



Chatham News + Record

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WHO GETS THE CREDIT?

Chatham officials quick to share praise, recognition for VinFast deal

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

When your county lands the largest economic development project in North Carolina history, the line of those selfishly seeking at least a little of the credit can quickly grow pretty long.

Officials like Dan LaMontagne, though, have been quick to share the credit and spread the praise for the work that

brought Vietnamese carmaker VinFast here — and with it, \$4 billion in investment and a plan for 7,500 jobs.

His list, like others queried in the aftermath of VinFast's March 29 announcement, is lengthy.

"It really is impossible to single out any one member in this team effort to bring VinFast to Chatham County," said LaMontagne, Chatham's county manager. "There were so many

critical players in landing this project."

Of "utmost importance" to that effort, he said, was the commitment by the county's board of commissioners and the Sanford City Council. The partnership between the two local governments — responsible, among other things, for bolstering Chatham's water system, part of the ready infra-

See **VINFEST**, page A3



VinFast's manufacturing plant in Chatham County will produce two premium SUV electric vehicles — along with the batteries to power them. The first of these should roll off the assembly line in July 2024.

Courtesy of VinFast

'THEY WANT TO CONNECT WITH THEIR COMMUNITY'

Welcome Center to stay open after town funding ends

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The Welcome Center, which opened in downtown Pittsboro last spring, serves as a resource for curious visitors and residents who want to know more about the area has to offer.

Main Street Pittsboro (MSPBO), the nonprofit in charge of the facility, will stop receiving funding from the town of Pittsboro at the end of the fiscal year in June. But that doesn't mean it'll close.

Maria Parker-Lewis, who serves as the MSPBO board president, said the group has taken the steps to ensure the Welcome Center — which serves Pittsboro and the entire county — won't cease operation, despite the lack of town funding.

"We all believe that it serves an important function," Parker-Lewis said. "People are moving into the area, and so we feel that the community doesn't want the Welcome Center closed."

Pittsboro's board of commissioners voted 3-2 last October to end the memorandum of understanding between the town and Main Street Pittsboro in favor of forming its own in-house downtown advisory board. Former Pittsboro mayor and MSPBO board member Randy Voller said he felt the town made the wrong decision when it terminated the MOU because of Welcome Center's value as a community resource and marketing tool.

"We thought it would be great to have this as controlled by a quasi-public entity by lease," Voller said, "so that when you had down-



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Paul Sacca, who mans the Welcome Center, shares information about local restaurants with Libby Ann Capaldi (right), who's lived in Pittsboro for 45 years, and her daughter, Antoinette DiBenedetto, who was visiting from Raleigh.

town events, you could have parking, you could have a green room, you could have a place to welcome people and the community."

Town staff are not responsible for the Welcome Center — MSPBO, rather, is in charge of the operations within the building. But because the town played a crucial role in the funding the nonprofit received to maintain the Welcome Center, without those funds, MSPBO will have to be responsible for keeping it open and funding its expenditures.

Parker-Lewis says the nonprofit

will be changing its name to continue the operations of the Welcome Center, as well as expanding its services beyond Pittsboro's town limits.

"The Welcome Center had a strong focus on Pittsboro because it was a part of the Main Street (program)," Parker-Lewis said. "We're going to now be independent from the town ... we'll continue to support Pittsboro, but even more strongly Chatham County tourism, economic development and promot-

See **WELCOME**, page A6

Chatham touched by COVID surge as officials eye new metrics

BA.2 variant causes increased cases, but hospitalizations down

BY BILL HORNER III
News + Record Staff

A new surge in COVID-19 cases after a two-month decline may be more significant than it appears because of the rise in home testing, but it's mostly all quiet on Chatham County's case count front.

Still, local health officials say the metrics are worth paying attention to.

The wave — in parts of the northeast U.S., as well as in Alaska and Washington, D.C. — is being caused by the new variant called BA.2, which medical officials say is about 30% more contagious than the Omicron variant.

Compared to earlier waves, the case number increases seen today are relatively low, and higher levels of immunity from vaccinations or past infections could continue to keep numbers lower than prior surges.

For now, Chatham County's "community level" is low — along with most of the rest of the state — according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention metrics. Only Beaufort, Macon, Orange, Wayne and Yancey counties are at the "medium" level across North Carolina, and none are at the "high" level.

Although Chatham's case counts have jumped in the last week or so (to 66 in total, up 78% in the last week), other indicators (notably hospitalizations) are down, according to Mike Zelek, the director of the Chatham County Public Health Department.

"Our COVID numbers continue to look a lot better than they did in January when we were dealing with the worst of Omicron," he said, referencing a period when new case counts were well above 200 per day.

See **COVID**, page A6

Siler City Collaborative Garden enriches through food and community

Fundraiser set for Friday; hands from all across community join to nurture urban garden

BY ZENDA DOUGLAS
News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — With the theme of "Every Day is Earth Day," a celebration fundraiser for the Siler City Collaborative Garden has been scheduled for Friday, April 22.

The urban garden, located at 117 E. Second St. in downtown Siler City, will be the focal point of the event, set for 5 to 8 p.m. that day.

"We're inviting everyone to a party

to support and celebrate our community by breaking bread in a place where we learn about and grow fresh food," said Danielle McComas, director and one of the founders of Robin Hood's Kitchen, which manages the garden and its activities.

The celebration will be an "everyone eats" event and welcomes donations according to ability. Food, specialty drinks, kids' activities and crafting,

See **GARDEN**, page A7

Second 'Celebrate Recovery Rally' set for April 30

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Chatham Drug Free and other community organizations will host the second-ever Celebrate Recovery Rally in Siler City noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 30.

The event is designed to showcase the accomplishments of people who have recovered from substance use disorders and use those stories to inspire others to walk the path of recovery.

"We really felt like we needed to help people who were still in active addiction realize there's another path," said George Gregor-Holt, the community outreach coordinator of Chatham Drug Free. "We solve that by honoring people who have found that other path

and listen to their stories."

The first Celebrate Recovery Rally was held in September 2019 during National Recovery month, but the COVID-19 pandemic delayed future rallies until now.

This year's event is going to be bigger than ever, said Renita Foxx, the Chatham County Courts programs director and one of the Recovery Rally's event organizers. The rally will feature several speakers who have recovered from substance use disorder and offer attendees food trucks, live music from local musicians, crafts for kids and more.

The Celebrate Recovery Rally will also have many booths showcasing the various resources in Chatham County

See **RECOVERY**, page A9

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 public is invited to attend the Chatham Development Briefing, hosted by the Chatham Chamber of Commerce**, April 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Agriculture Center in Pittsboro. Hear the latest in development news for Chatham County. Register at www.ccucc.net/event-registration.
 • **The Pittsboro Board of Commissioners** will meet at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center at 7 p.m. on April 25. Members of the public can watch the meeting on the town's YouTube channel.

OTHER

• **The Silk Hope Ruritans** will host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursday

of each month; next sessions are April 21 and May 5 at the Silk Hope Community Center.
 • **Chatham Community Library** will present the **Virtual Film Screening of "Poetry of Resilience"** on Thursday, April 21, and Thursday, April 28. Access to the virtual screening will be available beginning April 21 by visiting: <http://www.wmm.com/virtual-screening-room.poetry-of-resilience-watch-page-chatham-community-library> - a password is required at the time of viewing. Contact social.library@chathamlibraries.org to request the password or additional information.
 • **Chatham County Library's Goldston Branch** announces new hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed on Saturdays and Sundays.
 • **Chatham County Partnership for Children** invites everyone to join us Saturday, April 30 for the annual Day of the Books event from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Bray Park. There will be arts, activities, and live performances. Each child in attendance will receive a FREE bilingual book!
 • **Chatham County Recovery Celebration** will be held Saturday, April 30 from 12 noon to 4 p.m. at the Chatham Rabbit, NC Arts Incubator at 223 N Chatham Avenue, Siler City. "Recovery is for Everyone: Every Person, Every Family,

Every Community! Hosted by Chatham Drug Free; Chatham County Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substance; Chatham County Health Department; and Chatham County Court Programs. The rally will include local testimonials, live local music, games, free food, crafts, giveaways and raffles.
 • **Chatham County Parks and Recreation** will host the **Earth Day Celebration** on Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Southwest District Park located at 15124 NC-902, Bear Creek. This will serve as the Grand Opening for the Kids in Parks TRACK Trails that has been installed in the Southwest District Park. There will be a natural play area, nature crafts, a scavenger hunt, and activities from other community organizations. Join the fun! • 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 occupan-

cy, 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, 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.bstroop93.org for more information.
 • **Pack 924** of Siler City First U.M.C. meets from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Tuesdays for boys, grades 1 through 5. Come join the Cub Scouts.
 • **Pack 900** in Bear Creek meets at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Meroney's U.M.C., following the school calendar. See <http://pack900.com> for more information.

Be Prepared For Long-Term Care Costs

Like everyone, you'd like to enjoy a long, healthy, independent life. But the future is unknowable, so it's a good idea to prepare for a variety of outcomes — including the possible need for long-term care.

Consider the following:
 • Someone turning age 65 today has almost a 70% chance of eventually needing some type of long-term care service, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
 • The median annual cost for a private room in a nursing home is about \$105,000, and it's almost \$55,000 for home health aide services, according to the insurance company Genworth.

Medicare also may cover very few of these costs. Consequently, it's a good idea to include potential long-term care costs in your planning. While everyone's situation is different, you may want to budget for two to three years' worth of long-term care expenses.

But how can you prepare for these costs? Essentially, you've got three options:

• **You could self-insure.** If you would like to cover the costs of long-term care out of your own pocket, you'll need to consider a few issues: How will these potential costs affect your family? How might your other goals be affected, or even altered, by your decision to self-insure? Will you have to adjust your investment mix or designate certain investments to help achieve your self-funding objectives? None of these questions should dissuade you from trying to self-fund for long-term care, but they can help you clarify the significance of this choice within your overall financial strategy.

