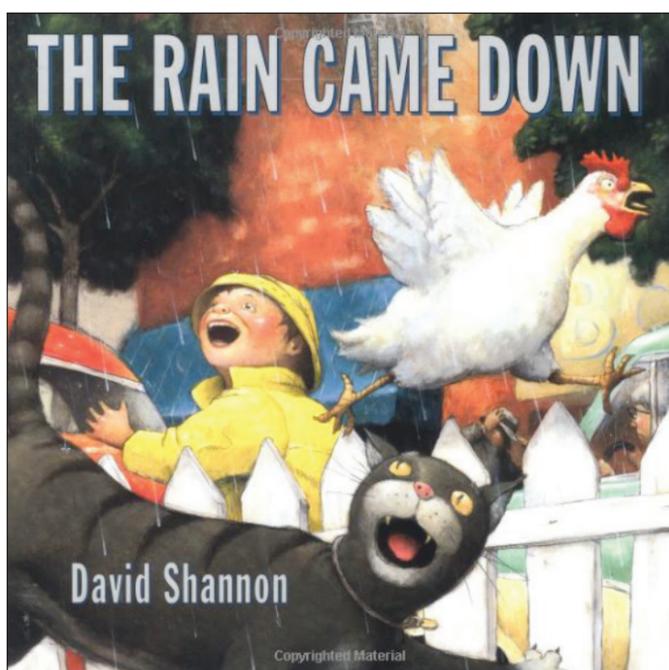
PITTSBORO — Children and adults who are eager to get out of the house, enjoy spring weather, stretch legs, and read a book can do all of that during the Downtown Pittsboro Story-Book Walk starting later this week.

Main Street Pittsboro, in collaboration with Chatham County Public Libraries, is pleased to present this free event from Saturday, April 9, through Saturday, April 16.

Continuing the rabbit theme that Chatham County is known for, pages from "Wolfie the Bunny" will be visible in the windows of participating downtown businesses. The first pages of the story will be on display at the Welcome Center at 37 Hillsboro St.

Maps that illustrate the walking path needed to read subsequent and sequential pages of the book will be available at the Welcome Center as well.

To conclude the week, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, a story time led by Katy Henderson, Chatham County Public Libraries' youth services librarian, will take place at the Page Vernon Pocket Park at 110 Hillsboro St. She'll read "The Rain Came Down." In case of actual rainy weather, the story time will be held at The



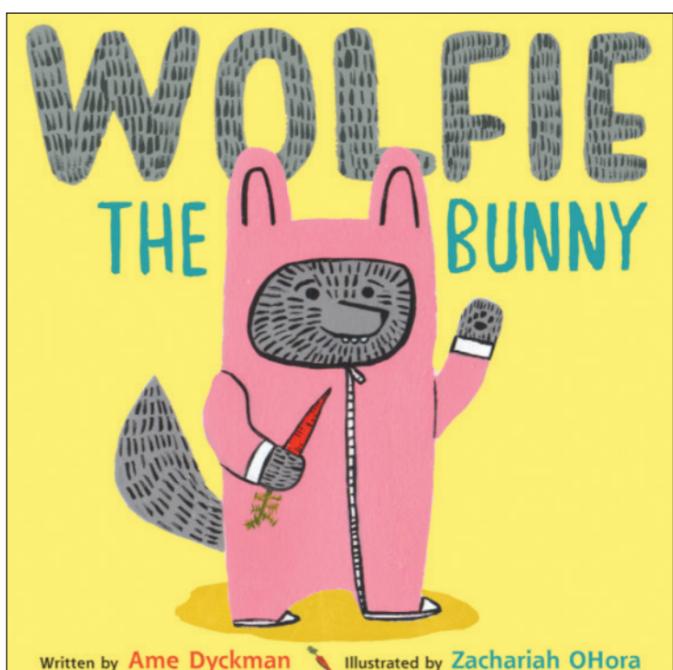
'The Rain Came Down,' by David Shannon.

Welcome Center.

"The StoryBook Walk is a wonderful way for young children to hone literacy skills while walking around downtown Pittsboro as they read along," said Main Street Pittsboro's chairperson, Maria Parker-Lewis. "This family-friendly activity has been very popular in other

towns across the nation. We're delighted to bring this to Pittsboro and hope families will bring walking shoes, reading glasses, mind the traffic lights and crosswalks, and enjoy this book while they get to know the historic downtown."

In "Wolfie the Bunny" by Ame Dyckman with illustra-



'Wolfie the Bunny,' by Ame Dyckman.

tions by Zachariah O'Hora, the Bunny family has adopted a wolf son, and daughter Dot is the only one who realizes Wolfie can — and might — eat them all up! For the story time book "The Rain Came Down" by David Shannon, raindrops set off a chain reaction of temper tantrums in a number of small businesses,

but a sudden break in the clouds makes the bad moods melt away. Both books are appropriate for readers aged 4 to 8 years old and are available at the Chatham County Library.