• **You could transfer the risk to an insurance company.** You could purchase either long-term care insurance or a life insurance policy that provides long-term care benefits in addition to a death benefit. Before obtaining either type of policy, though, you'll want to know exactly what the policies cover and when they kick in. Also, be aware that the younger you are

when you buy a policy, the lower the premiums. On the other hand, if you buy a straight long-term care policy when you're young, you could end up paying premiums for many years for coverage you may never need. A financial advisor can help you evaluate all your insurance options and recommend which one, if any, is appropriate for your situation.

• **You could combine self-insurance with an insurance policy.** You could plan to self-insure for long-term care for a limited time — perhaps one year's worth of anticipated costs — and then buy enough insurance for additional expenses. This technique could involve some juggling on your part, in terms of where to direct your money, but it might prove to be a workable compromise between self-insurance and putting all your long-term care resources into an insurance policy.

Which of these methods is right for you? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. But whichever route you choose, you'll be helping to protect yourself — and possibly your grown children or other family members — from the potentially huge costs of long-term care. And that protection can help brighten your outlook throughout your retirement.

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

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HAS ERIC SOLD A PROPERTY NEAR YOU LATELY?
98 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 (18.4 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 (6.121 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)

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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8eZWckHXpo>



VIDEO TOPIC: What are "Coming Soon" Houses on Zillow and Can I Buy It Now?



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NEW COMPANY'S IMPACT

VinFast plant expected to produce big boost in local property tax revenue

BY DAVID HILL
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — The electric vehicle plant planned for the Triangle Innovation Point industrial site near Moncure is expected to boost property tax revenue for Chatham County each year by about 25%, according to economic impact projections.

VinFast's manufacturing plant is expected to generate \$529 million in property tax revenue over 20 years, Chatham County Economic Development Corporation President Michael Smith said during a briefing for Accelerate 2026 investors at Chatham Mills last Tuesday in Pittsboro.

That comes out to about \$26 million a year. For 2022, Chatham County appropriated about \$101 million in total property tax revenue.

It was Smith's first presentation to the group — formed in part to support the EDC's marketing efforts — since the vehicle factory plan was announced March 29. The Vietnam-based company's plan for some 7,500 jobs and \$4 billion in investment in two phases is North Carolina's first automotive assembly plant and is considered the state's largest-ever economic development project.

Smith noted the project's location in the geographic center

of North Carolina means it can affect a fifth of the state's population, which is 10.5 million as of 2021.

"It's really uplifting to think about how many people's lives we get to have a part of," Smith said.

Consultant Economic Leadership Inc.'s analysis of VinFast's economic impact for the Chatham EDC determined that even though a majority of workers at VinFast would come from other counties, Chatham County still stands to add 6,887 jobs once the plant is fully scaled. Across the region, the expected total of new jobs is 20,190.

In addition, over 20 years, the plant would create about \$7 billion in earnings from plant workers and ripple effects. The top job areas are expected to be 221 in sales, 184 in transportation, 151 in office and administration, and 141 in business and financial operations.

Smith related some of the story of how the project came together. Last fall, his office learned that VinFast was considering some 50 sites across the United States for the project, code-named "Project Blue." In November, VinFast whittled down that list of sites — crossing out the Chatham Siler-City Advanced Manufacturing Site in Siler City but keeping TIP in the running.

On Dec. 15, a half-day virtual meeting with the client was

held, with about a dozen people on screen. Then Smith and his team in Chatham County learned Dec. 21 that company representatives wanted to see the site from a helicopter the following day.

A week later, on Dec. 28, Smith and his team received a 31-page request for information that needed to be provided by Jan. 19. A VinFast team then came for a Jan. 10 meeting at the Raleigh Executive Jetport in Sanford.

And then they learned on the night of the final Sunday in March that the TIP site had won out, and VinFast wanted to tour the site the next morning. They, along with N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper, then gathered in Raleigh that Tuesday for the announcement.

Smith thanked his staff and others with roles in landing the project. He also thanked the Moncure Fire Department for hosting several meetings there.

"We always made sure we brought extra biscuits for the firemen," he said. "They were always kind and helpful to us."

One key to landing the project, Smith added, was already having sewer service to the site, in the form of a recently completed extension to the city of Sanford; having to tell prospective clients sewer service is merely in the works is less helpful.

"We already had it built," Smith said, "and that made a

huge difference."

Another was seaport proximity. While Georgia was in the running thanks to the larger port of Savannah, other attributes to the Chatham County site helped it beat out all others, Smith said.

A VinFast spokesman said ports are for raw materials.

"Access to all forms of convenient shipping and transportation corridors inclusive of sea ports, rail and air are extremely important for any manufacturing operation in terms of moving raw materials to and from the plant in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible," VinFast Director of Communications Jeff Holland told the News+Record in an email.

In response to questions, Smith said VinFast has planned for two construction phases over six to seven years, with vehicles expected to come off the assembly line in mid-2024. In addition to two models of electric sport-utility vehicles, the company plans to build vehicle batteries and electric buses at the site, he added.

One remaining issue, however, is how the company will sell to consumers. North Carolina law requires auto manufacturers in most cases to sell through franchised dealerships. N.C. made an exception for Tesla, which sells directly to consumers.

Asked about it, Smith said, "We're still working on that."

Holland said VinFast is developing its U.S. retail strategy and will have more information soon.

VinFast also announced a battery subscription plan intended to provide peace of mind regarding the crucial component of its products. If the batteries encounter problems or charging capacity dips below 80%, customers may have the batteries changed at no cost, Holland said.

According to a company press release, there will be two options. One plan is for low use: For \$35 or \$44 a month depending on the SUV model bought, a customer gets 310 miles and then pays 11 or 15 cents a mile beyond that. The other plan comes with unlimited mileage and costs \$110 or \$160 a month, depending on the model.

The battery subscription policy is for electric vehicles sold in 2022 and 2023. From 2024 onward, only 50% of vehicles sold will be eligible for the battery subscription program. The remaining cars will be sold with batteries.

"By separating the price of the battery from the acquisition value of the automobile, VinFast takes on all the risks related to the vehicle's battery and ensures a reasonable price for its products, while providing customers with peace of mind about the battery's quality during use," the release says.

VINFAST

Continued from page A1

structure that attracted VinFast — was an example, LaMontagne said, "of how we can find shared success through good working relationships."

"In addition to the governing boards," he added, "staff of both local governments work well together to find regional solutions. Coordination with the property owners' group was also important."

The formal announcement in Raleigh of the project, which even then was the culmination of months of intensive work by dozens of officials in Chatham and on the state level, may have felt to some like an overnight success story. In some ways it was: A rural county literally within walking distance of the Research Triangle Park, overshadowed by three nearby illustrious universities to the north, the Triad to the west, and a string of major job announcements and unprecedented growth news from its neighboring county immediately to the east (not to mention a massive new development project in the county just to the south) not only scores a project — but a multi-billion dollar project lauded as the largest in North Carolina's history.

But it wasn't overnight, of course. The romanticized notion of a "Field of Dreams"-type scenario — we built this thing, and look, cars magically began appearing — disavows the hard behind-the-scenes work required on the part of many hands to prepare the ground, literally and figuratively, for an announcement like VinFast's.

Falling in love may indeed be a function of proximity and chance, as the lyrics to an Eagles ballad suggest. But there's also a bit of luck and some good breaks that portend the solidification of any committed relationship. Mutual attraction is essential, too. Almost from the start, VinFast and Chatham's Triangle Innovation Point were crushing on each other: The nascent Vietnamese company needed lots of land, ready infrastructure, a huge potential workforce, a location making supply chain easy and incentives to make its investment worthwhile.

And the TIP site, having been rebranded (it was formerly known as the Moncure Megasite) to attract an automotive manufacturing facility, was primed and ready for a major player, a development home run. Or — daresay it — a grand slam, as such projects are sometimes called in the development world:

a game-changing "white whale" project incredibly rare in scale.

While projects like VinFast's don't come along often, when they do there are always disappointed suitors in a dozen or more states that didn't make the cut. Micron, for example, the semiconductor chip manufacturer company, broke off its relationship with Chatham back in January. But no one here felt particularly jilted.

The county and its two ready tracts — the 2,158.5-acre TIP site and Siler City's 1,802-acre Chatham Advanced Manufacturing site — were being heavily courted by other companies. It was a matter of time, local officials said, before something broke big and Chatham put something in its "win" column.

Still, the complexity and nuances of finalizing a multi-billion dollar agreement with an electric vehicle manufacturer 11 time zones away — the first such win in the state's history after years of misses — is a staggering feat. The coordination between the industry's team and local on-the-ground people like Michael Smith and his staff at the Chatham Economic Development Corporation, who did much of the heavy lift, and state officials from the Economic Development Partnership

of N.C. and the N.C. Dept. of Commerce and others in state and legislative offices in Raleigh is as exacting as it was exhausting.

And every official on the local level agreed that none of that occurs without the foundation laid years ago in Chatham County by visionaries with the foresight to envision a project like VinFast, or the development of just the right apparatus at the right time.

"This announcement was a long time in the making," said Walter Petty, a former county commissioner who, a decade ago, was part of a team working with county staff and local business leaders and executives to create a scenario — and ultimately a site; two sites, actually — that, in time, would position Chatham to land the kind of economic development wins that would boost local employment and fortunes.

"It's easy to forget that when we first started working on getting two megasites certified in Chatham there was not universal agreement that we should make the investments given the risks involved," Petty recalled. "For me, the possibility of attracting billions of dollars and thousands of jobs made the risks worth taking. I'm proud to have been involved from the beginning and commend our economic development team for bringing our vision to fruition."

Having the right people in the right jobs at the state level and a thousand other things — not Joe Biden's "economic agenda," as the president cited when the project was announced, to the chagrin of many locals — was just part of the formula. Without all the working pieces, those involved say, "Project Blue" — as VinFast was known before the official announcement last month — could have been another "what if?" for Chatham.

This time, it wasn't. LaMontagne also cited investors Jason Kaplan (Moncure Holdings), Kirk Bradley (Lee-Moore Capital), and Arthur Samet and Brian Hall (Samet), who acquired the land and committed it to being a certified industrial site, as being particularly instrumental. And the county's partnerships with groups such as Duke Energy, Dominion Energy, the N.C. Dept. of Transportation, the N.C.

Ports Authority, and the N.C. Railroad Company were also important to securing the project.

"And without the support of Gov. [Roy] Cooper and leadership of the North Carolina House and Senate, this historic project would not have been possible," LaMontagne said. "We are grateful for the collaboration and commitment among these excellent partners."

Bradley also said "enormous credit" should be given to Jason Kaplan and the Kaplan family for buying the land to support the vision of developer Steve Stroud and former N.C. Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker of Sanford — who foresaw a megasite in Moncure some 17 years ago and were early proponents of a vehicle assembly facility there.

"These things take time in addition to the land assemblage," Bradley said. "There were years of work convincing local officials as well as the state Economic Development ecosystem how this could work and eventually be the base for an OEM [original equipment manufacturer]."

All those efforts helped make Chatham County "built for the moment," said the EDC's Smith, when VinFast came calling.

Smith also pointed to LaMontagne and the county's board of commissioners for their work and wisdom in putting together a transformational grant program (for projects brining at least 1,000 jobs and \$1 billion in investment) and a key part of securing VinFast.

And he and Bradley said that in addition to a low-tax, business friendly environment here, the state's recently-enhanced Transformative-class Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program — like Chatham's, it provides performance-based incentives — was essential in closing the deal: it could eventually provide VinFast with \$316.1 million package over the next 32 years, depending on targets. (Additional infrastructure help and upgrades from the state's Department of Transportation, part of an anticipated \$450 million worth of site and road improvements and including additional water and sewer work, were also essential.)

The Republican-controlled General Assembly, led by President Pro Tem Phil Berger in the Senate

and Speaker Tim Moore in the House, passed the Transformative JDIG legislation in 2016 for projects with over \$1 billion in investment.

"This was an essential building block to put the North Carolina economic development ecosystem in a competitive position with other Southeastern states," Bradley said. "Prior to that, we didn't have the incentives to attract an OEM like VinFast."

Smith also cited cooperation from the TIP site's owners — for their patience, among other things.

"The Kaplan ownership group believed in our team," he said. "There were two different times in the past six months where there was a chance that a different group from out of this area would consider making the TIP site a large multi-user business park. We were able to keep Kaplan confidentially updated about our level of interest and activity from a single large user like Project Blue. We are sincerely grateful they held the TIP site together so we could have the largest announcement in the history of N.C. to come to Chatham County."

State Rep. Robert Reives II, who lives in and represents Chatham in the General Assembly, specifically singled out the Smith and N.C. Dept. of Commerce leadership, particularly Secretary Mabelle Baker Sanders, for their work and coordination in making the project happen.

"We always knew that our area was poised to attract this level of investment," he said. "Folks at the state and local level have worked tirelessly to help make this happen, and I applaud everyone who played a role in bringing VinFast to Triangle Innovation Point."

For Reives, that number also includes Bradley, Kaplan, Smith and Chatham Park developers Tim Smith and Bubba Rawl.

"These are just a few of the forward-thinking people who deserve recognition for what they did to land this investment in Chatham," Reives said. "The announcement builds upon a year of success so far in North Carolina ... Not only are we bringing thousands of new jobs to Chatham County, but these are the jobs of tomorrow, being created in Chatham today."

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VIEWPOINTS

GUEST COLUMN | BOB PEARSON

Our position on Russia's war on Ukraine needs to be clarified

Wars are easy to start — like striking a match. As the fire spreads, it's harder to keep under control and then very difficult to stop without a clear conclusion.

That's where Russia is now. Russian President Vladimir Putin failed in what he thought would be an easy conquest. Now he has chosen to retreat, resupply, reorder his command structure, and strike again, this time with increased brutality against innocent victims all over Ukraine. Inside Russia, he is crushing all internal dissent and punishing anyone who resists in a campaign similar to the nightmare rule of Joseph Stalin for 30 years under Soviet dictatorship. No one should hope, short of a miracle, that oligarchs will toss Putin from power.

This new phase brings with it several important judgments. First, it may last a long time.

Putin has lost many soldiers and much equipment to combat. Military units are depleted and arms must be resupplied. New troops have to be trained, which takes months. In the meantime, he will rely on destruction of cities with artillery and strikes by missiles and aircraft to terrorize the Ukrainian civilian population. The Ukrainians will continue their tenacious defense and will hold their own as long as they receive the weapons they need.

In Washington, the Pentagon already has said the war will not end in 2022, a euphemism really for saying that the U.S. military doesn't at this point see any conclusion to the fighting in sight.

Second, President Zelensky has hardened his position on negotiations, saying he will not give up any Ukrainian territory to Russia. He knows that Putin has no plan to negotiate,

except when Russia clearly appears to be a winner, and so his only choice is to continue to rouse his people to put up the strongest, most resilient defense possible.

Third, the defense ministries of the NATO powers now will budget for long-term supply of the arms Ukraine needs, and contractors will increase their output. Stockpiles have been drawn down deeply for key weapons such as the anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons. The same will happen for the offensive weapons now slated for Ukraine — the howitzers that are the backbone of the U.S. Army — and possibly tanks resupply for the Ukrainian forces among other possible offensive weapons.

Fourth, the global food supply and energy pictures will change considerably, and problems with each will affect standards of living around the world and add inflation-

ary pressures to world markets. The maldistribution of these resources will put great strain on access to the needed resource. This is likely to take some time — even years — to restructure properly.

Finally, the U.S. and NATO see that the war is widening and that the Ukrainian need is growing. There is still a serious contradiction between saying that we will provide the Ukrainians with the weapons to prevent the Russians from winning and the commitment to defend every inch of NATO territory.

This official current political position would allow the Russians to conquer all Ukraine potentially. Yet, no one, not the U.S. President or any other NATO state leader, wants to see that happen. As events move, our position must be clarified. At the moment, we see heroic resistance standing against a foe that has turned to massive

terror and destruction to win. For now and for some time, the Russians are determined to be seen as a winner, and the U.S. must ensure that does not happen.

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

The right directions

As a pastor, I often go to the hospital. Not that ministry is bad for my health! I visit church members and their loved ones to offer my support. As most of my parishioners live in northern Chatham County, I frequent the UNC hospital near campus. You might think I would know my way around.

But the irregular floors and twisting hallways of this vast hospital system are labyrinthine. There's even an iPhone app for navigating to a patient's room.

I prefer a human connection, specifically at the information desk in the main lobby. Every employee I've met has been helpful and unfailingly kind. Over the years, I've come to know a few personally.

Last week, there was an unfamiliar gentleman behind the desk. He gave me pinpoint directions with a warm smile. It turned out that the patient's room was down the hall from the chapel, so after I'd made my visit, I slipped inside to pray.

This was during Holy Week. Easter lilies had been arranged on the altar before a kneeling bench like you would find in a church. Hung on the back wall was a 3D woodcut of a tree — a sacred symbol in Judeo-Christianity as well as many Eastern religious and indigenous traditions. In the corner of the chapel, a compass had been painted on the floor with the word "Qibla" substituted for "East." This is Arabic for "direction" and points toward Mecca, the direction that Muslims face to pray five times a day.

But what held my attention the longest was the labyrinth painted on the floor. This kind of walking path does wind back and forth. But a labyrinth is not a maze, not a riddle. Unlike the confusing hallways of the hospital, there is a single clear direction to the center, then back out again. Labyrinths have been used for centuries in different ways. Some believers walk the labyrinth while praying for loved ones and the world. Others walk as a personal spiritual practice, a way of journeying to the holiness inside of them. You might simply try to clear your mind and relax. There's no wrong way.

As I walked, I prayed for the health and healing of the people I had visited in the hospital as well as other colleagues and friends who were sick, hurting or grieving. It was a peaceful time of prayer. Also, a little lonely. The hospital's chapel was designed for people of different faiths to pray or meditate alone. I needed a human connection. I knew where to walk to find it.

The same gentleman was still at the information desk. He smiled expectantly as I approached, assuming I needed more directions. I said I just wanted to thank him. Perhaps sensing my real need, he gently inquired about the patient I'd visited and discovered I was a pastor. He shared that he was a lay leader at a local church, specifically involved in visiting the sick.

"It's all about showing up," he said, smiling.

"A kind word can be good for what ails you."

"Amen," I replied, and after thanking him again, I left the hospital that day feeling like I had the right directions. I also knew how to find my parked car.

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."



Easter celebrations have changed through time

Last Sunday was Easter Sunday on the calendar, a high and holy day for Christians around the world, celebrated many ways, depending partly on people and places and the customs of those folks in those places.

Some marked the day with elaborate services of pomp and ceremony. Others were part of simpler observances. And others didn't note the day at all.

And so it is with life.

For me, Easter has changed dramatically through the years. I have a faint memory, bolstered by some pictures here and there, of me as a (don't laugh) cute little 4-year-old dressed in my cream-colored Easter suit complete with bow tie. In that picture, I'm holding my Easter basket while my dad takes in the scene from his seat on the living room couch, apparently approving of the whole thing.

Some years later, after the basket thing and hiding Easter eggs had faded into childhood memories, candy — especially chocolate bunnies — continued appearing where they were easily found. For years, I'd unwrap the cellophane and pretty much eat the whole thing in a bite or three.

Then (and I'm not sure when) I discovered the joy of biting off the ears and saving the mangled body for later. I hope this doesn't mean I need mental therapy; I have it on good authority that numerous other people also did that.