The Downtown Pittsboro StoryBook Walk is a free activity for all participants and is accessible for the full week.

## CHURCH NEWS

### OAKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Oakley Baptist Church Easter services will include Maundy Thursday

and the Lord's Supper Service at 7 p.m. on April 14.

Easter services are scheduled for Sunday, April 17, with Sunrise service at 8 a.m., break-

fast at 8:30 and worship service at 9 a.m. at 2300 Siler City-Glendon Rd., Siler City; www.oakley-baptist.org.

The youth will sponsor

a blood drive from 1:30 p.m. to 6 on Wednesday, April 20. Sign up at www.redcrossblood.org at the church address above. www.oakleybaptist.org.

Church invites you to worship with us during our celebration of Easter.

- Friday, April 15 – The Tenebrae Service, at 7 p.m., First Baptist Church Sanctuary (Latin for "Shadows" or "Darkness").

- Sunday, April 17 – 8 a.m. Sunrise Service (cross beside Church); 8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast in the Church Fellowship Hall; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Children's Easter Egg Hunt; 11 a.m., Easter Cantata "Living Hope" and worship service with Reverend Jason Brogan.

The church is located at 314 North Second Ave., www.silercityfbc.org.

Services on Sunday thru Tuesday will be held at Brown's Chapel and the Wednesday - Friday services will be at Pleasant Hill.

### BROWN'S CHAPEL AND PLEASANT HILL U.M.C.

You are invited to join us for lunch and the egg hunt to follow at 7019 Pleasant Hill Church Rd., Siler City.

Brown's Chapel U.M.C., at 355 Chicken Bridge Road, Pittsboro, will hold its Easter Egg celebration following the 9:30 a.m. worship and the 10:45 Sunday School on April 10, with lunch, egg hunt and a "bulb and plant exchange." You are invited to bring food for sharing and share in the Egg Hunt that follows.

Brown's Chapel and Pleasant Hill United Methodist Churches will be having Holy Week Services, April 10-15, at 7:30 p.m. The services are based on places of Jesus' journey that culminate with the ending of his earthly journey at Mt. Calvary. Services on Sunday thru Tuesday are at Brown's Chapel and Wednesday thru Friday the services are at Pleasant Hill. Come follow Jesus' life journey with us.

### 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

### SANDY BRANCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Sandy Branch will be hosting a community Easter Egg Hunt at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 9. All children 12 years old and younger are welcome to come and join us. There will be an egg hunt, crafts, snacks and a telling of the Easter story. Please come and join in on the fun at 715 Sandy Branch Church Rd., Bear Creek.

### HICKORY MTN. BAPTIST CHURCH

There will be a Palm Sunday Party from noon until 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, with a jumbo slide, egg hunt, story time, music, cake walk, games and food at Hickory Mountain Baptist Church, 1094 Mt. Vernon-Hickory Mountain Rd. For more information, please call 423-494-8250.

### SILER CITY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Siler City First Baptist

### PLEASANT HILL AND BROWN'S CHAPEL U.M.C.

Pleasant Hill U.M.C. will be hosting a hot dog lunch and Easter Egg Hunt following the 11 a.m. worship on April 10. You are invited to join us for lunch and the Egg Hunt at 7019 Pleasant Hill Church Rd., Siler City.

Brown's Chapel and Pleasant Hill U.M.C. churches will host Holy Week Services, nightly from April 10-15 at 7:30 p.m. Services are based on places of Jesus journey and will culminate with the ending at Mt. Calvary.

# POLICE REPORTS

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On March 25, Lori Beth Mirell, 39, of 2361 Farrington Point Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for failure to appear regarding child support. She was issued a \$642 cash purge payment and is scheduled to appear in New Hanover County District Court in Wilmington.

On March 26, Yush Kahmyu Smith, 24, of 260 Laura Johnson Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Chris Burger for violation of a court order. He was issued a \$2,500 secured bond and is scheduled

to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 18.

On March 26, Si'Ana Pa-trease Smith, 22, of 518 Bracken Street, Sanford, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for two counts of failure to appear regarding a criminal summons or citation. She was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Lee County District Court in Sanford on April 11.

On March 27, Duane Clarence Drinkwine, Jr., 29, of 398 Prince Creek, Pittsboro, was arrested by SSgt. Chris Burger for breaking & entering and

damage to property. He was issued a written promise to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 4.

On March 27, Corey Bynum Burns, 35, of 2974 Dewitt Smith Road, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Reid Kirkman for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Hillsborough on April 25.

On March 27, Victor Rafael Henriquez, 24, of 200 NC Highway 54, Pittsboro, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell

for domestic violence protective order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 27.