The first year I did neither was the last year I got a chocolate bunny. I think my mother saw it lying around, still wrapped in cellophane, then finally turning a pale brown before I moved it to my top dresser drawer out of sight. I guess she figured I didn't really want or appreciate the gift anymore so it stopped appearing.

Of course, the fact I was married, and not living at home had something to do with the end of the bunnies, as well, I think.

Later in life the two 40-somethings who used to be teenagers living at my house came along, we went through the whole routine of Easter outfits and bunnies and egg hunts and all that. We took them to Easter sunrise services at church, then home to large dinners and family gatherings, then to egg hunts at Grandma's and finally home so I could collapse on the couch before going to bed.

Now that cycle of life is being repeated as grandchildren delight in showing egg collections and the candy in them. And I'm wondering where the time went and when and how I got to this point.

And that's sort of a nutshell of how my notice of Easter has changed. There's a place for the Easter bonnets and hunting eggs and such, although live bunnies and colored chickens aren't great ideas because most folks don't or won't take care of them after the 15 minutes of novelty wear off.

What I have come to realize is that all those things — clothes and eggs and Easter dinners and all else — are things we use to celebrate the day and aren't the things we celebrate ourselves. All of those

things are material and one day won't be around.

That's a thought I try to leave families (and myself) at graveside committals. That particular word from the Book says, "The things which are seen are temporary; it is the things that are not seen that are eternal."

And that's what I really like about Easter now. I still like the clothes — think I may get a new hanky or something. And I like to watch the grands find eggs. And I'm especially fond of the ham that graced our dinner table.

But I'm more appreciative of the feeling that moves inside me as I ponder the day, those leading up to it and what it all means — that in life I've been given a hope (make that a Hope) and won't be held back because of the past.

I hope this year as you hunted or hid eggs or put down that last piece of ham or tried to tie that new tie that you didn't just major on the visible material things.

If that's how your Easters have been up to now, try the alternative and see if it doesn't make a difference.

And don't hide any real eggs in your house and depend on your grands to remember where they are ...

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.

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

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VIEWPOINTS

North Carolina is bouncing back

Most states have still failed to recover the jobs lost during the depths of the COVID crisis in 2020. North Carolina is not, however, one of those states.



JOHN HOOD
John Locke Foundation

From February 2020 to February 2022, we experienced an employment increase of 1.5%, representing a net gain 67,600 jobs. That ranks us 6th in job growth since the onset of COVID. Only 10 other states are in positive territory over the past two years: Utah (5.1%), Idaho (5.1%), Montana (3.1%), Texas (1.7%), Florida (1.7%), Arizona (1.3%), Georgia (1.2%), Tennessee (1.2%), Arkansas (0.9%), and Colorado (0.3%).

If we measure the recovery not by employment but by overall output, our state still fares well. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis,

North Carolina's real GDP has grown by an annualized average of 1.7% since the start of 2020, faster than the Southeast (1.1%) and the nation as a whole (0.8%).

There's no question our state suffered mightily during the COVID crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people lost jobs or incomes. Millions suffered unprecedented restrictions on their personal liberty. And more than 23,000 of our fellow North Carolinians lost their lives.

Whatever you think of the public health benefits of the stringent executive orders Gov. Roy Cooper imposed during the first few months of the COVID crisis, they certainly had a substantial dampening effect on the state's economy. I assume the governor would grant the existence of such a downside, arguing that achieving North Carolina's lower-than-average death rates was worth the cost. Others might question whether the state's mandates were really the main cause of those lower death rates.

As an economic matter, though, North Carolina clearly bounced back more strongly from the COVID recession than most states did.

Why? I'll offer three possible (and not mutually exclusive) explanations.

First, our state and local governments were comparatively well prepared. During much of the past decade, lawmakers had prudently increased state savings while making North Carolina a more attractive place to work, invest, and create jobs by reforming our tax code, regulatory process, and infrastructure programs. These policy decisions served as the equivalent of a giant neon sign with the words "Do Business Here!" and a giant arrow pointing to North Carolina.

So even as some industries were swooning — and some businesses such as downtown restaurants were closing their doors for good — other industries were in a position to expand once the worst of the crisis was over. They were

already in place in North Carolina, or looking closely at the state for their next major investments.

A second explanation might be that our economy's exposure to a pandemic-induced downturn was somewhat lower than those of our peers because of differences in structure. A smaller share of our population lives in urban centers, for example. And tourism, while an important part of North Carolina's service sector, doesn't make up as large a share of GDP as it does in, say, our neighbor South Carolina.

Finally, our state has what many households and businesses are looking for in COVID's aftermath. Remote work has finally come into its own, freeing up some workers to choose homes and communities based on quality of life rather than proximity to downtown employment districts. While cross-state relocations don't yet constitute a flood by historical standards, North Carolina is one of the most

popular destinations for those looking to reinvent themselves — and their businesses — in a more congenial climate.

To say North Carolina is bouncing back is not to say everyone is coming along for the bouncy ride. Too many displaced workers remain on the sidelines of the labor market. Beyond a couple dozen urban and suburban counties, many other parts of the state continue to face major economic development challenges. Furthermore, increased reliance on remote work brings costs as well as benefits. Some restaurants and service businesses catering to office workers may turn out to be unsustainable in their current form.

Nevertheless, things could be worse. In most the country, in fact, they are.

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).

Crawdads again

A book is going to put North Carolina in the news. Again.



D.G. MARTIN
One on One

novel for 2019.

During 2019 and 2020, it led The New York Times Fiction Best Sellers list and topped that list 32 times. As of early this year "Crawdads" had made the list 150 times.

If you have not read the book or do not remember the plot, Sony Pictures summarizes it as follows: The book and movie tell "the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumors of the 'Marsh Girl' haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh."

Actress Reese Witherspoon has been a "Crawdads" promoter from the beginning, featuring the novel as a pick of her book club and producing the film through her company, Hello Sunshine.

Another supporter is singer Taylor Swift, who has written a theme song for the movie. She praises the book as one, "I got absolutely lost in when I read it years ago."

When Swift heard about the movie, she knew she "wanted to be a part of it from the musical side. I wrote the song 'Carolina' ...I wanted to create something haunting and ethereal to match this mesmerizing story."

Here is a portion of her lyrics:

Ooh, ooh

You didn't see me here (You didn't see me)

They never did see me here

There are places I will never go to

Things that only Carolina will ever know ...

The film is scheduled for release on July 15.

Movies based on books usually promote book sales. It is already happening for "Crawdads," which was back to number one on The New York Times bestseller list earlier this month.

Books that feature a state or region can be good for that locality. The film of Charles Frazier's "Cold Mountain" gave positive attention to North Carolina's mountains although it was filmed in the mountains of Romania.

So, will the "Crawdads" film be good for North Carolina?

If the film is as good as the book, it should be good for our state.

Now, what about the problem I mentioned earlier? Some readers of "Crawdads" noticed that some geographic scenes in the book did not fit the actual landscapes of North Carolina.

The book's marshlands and waterfronts might better describe landscapes further south, in Georgia perhaps, where author Delia Owens grew up.

When Owens appeared on North Carolina Bookwatch, I asked her if the film would be shot in North Carolina. She said probably not, because windy weather on the Outer Banks would make filmmaking difficult.

The film's producers made another choice and shot the movie in Louisiana. A good choice perhaps. It has the marshes and green cover that the story needs.

But it would have been more fun for us if they had brought their movie cameras and actors to our state.

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

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

Keep climate change in mind when you vote

TO THE EDITOR:

Monday's drenching rain is no traditional April spring shower. I wonder how our plants and wildlife deal with quick extreme weather challenges?

Many of us don't directly feel the impact while sheltered in our air-conditioned spaces. In heavy prolonged rain, my honeybees cannot forage to feed their burgeoning spring brood. Washed-away flower nectar and pollen take time to replenish.

With Earth's rapidly warming climate due to our ever-increasing fossil-fueled energy appetite, we face a serious biodiversity crisis, often referred to as the 6th extinction. Unlike past geological mass extinctions, this one is due to our single species' reliance on coal, oil, and natural gas fossil fuel energy sources (since the 1750's Industrial Revolution) emitting carbon diox-

LETTERS

ide persisting in the atmosphere from 300 to 1,000 years causing progressive global warming.

The current rapid species loss is estimated by experts between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than the natural background extinction rate that would occur if we humans were not around. How do we solve this rapid degree of biodiversity loss? One important way is to vote for candidates concerned about climate change and for carbon pricing policies in our upcoming N.C. primaries on May 17 and elections on November 8.

Minta Phillips
Julian

On making America great again

TO THE EDITOR:

If we are to make America great again, would that mean we should focus all our support on helping American companies to get established and/or survive — instead of giving

our support to selling out America one foreign company at a time?

Carol Gene Good
Conover

The hypocrisy of conservatism

TO THE EDITOR:

In his viewpoint on freedom ["Conservatives see freedom as progress," News + Record, April 7-13], John Hood staunchly supports the conservative right's "preference for individual freedom and voluntary solutions." He states, "the strongest impulse" of some conservatives is for government to "butt out of our private affairs and decisions."

But why is it that women are now losing their say about their reproductive rights? What is more private than that!? How convenient to ignore that ultimate hypocrisy of conservatism.

Nancy Reynolds
Briar Chapel

The heartbreak of saying goodbye

Fishing, farming and forestry have historic foundations in our state. We also

have a history of migration, moving from easternmost to increasingly westward locations.

Small towns sprang up as people needed to bring their harvests and products to markets. The main method of transportation was by muddy or dusty dirt roads or rivers. It was only natural that governments were incorporated to provide services to both the town and often for the county. There one could find the courts, official records, banking and commerce conducted. Churches were built for worship and community gatherings. Public services could include law enforcement, fire protection, street maintenance, parks, and public utilities, paid by levying taxes on residents.

Folks who lived in small towns loved the pace, the sense of community and friendliness of neighbors. In the 1940s or '50s, one could walk or ride a bicycle all around town, go to the dime store, take in a movie, visit the drug store and sit at the lunch counter to order a sandwich or an orangeade, milk shake, or fountain drink.

But migration began taking its toll. People moved to ever-larger towns and cities to get jobs in the mill, factory or larger businesses. Once bustling main streets began displaying empty storefronts. Government services were necessarily scaled back due to reduced revenues. And, despite concerted efforts for urban revitalization and economic development, the die was cast for many once-wonderful small towns. "The good old days" were vanishing.

Today there are roughly 1,000 local governments in North Carolina. Some are struggling to pay employees and provide services to

residents. In some cases, mismanagement and fraud depleted town treasuries, but in most instances the diminishing tax bases and decreasing tax revenues create short- and long-term financial problems. Local governments often have few options, and most of them are not good.

The state doesn't want to be in the business of managing local governmental units, but neither can it allow these local entities to default on their obligations. Fortunately, North Carolina has a mechanism to deal with these problems.

Back in the roaring '20s, times were exceptionally good, money was cheap and towns, big and small, spent large sums of money on buildings, public utilities and other infrastructure. Then came the Great Depression, and the boom quickly became bust. Many of these municipal governments found themselves unable to pay their debts. This wasn't just a local problem. It also affected the state, since all cities, towns and counties are creations of and responsible directly to the state. Inevitably, the state's credit worthiness was questioned.

North Carolina created the Local Government Commission (LGC), housed in the State Treasurer's office. It is responsible for receiving audited financial statements from every governmental entity within our borders and the authority to step in if a governmental unit isn't managing affairs responsibly. Before any local entity can borrow money, it must get approval, and the LGC oversees the borrowing. After many years of prudent LGC oversight, our state earned the coveted Triple-A credit rating from all rating agencies, meaning we can borrow money at the cheapest government rates. Debt is backed by the full faith and credit of our state.

Back to the present. Many small local governments are now struggling to pay their bills, and the LGC has stepped in help them

manage finances or, as a last resort, take control from local officials and assume management until a permanent solution is found. Currently, the treasurer and LGC have seven small towns in which they are managing finances, including Spring Lake, Robersonville, Pikeville, Cliffside Sanitary District, Eureka, Kingstown and East Laurinburg. In some towns, the entire budget is as small as \$75,000, but others are as high as \$13 million. One has a population of 12,000, others little more than a handful.

LGC takeover is, at best, a bandage on a more serious wound. Many small towns need to face the reality they can no longer function as before and either need to find a nearby community or county as a merger partner, look for a private enterprise to take over providing services, or just turn in their charters and cease to exist. It's painful, but an increasing reality.

This will be heresy to many, but while discussing the fate of small governmental units, perhaps we should consider some of our smaller counties, often struggling due to declining population and tax revenues. Once the county seat was essential and could be no more than a day's horseback ride away, but modern transportation and communications no longer make the location of county seats so essential. Whether some of them want to admit it or not, the handwriting is on the wall. Let's not let community pride, tradition or the romantic memories of a day gone prevent doing what is best for the people and our state.

Sometimes it's heartbreaking but best to just say goodbye.

Tom Campbell is a former assistant N.C. State Treasurer and was the creator/host of N.C. SPIN, a weekly statewide television discussion of N.C. issues that aired on UNC-TV until 2020. Contact him at tom-camp@carolinabroadcasting.com.

WELCOME

Continued from page A1

ing community activities.”

MSPBO has arranged a team to help keep the center open for visitors as it continues to have talks with the town regarding the transition to an in-house downtown advisory board.

One crucial Welcome Center staff member is Paul Sacca, who mans the center during operating hours Wednesdays through Saturdays and helps provide information about Pittsboro and the county to visitors — as well as new Chatham residents who are looking to learn more about their community.

One of the main goals of the Welcome Center is to help provide support to businesses around the town, county and region, according to Sacca.

“I have a list as an example of all of the restaurants, all of the shops, bed and breakfasts, all kinds of things about the town,” he said.

The Welcome Center serves thousands of visitors and residents, according to Sacca. More than 3,000 people have walked through the Welcome Center in the last year, coming from 45 different states and 13 countries. With visitors from around the globe stepping foot into the Welcome Center, Sacca said there is a clear need for the facility. The feedback he has received has proven it.

“The feedback I get is amazing,” Sacca said. “The feedback I get is, ‘Thank you. I feel welcomed, and this has been enormously helpful for me.’”

Sacca isn’t alone in noticing a positive response to the Welcome Center. Parker-Lewis said the main reason MSPBO wants to keep the center open is the continued increase in the area’s population — which, with the growth of Chatham Park and the addition of car-



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

The Welcome Center in Pittsboro is located downtown, adjacent to the traffic circle and historic courthouse.

maker VinFast (and its 7,500 new jobs) will only accelerate.

“We’ve served thousands of people, and a lot of them are people that are relocating,” Parker-Lewis said. “They want to connect with their community; they want to become a part of this place that they have moved to.”

The Welcome Center in downtown Pittsboro has provided a place where visitors and new residents can “see what the vibrant community has to offer,” she said, but they are not the only ones who benefit. Long-time residents are

also pleased with the center and its mission.

“There are people downtown that appreciate that we’ve taken this ugly building in the center of town, renovated it and made it into something that’s welcoming to everyone,” she said.

MSPBO plans to host fundraising events to help keep the Welcome Center’s doors open. The COVID-19 pandemic put prior attempts over the last two years on hold, but “Local on Lorax” — a new event from 5 to 8 p.m. on May 1 at The Plant in Pittsboro — will



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Paul Sacca (background), who mans the Welcome Center, tracks every visitor who comes into the center. So far, visitors from more than 40 states have dropped by.

kick off new efforts to fund the operation.

“Everything there will go to the running of the Welcome Center,” Parker-Lewis said. “That way as soon as our agreement ends on June 30, we’ve got funds to continue.”

As MSPBO continues with its rebrand, Parker-Lewis said she wants to connect with businesses and new residents across the county, fulfilling what she believes to be the Welcome Center’s mission.

“Now that we can be (focused) county-wide,” she said, “we feel like we can

really partner and collaborate with other businesses in the county, nonprofits ... especially tourism businesses to work together to raise funds and promote what a wonderful place we have.”

The Welcome Center is located at 37 Hillsboro St. in downtown Pittsboro and is open on Wednesdays through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

COVID

Continued from page A1

But with the BA.2 variant now making up the majority of new N.C. cases, Zelek anticipates another jump.

“We will likely continue to see increases in metrics,” he said, “and we encourage folks to keep an eye on the CDC tracker to inform decisions.”

That tracker (CDC’s COVID-19 Community Level Tracker, found at <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>) continues to include case rates, he said, but also factors in hospital metrics as well — namely COVID-19 admissions and percent of beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19.

“The nice thing about this tracker is that it gives a COVID-19 community level for each county based on these metrics, along with recommendations based on that level,” he said.

The current recommendation for counties, like Chatham, at the “low” level: “Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Get tested if you have symptoms. Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. Wear a mask on public transportation. You may choose to wear a mask at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others.”

The CDC has changed its threshold for “high” levels of COVID-19 to 200 cases per 100,000 instead of 100. That, Zelek said, along with more of a focus on hospitalizations, represents a shift in approach — a shift from preventing infections to preventing serious illness and protecting the strained health care system.

Zelek points to a few factors for that change:

- widespread access to safe and effective vaccines, including boosters. “Everyone ages 5 and older is eligible,” he said. “That is why the recommendation above starts with vaccines; they continue to be our

best tool. Even if you get infected after being vaccinated, the risk of severe illness is lower.”

- the fact that a significant segment of the population was infected with Omicron, which provides additional protection.

“Omicron also caused, on average, less severe illness than prior variants, which emphasized the importance of looking to hospital metrics along with case data,” Zelek said. “The BA.2 omicron subvariant appears to look like Omicron in terms of severity.”

- the reality that COVID-19 will likely remain with us long-term, which creates a need to approach it in a sustainable way. “Focusing on preventing severe illness and death is the key to this,” he said. “If a future variant causes more severe illness, we will need to adapt, so we will also be looking at what is happening around the world to stay prepared and share timely guidance.”

As he tracks metrics, Zelek says he’s keeping an eye on three other measures: wastewater surveillance, positivity rates and vaccination rates.

“Considering the rise in at-home rapid test use, which affects the number of cases that are reported and therefore case rates, wastewater surveillance and positivity rates are especially informative,” he said.

Chatham doesn’t have any wastewater surveillance sites, but there are sites in nearby counties that can be found on the state’s COVID dashboard at <https://covid19.ncdhs.gov/dashboard>.

As the surge shows itself in parts of the country, experts continue to say states with low rates of vaccination will likely face more infections and severe cases winding up in the hospital.

Chatham’s vaccination numbers remain mostly unchanged this year — 63% (N.C. is at 84%) are partially vaccinated and 59% fully (N.C. is at 64%). At least one in four residents has been infected and 109 residents have died.

COVID GUIDANCE

What’s the latest on masks and booster shots?

ON MASKING

A Florida federal judge on Monday voided the national mask mandate covering public transportation — including airlines, trains, buses, subway and ride-sharing vehicles — that was set to expire that same day but had been recently extended by the CDC until May 3. The Transportation Security Administration followed up by saying it would stop enforcing the mandate. But even so, Chatham County Public Health Director Mike Zelek emphasized that a lack of a mandate doesn’t mean there’s no recommendation *against* wearing a mask.

Masks still reduce your chances of getting and giving COVID-19 — and other respiratory bugs — and there continue to be situations where masks are required, he said.