On March 27, Brandon Thomas Hill, 28, of 414 Fellowship Church Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for failure to appear. He was issued a \$6,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 6.

On March 28, Holly Lynn Bishop, 43, of 145 East Frankl-

inville Street, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for abandonment of an animal and cruelty to animals. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 6.

On March 28, David Thomas McDaniel, Jr., 46, of 403 Eden Hills Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for abandonment of an animal and cruelty to animals. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 6.

## FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY ONE BOWL AT A TIME

# 'Pay It Forward' campaign helps to address hunger in Chatham

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Food insecurity is growing issue in Chatham County, with 9,100 residents not knowing where their next meal might come from. But local restaurants and organizations are working to fight hunger in Chatham through a new fundraising campaign aiming to help the less fortunate while supporting the small town food scene.

Pittsboro Eats and Equiti Foods — better known as Good Bowls — partnered with several Pittsboro restaurants in a recent "Pay It Forward" campaign, which raised money to package and distribute bowls of fresh meals for families in need.

Organizers plan 10-day Pay It Forward campaigns every other month moving forward. Each will utilize a different local restaurant in partnership with Good Bowls to raise money from the community to make pre-packaged meals, which will then be distributed to local food pantries and organizations such as CORA and Communities In Schools.

Donors can contribute as little as \$10, the cost to

make one prepackaged meal for a family in need, according to Good Bowls founder Dr. Alice Ammerman, a professor of nutrition at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an unprecedented increase in food insecure families, and Ammerman said a grant Equiti Foods received from the National Institutes of Health led her to address the issue. But Good Bowls wanted to do more to support the local food industry after the pandemic dealt a massive blow to dine-in food service.

"Because of all that was going on with the restaurants and because it seemed like it could be a good partnership, we applied to work with restaurants," Ammerman said.

Ammerman and her staff contacted Sally Bond, one of the organizers of Pittsboro Eats — a group encouraging the support of locally-owned restaurants. After the two met, a partnership was created.

"We were originally motivated and are still very motivated to preserve the restaurants that we have, especially the locally-owned restaurants we have in

Pittsboro," Bond said. "But there's just a tremendous amount of food insecurity in Chatham County, which is really pretty horrifying, given the also the amount of wealth that there is in the county."

Bond is in charge of reaching out to restaurants about participating in the Pay It Forward fundraising effort. So far, five have joined — Copeland Springs, Angelina's Kitchen, The Root Cellar, the Sycamore at Chatham Mills and most recently, Postal Fish.

Greg Lewis and his wife, Maria Parker-Lewis, own The Sycamore and have participated in previous campaigns, including feeding up to 200 families a week through a catering business they also own. For them, making sure the hungry don't go without is an important part of their mission.

"There's so many families in need in Chatham County and all over the world, but we can only help those around us," Lewis said. "And so we help those in Chatham County that we're capable of helping — we're good at providing meals for people; somebody else can provide medical assistance

or legal assistance or fixing up homes or decks, whereas what comes natural to us is providing meals."

Parker-Lewis and Lewis were approached by Bond at an Arts in the Park event in Pittsboro, where they agreed to participate in a Good Bowls campaign. The husband-wife duo were able to raise enough money to package more than 800 meals for Chathamites in need.

"Food insecurity exists — it's there," Parker-Lewis said. "This campaign runs every two months, so if every two months, people can just take \$10 or \$20 out of their pocket and donate it, we can feed

a lot of families."

Lewis was able to get Bill Hartley, the owner of Postal Fish, to participate in Good Bowls as well. Postal Fish customers donated enough money to package more than 600 bowls of food for those in need.

"We feed a lot of people through our doors, and there's a good percentage of people that can't come here," Hartley said. "So our way of helping them experience Postal Fish is by doing these events."

Through the partnership with Pittsboro Eats and Good Bowls, Postal Fish will be working to package meals and freeze them at CORA, where the meals will be given to

food insecure Chatham residents.

Hartley said the Pay It Forward initiative is a great opportunity for members of the community to give back to those who are less fortunate — something he says people should be doing more.

"It's a great way for people to give back to the community and help that food insecure demographic," Hartley said. "We at Postal Fish are very community oriented — we give back as much as we possibly can, and this event is a good way to do that."

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



**LaVoz DE CHATHAM**  
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# Congratulations



We would like to congratulate fellow Rotarian, Dr. Karen Barbee, on the recent publication of her first book.

As the Clinical Director & owner of Renaissance Wellness Services, a licensed therapist, contributing faculty member at Walden University, and a dedicated mom, among many other roles, Karen is also very involved in community events & our club. Meet her, and many other AMAZING professional individuals at our weekly Wednesday @ noon meetings (Postal Fish Co) or at our upcoming After Hours Social on April 27 (6 pm @ The Mod). We'd like to get to know you!