“First, if you are recovering from COVID-19 (tested positive within the past 10 days), stay away from others for at least the first five days and wear a mask until at least day 10,” he said. “If you have recently been exposed to COVID-19 or have any symptoms, wear a mask. Many will continue to wear masks in crowded indoor settings, especially those who are at higher risk of severe illness. This becomes more important if metrics rise but is not a bad idea even now.”

Chatham County libraries continue to have N-95s for free at each of their locations. Each household can stop by and get a box of 20 as long as supplies last. Zelek’s department has given out nearly 200,000 N-95s so far.

ON BOOSTER SHOTS

Americans over age 60 should get a second booster shot of a coronavirus vaccine. Dr. Ashish K. Jha, the new White House Covid-19 response coordinator, said Sunday on Fox News Sunday. He cited data from Israel that a fourth shot significantly reduced infections and deaths among older people there, according to a New York Times report.

On March 29, the Food and Drug Administration authorized second booster shots of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna

coronavirus vaccines for everyone 50 and older.

“Studies continually show that booster doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines provide boosted protection, pun intended, against severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19,” said Zach Horner, the health department’s public information specialist.

He quoted a CDC report showing that those who received a third dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine “were much more protected against hospitalization” than those with just two doses.

“Thankfully, booster doses are available across Chatham County, meaning that getting that extra boost of protection is as simple as picking up groceries or stopping for a coffee,” he said. “It’s also just as productive, if not more so.”

Those eligible for a second booster dose include people 50 years of age and older and those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. Horner said the CDC recommended this additional dose because of the increased risk of severe disease in these populations.

COVID-19 booster shots are available anywhere you can get a vaccine.

ON TESTING

In Chatham County, Optum continues to offer free COVID-19 testing in Pittsboro (Old Ag Building, now upstairs) and Siler City (Medical Office Building behind Chatham Hospital). For all options, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/coronavirustesting.

“While COVID-19 testing options are fairly widespread, we recognize that folks may not always have the flexibility to get them at a drive-up testing site or doctor’s office,” Horner said. “We are now offering at-home COVID-19 tests free of charge at each of our offices in Pittsboro (80 East St.) and Siler City (1000 S. 10th Ave). All Chatham residents can come to the lobbies of our offices during our operational hours (8-5, Monday to Friday) and pick up one box of at-home tests per household. There are instructions on how to use the tests as well as information on the expiration dates of the tests.”

Like Zelek, Horner emphasized that just because COVID-19 trends have decreased in Chatham County and beyond doesn’t mean the virus is gone.

“We want to make sure everyone is equipped, and these tests are part of the equation,” he said. “If you do test positive for COVID-19, there are treatment options available that are reliable, safe and authorized. Get that treatment as soon as possible once prescribed by a medical professional.”

For information about COVID treatments in N.C., go to <https://covid19.ncdhs.gov/treatment>.

ON THE NEW 15-SECOND BREATH TEST

The Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization for the InspectIR COVID-19 Breathalyzer test last Thursday. The test is designed, according to the CDC, to look for five compounds associated with COVID-19 infection in the breath of an individual 18 years of age and older, whether or not they display symptoms. According to Horner, the CDC says a positive result from this test “should be treated as presumptive and confirmed” by other means, like a PCR test. As of now, these tests can only be administered by “a qualified, trained operator under the supervision of a health care provider licensed or authorized by state law to prescribe tests” in a testing environment.

“In short, these tests provide another tool in determining whether someone has a COVID-19 infection but should not be taken as gospel,” Horner said. “CDC and FDA documentation emphasize that these breathalyzer tests should not be used as the sole diagnostic tool, the only thing that can say whether or not someone has COVID-19. It is best practice, according to these agencies, to perform a follow-up test, preferably a PCR test, in either occasion to verify results. And other tests, like at-home rapid tests, will likely continue to be more commonly used for the foreseeable future.”

- Bill Horner III

History of the garden

BY ZENDA DOUGLAS
News + Record
Correspondent



Staff photo by Zenda Douglas

Blaize McComas explores Siler City's Collaborative Garden

CIS used the garden as a work site for the youngsters coming through the Department of Juvenile Justice Community Service & Restitution program who were required to fulfill community service hours, Overturf said. The garden gave them a chance to get in touch with nature; some for the first time.

"They touched worms and frogs," she said. "They also got to smell and taste the plants and watch plants started from

seed come up and grow."

She took a lot of the produce grown in the garden — tomatoes, peppers, tomatillos, basil, pumpkins, melons, greens — to the West Chatham Food Pantry and also handed out produce at a community meal she started, now known as the Siler City Community Meal, still in operation today.

In 2019, Overturf retired and not long after, the COVID-19 pandemic laid siege upon the country and the world. The garden became dormant.

In June of 2021, CIS' current executive director, Tych Cowdin, was contacted by Danielle McComas, the director and co-founder of Robin Hood's Kitchen, a local area organization that uses food recovery from local farmers and businesses to cook and provide nutrient rich, ready-to-eat meals in an effort to help curb food insecurity and build towards food equity in the community.

"She thought the set up was perfect for their needs," said Cowdin. "The infrastructure from the previous garden was all in place; there was a cistern, underground watering, a shed and greenhouse. We all felt it would be great to get the garden going again."

Efforts to build the beds

back up and revitalize the soil began with help from volunteers and businesses such as Lowes, which donated soil, and Mountaire, which provided a \$2,000 grant for materials. Jeff Eaby, a regular Robin's Hood volunteer, has redesigned and rebuilt many of the beds with assistance from two of the elders from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"The garden will continue to be utilized as a worksite for youth needing to complete community service hours required as part of the Department of Juvenile Justice Community Service & Restitution program," said Cowdin. "CISCC will also utilize the garden as educational space for our Cooking Matters program, which will get back up and running next fall."

Cooking Matters is a culinary class for teens that teaches students how to feed and cook for themselves.

"Whatever food we can get from the garden," he added, "we will use as ingredients in the classes."

It's important to teach children where their food comes from and how to prepare it, Cowdin said. Plus, as Overturf notes: "This type of activity and learning can open the doors (to) new experiences.

I'm for getting kids outside and letting them learn through observation, how to look and see."

Using greenhouse facilities and winter plants, garden production will be year-round. McComas expects to plant trees in the fall. In winter, focus will shift to care of winter plants and taking steps to maintain healthy soil. Future aspirations include creating a courtyard where different organizations or special interest groups can meet and placing art in the garden, including murals and multimedia pieces that interact with nature.

"One of our goals is for people to come here and feel safe and comfortable, inspired," McComas said. "They can come and take it in, rest and relax, bring their coffee and walk around or sit. They can arrange for a special meeting. If they want to reach out to plant and grow, we'll set it up."

"The garden has a rich history and wonderful groups of people working on it," she added. "It has a great future."

Those interested in program information or volunteer opportunities may email info@robinhoodskitchen.org. To donate or learn more about Robin Hood's Kitchen, please visit robinhoodskitchen.org.

GARDEN

Continued from page A1

plant giveaways, art demos and educational opportunities for youth and families will be available for attendees to enjoy. The Original Haw River Crawdaddies will provide the music. The town of Siler City has given permission to block off the street to accommodate pedestrian traffic. CORA Food Pantry will offer bags of food for

anyone in need.

"The celebration will allow the public to see the rejuvenation and beautification of the garden space as a fun, friendly place for individuals and families," said Tych Cowdin, executive director of Communities In Schools of Chatham County. "Visitors will see the start of the spring gardening season and can take away a seed-starter. A few things are growing in the garden now."

Communities In

Schools is both a main collaborator and a beneficiary of the garden.

"Some of the plants are already in for a native garden," said McComas, "and we'll have a beehive so visitors can learn about bees and how they work with plants."

Pittsboro's Dutch Buffalo Farm has donated all of the native plants, as well as expertise.

"The bluebird couple that has moved into the beautiful birdhouse that has been installed in

the garden is the talk of downtown," McComas said.

Local carpenter Stephan Meyers built the birdhouse.

The Siler City Collaborative Garden, approximately 4,300 square feet in size, is designed to develop a microcosm of restorative agriculture — a sustainable urban ecosystem. McComas said its goal is to help educate people, calling a garden a place for them "to grow and learn."

"We want it to be an education center where people can learn about sustainability, (learn) how to grow their own food and spend time outdoors," said Cowdin.

Robin Hood's Kitchen manages the classes as well as the volunteers that come through, according to McComas.

"We're working with a group of kids, ages 14-18, from El Vinculo Hispano who come to volunteer in the garden," she said. "We do a class for them about gardening and

have guest speakers. We try to make it something foundational so people can use gardening as a tool to collaborate with people and learn how it all works and to find something they can do recreationally to relax, as well."

Food grown there will help to relieve food insecurity in Chatham County as agencies organized around that need distribute it among the community. Several other organizations working to end food insecurity in the area collaborate in developing the garden, including the Siler City Community Meal and some local churches. Some of the vegetable produce will be used in classes conducted. Local merchants Richard and Sue Szary, owners of Twin Birch & Teasel in Siler City, own the land upon which the garden is situated.

McComas and the garden's program director, Amanda Jones of Robin Hood's Kitchen,

coordinate the volunteer groups, projects and programs for the garden.

Volunteers come to the garden from all across Chatham County and numerous people and nonprofit organizations have given time, funds and in-kind donations. Other sponsors and collaborators include Dutch Buffalo Farm; In Good Heart Farm; Granite Springs Farm; Heart-song Farm; Country Farm and Home; Brooks Contractor; Southwind Retreat Center/Polestar Pilates; Relicks; Lowes; True Value; Chatham Marketplace; Tasting Queens Market; Tribucha Kombucha; and Twin Birch & Teasel. Nonprofits engaged with the goals and developments of the Siler City Collaborative Garden also include El Vinculo Hispano; Inter-faith Food Shuttle; Chatham Resource Hub; B Good; Charlie Mike Foundation; NC Arts Incubator; and The Alliance NC.