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## It's pollen season

**News + Record** photographer Kim Hawks took this photo last Saturday after seeing pollen collect on her car. Like many of us, Hawks, a long-time gardener, is bothered by allergies during pollen season.

Staff photo by Kim Hawks

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Soil and Water Conservation District announces resource conservation workshop for eligible students; application deadline extended

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for the Resource Conservation Workshop scheduled for June 26 – July 1 at N.C. State.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is a weeklong program that involves study and hands-on participation in a wide range of conservation topics. Students are housed at N.C. State campus dormitories under the guidance of live-in counselors. Students will learn about natural resources and their management in today's global environment. Awards and scholarships can be won and are presented to students under several awards programs. The Resource Conservation Work-

shop is designed to accommodate up to 104 students. The Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District will sponsor at least one student to attend. Eligible students include rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors in high school who have demonstrated an interest in natural resource conservation. Applications can be found online at <https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/documents/APPLICATIONFORM.pdf> or by contacting Brandy Oldham, Chatham Soil and Water Conservation district education coordinator, at 919-545-8440 or [brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov](mailto:brandy.oldham@chathamcountync.gov).

Applications must be submitted to Oldham no later than April 15. Applications should be mailed to 1192 US 64 W Business, Suite 200, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or emailed to Oldham.

More information about the workshop can be found at <https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/educational/RCW.html>.

#### 2nd annual Found It! Chatham Rabbit Hunt set for Saturday

PITTSBORO — Main Street Pittsboro invites everyone to downtown Pittsboro from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, to participate in the 2nd Annual Found It! Chatham Rabbit Hunt.

Six embellished rabbit statues will be hidden outside along Hillsboro Street and in the immediate vicinity. The first 25 visitors to the Welcome Center at 37 Hillsboro Street who show a photo of themselves with four of the six statues will receive a voucher worth \$10 at one of the participating downtown businesses. All participants will be entered into a drawing to win one of the rabbit statues during a raffle at 4 p.m. on April 16.

In acknowledgment of Pittsboro's thriving creative culture, the six rabbit statues will be embellished by local artists Theresa Arico, Emily Weinstein, Nadine Zenobi, Darcy Szeremi, Emma

Skurnick and Ashlie Campbell.

Additional raffle tickets to win the custom rabbit statues will be available for \$5 each at the Welcome Center. Proceeds of ticket sales will go to Main Street Pittsboro, a 501(c)3 non-profit agency.

"Everyone had great fun last year with this event when we debuted it at the kick off of Chatham 250," said Main Street Pittsboro's chairperson, Maria Parker-Lewis. "Main Street Pittsboro is delighted to again highlight a historic aspect of Pittsboro and Chatham County, celebrate our creative community, encourage vitality in downtown Pittsboro and provide support for our businesses. The choice of a rabbit as an icon for the event refers to a chapter in our history from 1880-1920 when Chatham County was the source for the 'Chatham Rabbit', a delicacy served in the finest hotels and rail cars all along the East Coast."

— CN+R staff reports

## TOWN OF SILER CITY SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

### ABC BOARD

The Siler City ABC Board will have a vacancy for one (1) with no residential requirements as of July 1, 2022. The ABC board, in accordance with G.S. 18B-701, shall have the authority to: Buy, sell, transport and possess alcoholic beverages as necessary for the operation of its ABC stores, Adopt rules for its ABC system, subject to the approval of the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, hire and fire employees for the ABC system, designate one (1) employee as manager of the ABC system and determine his responsibilities, require bonds of employees as provided in the rules of the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, operate ABC stores as provided in G.S. Chapter 18B, Art. 8 (G.S. 18B-800 et seq.), issue purchase-transportation permits as provided in G.S. Ch. 18B, Art. 4 (G.S. 18B-400 et seq.), employ local ABC officers or make other provision for enforcement of ABC laws as provided in G.S. Ch. 18B, Art. 5 (G.S. 18B-500 et seq.), borrow money as provided in G.S. 18B-702, Buy and lease real and personal property, and receive property bequeathed or given, as necessary for the operation of the ABC system, Invest surplus funds as provided in G.S. 18B-702, dispose of property in the same manner as a city council may, under G.S. Ch. 160A, Art. 12 (G.S. 160A-265 et seq.), and performs any other activity authorized or required by the ABC law. If appointed person must take an ethics class within one year. The board meets the last Monday of each month at 5:30 pm.

### AIRPORT AUTHORITY

The Airport Authority will have a vacancy for one (1) member with no residential requirements as of July 1, 2022. The Airport Authority serves as an advisory board to the Board of Commissioners concerning operating, regulating, and promoting the Siler City Municipal Airport and to establish a framework to be utilized in coordinating local, state, and federal efforts toward this end. Major emphasis shall be placed on providing the basic facilities essential for attracting and encouraging sound growth of the Siler City Municipal Airport, as a tool for overall economic growth. The authority meets the fourth Monday of each month at 1:00 pm.

### DOWNTOWN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Downtown Advisory Committee has vacancies has two (2) members with no residential requirements as of July 1, 2022. The committee is for those who have a vested interest in the future of Downtown Siler City or who have particular knowledge, skills, or abilities that serve the interest and intent of the purpose of developing a viable framework to enhance further revitalization and development of downtown, utilizing existing and emerging strengths of this vital central commercial hub of the Siler City community. The committee meets the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm.

### PLANNING BOARD/BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Siler City Planning Board/ Board of Adjustments has one (1) vacancy for an Alternate Member who is a resident of the EXTRA TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ), as of July 1, 2022. The Planning Board, in conjunction with the Town Planner, makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners on conditional use permit, rezoning, conditional use rezoning, and text amendment applications. The Planning Board may also perform comprehensive surveys and studies of existing conditions and probable future developments and prepares such plans for physical and economic growth. The Planning Board promotes the public health, safety, convenience or the general welfare as well as efficiency and economy in the development of the Town. The Planning Board also serves as the Board of Adjustment to review variances, consider appeals from the zoning administrator or building inspector, and to issue special use and special exception permits. The board meets the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

**All positions are advisory in nature and are unpaid with the exception of the ABC Board and Planning Board.**

Persons interested should submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk Jenifer Johnson Town of Siler City, Post Office Box 769, Siler City, NC, 311 N Second Avenue, or [jjohnson@silercity.org](mailto:jjohnson@silercity.org) no later than April 15, 2022.

The letter of interest should include: home address, phone number, email address, educational background, current employment, civic involvement, why you wish to serve, and any other information you feel pertinent.

### SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

## Mountaire updates board on Third Street rerouting

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Commissioners heard an update from Mountaire Farms regarding the rerouting of Third Street at the board's regular meeting Monday night.

Jaime Bowen, an engineer with Mountaire Farms, presented progress drawings of the plans — which reroute streets near the company's poultry processing plant in Siler City — to commissioners. He said the drafted plans will be finalized by the town's planning department and sent to the N.C. Dept. of Transportation within the following weeks.

"This is just a first draft to NCDOT," Bowen said. "It does not have a lot of detail."

The current portion

of the rerouting project on Third Street has not changed from Mountaire's original proposal, according to Bowen, but there have been some changes to the overall project.

Bowen said after the original presentation with NCDOT, Mountaire Farms shifted the road 12 feet to the east of its original design.

"That was basically to align what was North Street — what's going to become Third (Street) — and to align it better with existing North Street on the north side of (U.S. Hwy.) 64," Bowen said.

According to Bowen, it could take 12 to 18 months to get the necessary permits before Mountaire can start working on the road project. Since the first plans were drafted in January,

it could be as late as June 2023 before any permits can be obtained.

"Jack (Meadows, Siler City's town planner) should be getting something on the 14th from the engineer," Bowen said. "(It will be) the same packet sent to NCDOT, and they'll send you (commissioners) a copy."

### Other business:

Commissioners approved an ordinance to allow for the demolition of a house at 506 Womble St. The town received a complaint regarding the property on Jan. 6, and staff found the property was "unfit for human habitation and is in violation of the town's Minimum Housing Ordinance."

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

## N.C. Senior Tar Heel Legislature inducts David Marty as alternate for Chatham County

CN+R Staff Report

RALEIGH — At its first general session of 2022, the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature inducted David Marty as alternate for Chatham County.

Marty is a retired CPA and project manager, holding a bachelor of science from the University of Michigan and a master's of business administration from the University of Minnesota. A Chatham County resident for 13 years, he enjoys travelling and following Michigan sports.

Marty will be replacing Robin Leto as Chatham's alternate to the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, bringing a wealth of experience. Marty was formerly president of the board of directors for the Council on Aging and currently serves on the board of Chatham Outreach Alliance, which operates a food pantry in Pittsboro. In addition, he is one of the Council on Aging's volunteer Community Ambassadors.

The Area Agency on Aging unit of Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG Region J) said of Marty, "He has been a tremendous asset to our council and community, serving as a former board member officer for nine years and now a volunteer Community Ambassador. He represents the Aging Council on the Chatham Health Alli-

ance's Health Access Subcommittee. He is an effective project manager; most recently, he helped us implement our NCSU Institute for Emerging Issues grant to select and provide digital devices and training to socially isolated seniors."

"I view the opportunity to serve with the STHL as a great opportunity to improve the lives of our senior citizens," Marty said.