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Communities In Schools of Chatham County, El Vinculo Hispano,
B Good, Tasting Queens Market, Tribucha Kombucha,
Relicks, Chatham Resource Hub, and Twin Birch & TEASEL*

SILER CITY ELECTION '22

Bray faces newcomers Underwood, Picot in Siler City commissioner at-large race

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City Commissioner at-large incumbent Cindy Bray will face two political newcomers — James Underwood and Dean Picot II — in Siler City’s first municipal election since 2020.

Siler City’s local races in 2021 were delayed because of required redistricting due to a population change in the 2020 census. Election filing was further delayed by the gerrymandering lawsuits against the maps drawn by Republicans in the N.C. General Assembly.

Siler City elects five commissioners for each of the town’s five districts and two commissioners who serve as members at-large. Bray and Com-

missioner Chip Price are the incumbents for the two at-large seats; Price is seeking the mayoral seat; his commission seat doesn’t expire for another two years.

Cindy Bray: Bray, the former mayor pro tem, is retired from Chatham County Schools.

She did not return the questionnaire the News + Record sent to each of the candidates in this year’s primary.

James (Jay) Underwood: Underwood is a lifelong Siler City resident who recently retired from the Siler City Police Department after nearly 30 years on the force. He said he’s looking to serve as town commissioner “in order to continue working to improve my hometown.”

Underwood said he has three main goals if he’s

elected as commissioner at-large: bringing citizens together, addressing safety concerns and improving the town’s infrastructure.

“I believe the biggest challenges in Siler City currently are trying to find ways to bring in additional industry, housing and finding ways to keep our communities safe and drug-free,” he said. “We need to look at why our youth leave this area in order to prosper and find ways to change that.”

As a retired major from the SCPD, Underwood said his experience on the front lines provided him with a different picture on what is going on in town than his opponents.

“I have an understanding of the many different communities that make up our town and the people that I served,” he said.

“I’m not a politician, but my heart has always been with Siler City and I want to continue to serve.”

He’s attended several commissioner board meetings during his time with SCPD, and because of his continued dedication to the town, Underwood said he has the unique skill set to serve.

“No town board is perfect, but the constituents have elected the best candidates to come together and find ways to benefit the town and its residents,” he said.

“Everyone may not always leave happy, but the commissioners must continue to fulfill their obligation to work together for the greater good of the community.”

Dean Picot II: Picot is a new resident to Siler City and is running for the at-large seat. He is from

Greenville and lists his profession as an entrepreneur.

He is also a recovered drug addict and alcoholic, and he said his experience with that provides a unique understanding to some of the underlying issues he says are in Siler City.

“After living in cities with extreme poverty and addiction, it is astounding to witness a town that is in as much distress as Siler City,” Picot said. “I will provide local resources which will help people suffering from addiction and their loved ones heal on a long-term basis.”

Picot’s primary goals as commissioner would be to address poverty, access to affordable healthcare and housing, and taking action on what he calls the “drug epidemic that

has overtaken” Siler City. “We are losing lives, and our community is hurting,” he said. “Nothing is more important to me than the restoration of our families and of each individual victim of this deadly war.”

Picot said he feels the elected officials in Siler City have not fulfilled their duties as commissioners. He said the Siler City government is “absolutely not serving the people of Siler City” and has dealt with “a lack of leadership for decades.”

“The people need to be put in charge,” Picot said. “We need a comprehensive government that can and will enact the desire of the local municipality it should serve.”

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

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dean Picot II

Candidate Biographical Information

Name: Dean (Jr.) Picot
Office you are running for: Siler City Commissioner At-Large
Current Home Address:
Home telephone and/or Work Telephone: 984-226-5630
Best daytime number: 984-226-5630
E-mail: deanjr4silercity@gmail.com
Cell phone: 984-226-5630
Date/place of birth: January 29, 1990/Greenville, NC
Current occupation: Entrepreneur

Campaign website/social media: dean4silercity.com
Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members): I have no children and I am single.
Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service: N/A
Campaign manager (if applicable): Myself
Campaign treasurer (if applicable): Myself

Now that you’re seeking office...in 100 words or fewer.

Why are you seeking this office?: I am a recovered drug addict and alcoholic. I understand on a deep level how detrimental addiction is to a community and Siler City is that community. Drug and Alcohol abuse is rampant in this town to levels I have never witnessed before. After living in cities with extreme poverty

and addiction it is astounding to witness a town that is in as much distress as Siler City. I will provide local resources which will help people suffering from addiction and their loved ones heal on a long-term basis.

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?: My understanding of my role is that I will be an advocate for the town as a whole regardless of politics, nationality or creed. My goal is to always put the citizens of Siler City first. Doing so will undoubtedly have an impact on their standard of living. The number one issue outside of poverty and access to affordable housing and health care is a drug epidemic that has overtaken this town. Addiction not only wrecks the life of the user but the lives of the family members. I am uniquely qualified to address these issues because I am a recovered drug addict who has completely turned his life around and has seized life. I have changed my circumstances and empowered my family as a substance abuse counselor. I lead everyday the healing of the wounded and the healing of the victims of this nasty war on drugs.

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

1. Work on a county and state level to advocate for the

citizens of Siler City to receive better treatment and counseling services.

2. Improve the quality of services for Siler City citizens. Such as improving the water quality of the citizens.

3. Working with services that are already in Siler City while receiving support to tackle the drug epidemic.

What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now and how would you address them?:

The biggest challenges facing the Siler City community currently are a drug epidemic that is mirroring that of the crack epidemic in Baltimore, Maryland during the 1990’s. We are losing lives and our community is hurting. Nothing is more important to me than the restoration of our families and of each individual victim of this deadly war. Our crime rate per capita is higher than that of Durham, NC. Our children are growing up and are having to leave Siler City just to find a better opportunity elsewhere. Our environment is suffering through the lack of proper stewardship from the local government. Our water is unsafe to drink. I address these issues by properly supporting community mental health professionals by providing the mental health professionals more resources to help those in need. I will ensure we have a police force that is properly trained to handle certain high-risk situations properly and safely. I will increase our

budget through various grants and options which have been overlooked for decades and will be a good steward of the resources we currently have. I will work with employers to bring in good quality jobs for our citizens.

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

The municipal government is supposed to serve the local populace. The local government is absolutely not serving the people of Siler City. It is not fulfilling its mission. Most of Siler City’s citizens understand this to be true and have felt a lack of leadership for decades. The people need to be put in charge. We need a comprehensive government that can and will enact the desire of the local municipality it should serve.

What differentiates you from the other candidates?:

My first hand experience of how drugs and alcohol altered my life. It is easy for people to say what someone else needs. It is much harder to have been in that hole of addiction and have climbed out of it. I have a deep perspective on what is needed to heal this community. I feel I have been called to help defend this community that is high-risk. I am a part of the community. I am immersed in the community. I am heavily involved in the mental health and substance abuse recovery communities.

I am not sitting in my home, a part of an old boys club. I am a man of the people. Both of my opponents have spent over a decade in power and in leadership and both have not effected the change that is needed either because they did not want to or did not know how to.

Biographical Facts

Political/government hero: My aunt Joanne. My aunt Joanne helped to bring about and manage the freedom of information act in the 1960’s. The freedom of information act gave power back to United States citizens to monitor and know the truth of their elected officials.

Favorite book: “What Are The Odds? From Crackhead to CEO” by Mike Lindell

Book most recently read: The one year bible.

Favorite film: Beaches.

Hobbies: Volunteering at Love Chatham, attending bible study, going to yard sales and flea markets.

Church/civic involvement: I attend First Wesleyan Church. I volunteer at a local nonprofit serving the houseless community named Love Chatham.

Personal motto or one-line philosophy: “Help others.”

Strongest childhood ambition: To survive.

Most significant life goal you’ve accomplished: Recovering from a decades-long drug and alcohol addiction.

Goal you haven’t accomplished yet: Helping 500 people come out of addiction.

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

James Underwood

Candidate Biographical Information

Name: James (Jay) Monroe Underwood
Office you are running for: Commissioner at Large for Siler City
Current Home Address: 1101 N. Garden Ave.
Home telephone and/or Work Telephone: (919) 930-7613
Best daytime number: (919) 930-7613
Email: junderwood7613@gmail.com
Cell phone: (919) 930-7613
Date/place of birth: 02/13/1971 in Siler City
Current occupation: Recently retired from the Siler City Police Department after 29 years of service

Please outline your education and work history for us. Please include all job titles and responsibilities, any work recognition and professional references: I received my Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Davidson County Community College. I started with the Siler City Police Department on February 8th, 1993, as a Patrol Officer. I rose through the ranks as a Sergeant, Detective, Detective

Sergeant, Detective Lieutenant and retired as the Major.

Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members): Amanda - Wife; Lauren Nicole, Brenna Kate, and Paige Elyse - Daughters

Party affiliation (if applicable): Unaffiliated (Conservative)

Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service: 1st time running for Commissioner

Now that you’re seeking office...in 100 words or fewer.

Why are you seeking this office?: I was born and raised in Siler City and have served the community for many years. Since recently retiring from the Siler City Police Department, I am now looking to serve as Town Commissioner in order to continue working to improve my hometown.

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?: A commissioner has many obligations to the town they serve. They work

as a group to enact policies, make changes or develop new ordinances that may benefit the town and the citizens, develop and balance the budget, and look for issues within the communities that need to be addressed. I have worked in Siler City for many years as a police officer. I have an understanding of the many different communities that make up our town and the people that I served. I retired from the police department as Major of Operations where I was part of the hiring process, carefully tried to budget the allocated funds for the department, worked alongside the officers and gave whatever support was needed. I’m not a politician, but my heart has always been with Siler City, and I want to continue to serve.

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

1. Help find ways to bring our citizens together; all races and all cultures are important for growth.
2. Address safety concerns and to build safe communities.
3. Improve the town’s infrastructure, especially the water/

waste water lines. The lines need to be assessed or replaced for future development to happen.