As evidenced by his work the NCSU Institute for emerging issues, he is highly concerned about the digital divide that exists with seniors, who often lack access to broadband, face financial challenges to acquire home-based technology, and need training in the use of devices.

Marty's addition to the NCSTHL will give him a powerful platform to work towards improving the quality of life for older adults not only in Chatham County, but across the entire state. He welcomes opportunities to speak with residents, stakeholders, and community groups in the county in support of his role as an advocate for older adults.

For more information, contact Marty at [dmarty02@yahoo.com](mailto:dmarty02@yahoo.com) or 919-386-1108. Additionally, visit [ncseniortarheellegislature.org](http://ncseniortarheellegislature.org) or contact Allison Brown, NCSTHL Public Relations Chair, [kabrown1029@gmail.com](mailto:kabrown1029@gmail.com) or 336-940-8185.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

# Five folks working with children in Chatham share why community matters

BY ZACHARY HORNER

Chatham County Public Health Department



Courtesy of the Chatham County Public Health Department

**These five faces are among the many working to improve the lives of children and families in Chatham County. From left: Anthony Izzard, Della B. Richardson, Christine Esezobor, Alicia Doran, and Angie Stephenson.**

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM), a time to remember that preventing child abuse is about building strong supports where all families have access to needed services for their children.

The North Carolina theme for CAPM is “Growing better together,” a reminder that an entire community can play a role in making sure our children grow up to be healthy and safe, that they can live and thrive in a community that values their social and emotional well-being. This is even more important as children and their families continue to face challenges as they recover and adapt from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recently the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Children’s Hospital Association declared a National Emergency, stating, “The pandemic has struck at the safety and stability of families. More than 140,000 children in the United States lost a primary and/or secondary caregiver, with youth of color disproportionately impacted. We are caring for young people with soaring rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, loneliness, and suicidality that will have lasting impacts on them, their families, and their communities. We must identify strategies to meet these challenges through innovation and action, using state, local and national approaches to improve the access to and quality of care across the continuum of mental health promotion, prevention, and treatment.”

Many organizations in Chatham County have sustained this focus on the well-being of children, and a few of them shared why they do what they do and how a community can make a difference in a child’s life.

Angie Stephenson is an attorney with the Stephenson & Fleming law firm in Chapel Hill. Her firm focuses on family law, meaning she works with adoptive and foster parents and social services departments, including the Chatham County Department of Social Services (DSS). A former foster care social worker herself, Stephenson says she collaborates with the social workers to advocate for protecting children and work toward safely reunifying them with their family and that her role is to do what’s

best for each child going through what is often a traumatic time.

She adds that the community is “so important in child welfare.” Stephenson listed several ways people can help becoming foster or adoptive parents, volunteering as a Guardian ad Litem, or developing resources “to eliminate barriers to reunification or other modes of permanence.”

“Even though transportation and housing can still be tough in our mostly rural county, Chatham County has made great strides, and I hope that trajectory continues as the county grows,” she said.

Della B. Richardson is the Center Director of the Telamon Chatham County Head Start Center in Siler City. The facility provides early childhood and family support. Eligibility for the program is based on family income being at or below the poverty level, meaning children served by Telamon centers are among the most in need.

Richardson used to work in corporate America but wanted to do something that “ignites learning in children” and “ensure that every child and family receive the greatest opportunities to thrive.” She said that Telamon not only provides education to very young children but directs families to or provides resources for essential services or needs like food, housing, transportation, or health care. That happens best in a community, she says, when everyone works together.

“In the collaboration, everyone has to have a seat at the table, so all of our voices can be heard,” she says. “We need to determine the needs of the community and the families that it serves. We assess, research, educate, and provide viable options to implement strategies of success. We put safeguards in place to ensure that the needs are met.”

Alicia Doran is a public health social worker and the Healthy Families Coordinator at the Chatham County Public Health Department. Doran went to college to be an elementary school art teacher, but spent summers in Latin America and South America,

growing a passion to help families, particularly immigrant families. She referenced the connection between social work and public health, saying that both are “rooted in a belief that to solve the fundamental challenges of population health such as preventing child abuse, society must address the full range of factors that influence a family’s overall health and well-being.”

Doran currently works with families by teaching parenting skills, helping them access resources, and walking with them through the “increasingly complex health care and social service systems.” However, she adds, people like her and institutions like hers must look more upstream to systems and institutions, as well as issues like systemic racism and other longstanding inequities, to make change happen.

“My hope is that in Chatham we can get to a place where we lift each other up and every family has the resources they need when they need them,” Doran says. “So, it is not just the work of social workers, teachers, childcare providers, and church leaders to prevent child abuse but the responsibility of every single adult to protect the most vulnerable among us. As we come out of the fog of Covid, I hope to see people reconnect and begin to rebuild the ‘tiny villages’ that we need to protect our most vulnerable families.”

One of Doran’s co-workers at the Public Health Department, Anthony Izzard, is the Program Coordinator for Focus on Fathers, an initiative which connects young fathers with parenting education, one-on-one fatherhood counseling, and small group discussions. Izzard’s clients are referred to him by Chatham DSS and have children ages 0-5. The program has three goals: assisting fathers with working with their kids at home and helping them make positive choices, building trust among fathers and supporting one another, and being a family in the community.

Izzard and Nellie Benitez, who serves Hispanic/Latinx fathers in the

program, focus on, he says, “making life a little easier to navigate” for their clients. He praises Benitez for her “vital role” in making sure Focus on Fathers can “serve all.” He’s been working in the field for more than 20 years after being asked by a school principal to provide mentorship to high schoolers who were fathers. Through his experiences, he said he’s found that “it takes a village” to help children.

“Sometimes it can be the little things to make a major difference,” Izzard says. “The community could be the catalyst for uplift and sharing as well as community agencies. Working together in any capacity could be beneficial for all.”

Finally, there’s Christine Esezobor. She says she was “unconsciously influenced” by her mother, who worked in the social work field for more than 30 years, and now, she is the LINKS Coordinator for the Chatham County Department of Social Services. Designed for youth between 13 and 20 years of age that are currently in or have been in foster care, LINKS supports youth in building

community relationships, ensuring access to medical care, planning career and educational goals, and more.

The entire goal of the program, Esezobor says, is preparing these youth for becoming successful adults in the community. The LINKS program covers so many areas, but there are practical things, little things, that the community can do to help prepare youth for their next steps.

“We can support positive connections for our future generation by sharing a skill such as changing a tire to assist someone with reliable transportation, or financial advice to support economic efficiency. We can also share resources and identify community needs to reduce stress that children and families may encounter.”

In the post-COVID world, it’s possible that children and families face more stress and pressure than ever. The U.S. Surgeon General, in his recent youth mental health advisory outlined important steps that family members and caregivers can take to support children and youth.

These steps include:

- Be the best role model you can be for young people by taking care of your own mental and physical health.

- Help children and youth develop strong, safe, and stable relationships with you and other supportive adults.

- Encourage children and youth to build healthy social relationships with peers.

- Do your best to provide children and youth with a supportive, stable, and predictable home and neighborhood environment.

- Try to minimize negative influences and behaviors in young people’s lives.

- Ensure children and youth have regular check-ups with a pediatrician, family doctor, or other health care professional.

- Look out for warning signs of distress and seek help when needed.

- Minimize children’s access to means of self-harm, including firearms and prescription medications.

- Be attentive to how children and youth spend time online.

- Be a voice for mental health in your community.

All Chatham County residents can play a role by following these steps and the examples of Stephenson, Richardson, Doran, Izzard, and Esezobor; if not by working directly in those fields, they can do their part in their own spheres to positively influence the life of a child.

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R F Q Y E O D M J H F C A N Y  
W E U R R N P N Y A R U L N L  
J R V H W U I F A N D O V E R  
D R D O I B B L Z L C X V T G  
R Y A T N E K S K N T Q O O M  
K I L H G A T L I N B U R G F  
N O T P M A H L D L A H R B Z  
Y W O V T R N O T T A R T S Q  
O N N L N O S N O M K S F I H  
F D C A Z X W V U S R Q O N M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: HARPER'S —, W. Va.

- |          |            |         |           |
|----------|------------|---------|-----------|
| Andover  | Gatlinburg | Kent    | Rutland   |
| Dalton   | Gorham     | Lincoln | Salisbury |
| Erwin    | Hampton    | Luray   | Stratton  |
| Franklin | Hanover    | Monson  |           |

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		4		7				6
7			1		3	5		
	3		2					9
		8		1		2		
	5				8			9
1	6		9					7
	7		8			6	4	
2				5				3
		3			2			7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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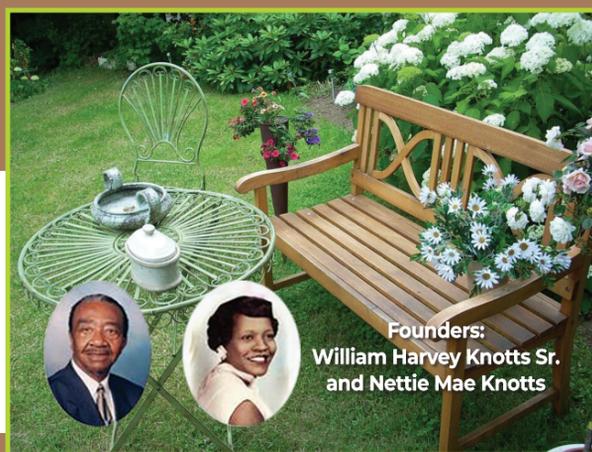
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**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

8	1	4	5	7	9	3	2	6
7	2	9	1	6	3	5	8	4
5	3	6	2	8	4	7	9	1
4	9	8	3	1	7	2	6	5
3	5	7	6	2	8	4	1	9
1	6	2	9	4	5	8	7	3
9	7	5	8	3	1	6	4	2
2	4	1	7	5	6	9	3	8
6	8	3	4	9	2	1	5	7

## A Spare o' Goose

*And why asparagus is the quintessential spring vegetable*

Happy Spring, Gentle Reader.

To say I'm conflicted about this time of year is an understatement, like saying "Florida Man" gets up to a little mischief is an understatement.

**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

It is my saddest and happiest time of the year. Sad because the winter is over and sweater and boot season is essentially over (except cute rain boots).

Happy the winter is over because the air smells alive and fertile.

Sad the winter is over because the I enjoy the possibility of the occasional snow day.

Happy the winter is over because the wisteria along the highways is a free show to anyone who loves spring, purple, or flowers (and especially somebody like me who loves all three).

Sad the winter is over because this means the summer — with the heat and humidity which make me sweaty and frizzes my hair, which makes me cranky.

Happy that the winter is over because I can't wait to use the outdoor facilities at my new home (but they really need to get a hammock).



**A tasty birthday cake is a rite of spring for the author.**

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Sad that the winter is over because I'm kind of dreading the walk to the car in the garage at my flat. It's a four or five minute hike, and I've got a feeling it's going to be a sweaty nightmare quite a few times in the coming months.

Happy that the winter is over because my birthday falls slap in the middle of the spring.

Sad that the winter is over because I enjoy the holiday season like a sugared-up 6-year-old — slightly frenzied and

probably too much.

Happy that the winter is over because my yearly birthday gift from the universe is the blooming of the most beautiful of the state trees, the North Carolina dogwood. As I drive down the street my gaze lingers like drag queen's at a lace-front wig sale. It can be a little annoying to other drivers.

Sad that the winter is over because sweaters and boots, y'all!

Happy that the winter is over because gingham and cute sandals.

Sad that the winter is over because cars in the lots at car dealerships get hot like the fiery pits of hell in the summer. And the spring is the gateway to the summer.

Happy that winter is over, because of spring food. First and foremost is birthday cake. A quarter sheet cake from Dewey's of Winston-Salem with old school roses and extra frosting to be exact. My favorite moment of my birthday is my first bite of that cake and the saddest moment

is the last bite of the last piece. If you come to my birthday celebrations I have to offer everybody a piece. But if I ever offer you a second piece, I hold you in extremely high regard.

And local, springtime produce. There really is no more quintessential spring veggie than asparagus.

Delicious, yet so misunderstood and under enjoyed. The truth is, a lot of people, even people who eat and love asparagus, have never had the

good stuff. Years ago, I had a long talk with an asparagus farmer. Gentle Reader, I'd like to share some of the wisdom he shared with me.

The plant's a perennial, meaning instead of starting a new plant every year, it grows year after year. Many people already know this, but it must grow for a few years before the spears can be eaten. But a healthy plant might last up to thirty years, with many happy springtime harvests.

But those pencil-thin, so-called babies?

That's what you get with a weak plant, or one that's lived a full life and now is played out. It is not, let me repeat this; not desirable. It will never get the satisfying snap of a correctly cooked spear, and quelle surprise; tastes grassy because there is a surfeit of chlorophyll.

My farmer friend informed me that the best asparagus is bright, healthy green, as thick as your thumb, with closed, dry tips.

Those restaurants that serve and grocers that sell those infuriating twigs are pulling the compost over your eyes. They're not gourmet specimens, they're skinny green lies.

And oh yeah, about that goose in the title? There's no lurking fowl. Here at Chez Matthews, it's just what we call asparagus.

Thanks for your time.



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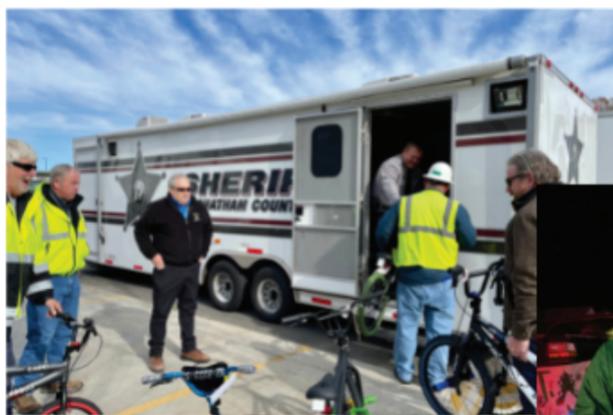


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