What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now, and how would you address them?:

I believe the biggest challenges in Siler City currently is trying to find ways to bring in additional industry, housing and finding ways to keep our communities safe and drug free. We need to look at why our youth leave this area in order to prosper and find ways to change that.

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

Municipal Government has a great purpose within each town by being the voice for the people in which it serves. I have attended countless board meetings in my role at the police department and have developed an understanding of how a Commissioner should benefit the community. No town board is perfect, but the constituents have elected the best candidates to come together and find ways to benefit the town and its residents. Everyone may not always leave happy, but the

Commissioners must continue to fulfill their obligation to work together for the greater good of the community.

What differentiates you from the other candidates?:

I am a lifelong citizen of Siler City. I was also a steward for the Town of Siler City for 29 years with the police department.

Biographical Facts

Favorite book: Bible

Book most recently read: “The Leadership Challenge”

Hobbies: Spending quality time with my family.

Church/civic involvement: Member of the 1st United Methodist Church.

Personal motto or one-line philosophy: Treat people the same way you want them to treat you.

Strongest childhood ambition: To become a law enforcement officer.

Most significant life goal you’ve accomplished: To see my daughters grow and become beautiful, brilliant, and independent young ladies.

Goal you haven’t accomplished yet: To see my girls find a career that they enjoy and is fulfilling for them.

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- Siler City Fire Department
- Chatham County Rescue
- National Alliance on Mental Illness NC
- Siler City Police Department
- Chatham County Public Health Department
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- Second Bloom of Chatham
- Central Piedmont Community Action
- Caramore Community
- Standards-Based Solutions, LLC
- Chatham County Dept. of Social Services
- Recovery Ventures Corporation

Learn more online at www.chathamdrugfree.org/ccrc2022.



Zachary Horner

RECOVERY

Continued from page A1

aiming to help curb addiction.

"Sometimes people can be living right beside an organization and not know what type of resources they have," Foxx said. "So I wanted the community to have the opportunity to be able to see firsthand what organizations and agencies are inside of this community that can offer them assistance with housing, with mental health, with peer support and more."

The event will feature the stories of six recovering addicts, according to the Recovery Rally flier. Gregor-Holt said featuring those six and having them share their experience with recovery may inspire current addicts to do the same.

"People who are in the throes of addiction, they don't see a way out," he said. "What we hope what hearing the stories will do is that it will break through some of that denial — if somebody can say to themselves, 'That sounds like my story,' then there's a little crack in the wall (of denial)."

Recovery is not just about substance abuse, according to Foxx. She said she wants this event to also highlight the need for people — regardless of whether they've abused drugs or alcohol — to take care of their mental health.

"Another one of the issues that came out of the pandemic was mental health," Foxx said. "Some people may have been depressed for such a long time that they can't recognize their symptoms of depression, so recovery is not just exclusive to substance abuse — it is also including mental health."

Several local organizations and partners — including Second Bloom of Chatham, National Alliance of Mental Illness NC, Vaya Health, and the Chatham County Sheriff's Prevention Partnership on Controlled Substances — will have representatives at the event to give patrons more information on the mental health resources available in the community.

Foxx said having one place where people can learn about all of these resources helps promote affordable and accessible recovery treatment options.

'We would never do or say the things to people who have cancers that we say or do to the people who have addiction. We want to get some folks destigmatized to addiction so those people see it as any other illness.'

GEORGE GREGOR-HOLT, the community outreach coordinator of Chatham Drug Free

"Sometimes parents think they have to empty out their 401k to save their kids, and you don't have to do that," she said. "We will guide them in any way possible that we can ... I think that we have a great group that are very community oriented and are going to want to see their community members, family members, neighbors and friends succeed."

Recovery is one of the most difficult journeys an individual can take, Gregor-Holt said. However, the most difficult aspect of addiction and substance use disorder is the negative association.

"We would never do or say the things to people who have cancers that we say or do to the people who have addiction," he said. "We want to get some folks destigmatized to addiction so those people see it as any other illness."

Foxx said in addition to removing the stigmas associated with substance use disorder, the Recovery Rally allows for families of addicts or former addicts to learn more about how to support their loved ones.

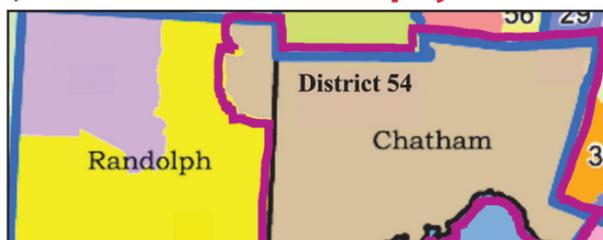
"We need to encourage family members and help them to understand there's nothing negative, or bad about reaching out for help," Foxx said. "I want them to come to the event ... to see the different phases of recovery, meaning substance abuse, mental health and all of the different shades in between."

The Celebrate Recovery Rally will be open to the public in downtown Siler City on the block of N.C. Arts Incubator at 223 N. Chatham Ave.

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

Kinsey For State House of Representatives 2022

(Chatham and Randolph, District 54)



Conservative Opinion by Craig Kinsey: Lawlessness? or Tranquility?

In war zones, savage behavior disintegrates civil society. Which is why famine looms in Yemen, Ethiopia, and Ukraine. In contrast, America is blessed with institutions (laws, education, agriculture) which support abundant commerce, food production, and tranquility. A dangerous development in American is police demoralization and defunding, resulting in increased attrition and reduced recruitment. Consequently, there are fewer police protecting citizens from criminals. Another dangerous development is District Attorneys (DAs) who embrace rapid release of criminals which empty jails, increase recidivism, and send an implied message that "lawlessness pays." The result of these two dangerous developments, (more crime and fewer police), the unintended consequence is social decay; (car jackings, brigade shoplifting, increasing violence, squalid streets, and disregard for individual property).

As your representative, I will foster social tranquility by advocating for: 1. Police pay raises to help recruitment and retention. 2. Improve officer training standards for de-escalating dangerous situations. 3. Support for DAs and representatives who help the "common good" by reinforcing the police. 4. After all is said, disrespect for the police is unspoken disrespect for citizens. Promote a respectful atmosphere that celebrates police at public events and school assemblies.

Paid for by committee Kinsey for NC House 54

OBITUARIES

JEAN WRENN ANDREWS



Jean Wrenn Andrews, 91, of Siler City, passed away on Friday, April 8, 2022.

Jean was born in Davidson County on January 20, 1931, the daughter of Charlie C. and Leona Miller Wrenn.

Mrs. Andrews grew up on 2nd Avenue in Siler City. She was the 1949 Valedictorian at Siler City High School, and went on to graduate from Meredith College specializing in organ performance. While living in Jacksonville, Florida, Jean was the manager of the A Stitch in Time Needle Craft Store.

Jean was a very active member of the First United Methodist Church, where she served on the hospitality and food committee and the Threads of Faith.

Jean often assisted in delivering the Church Sermon CDs to the shut-ins in the area. She loved working in the yard, tending to her flowers, playing cards (hearts), and giving handmade gifts. Jean was an immaculate housekeeper, and spent her later years as a homemaker. She enjoyed painting ceramics, and sewing; Jean was a master of many needle crafts and knitting. She was a rule-breaker, a lead foot, and had a sharp-witted sense of humor. In addition to her parents, Jean is preceded in death by her husband George Henry Andrews Jr.; seven brothers, and nine sisters.

She is survived by her son, Charlie Andrews and wife Brandy of Siler City; daughter, Alison Knappenberger and husband Nick of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; sister-in-law, Barbara Jones of Pittsboro; grandchildren, Michal Miller and husband Kyle of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Derrick Andrews and fiancé Ari of Raleigh; Clayton Knappenberger and fiancé Rachel Feng of McLean, Virginia; Robert Andrews of Siler City; and great grandchildren, Maggie and Tucker Miller.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, at the First United Methodist Church of Siler City, with Rev. William Sabiston officiating. The family will greet friends at the church beginning at 1 p.m. Family and friends are invited to a graveside service at Oakwood Cemetery following the Celebration of Life.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 212, Siler City, N.C. 27344 Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Andrews family.

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

DELBERT ALLEN 'AL' ANDREWS JR.

Delbert Allen "Al" Andrews Jr., age 55, of Pittsboro, died Friday, April 15, 2022, at Chatham Hospital.

Al was born in Chatham County on May 20, 1966, to Sheila Williams Eddings and the late Delbert Allen Andrews Sr. He was also preceded in death by his daughter, Sydni Nicole Andrews.

In addition to his mom, he is also survived by his son, Trey Andrews and wife Lauren of Pittsboro; three sisters, Tammy Phillips and husband Roger of Bear Creek, Debbie Thomas of Siler City, Sarah Beth Weston and husband Zack of Raleigh; and his loyal companion dog, Chomper.

The family received friends Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel from 6 to 8 p.m. A funeral service was held Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 3 p.m. at Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory Griffin Chapel with Pastor Wesley Thomas presiding. Burial followed at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to be made in Al's memory to Dry Forks Hunting Club, 497 May Farm Road, Pittsboro, N.C. 27312.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com. Donaldson Funeral Home & Crematory is honored to serve the Andrews family.

JIMMY RAY UPCHURCH

Jimmy Ray Upchurch, 83, of Ramseur, passed away on Monday, April 11, 2022 at Randolph Hospital.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, 2022 at High Falls U.M.C. with Rev. Tom Hallberg and Rev. Tim Strider presiding. The family will receive friends in the fellowship hall following the service.

Jimmy was born in Moore County on June 14, 1938 to Allie Caviness Upchurch and William Glenn Upchurch. He was a member of High Falls U.M.C. and served in the U.S. Navy. He was a poultry farmer and co-owner of Upchurch Groceries. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Patricia Taylor Upchurch; second wife, Evelyn Thompson Upchurch; son, Parker Taylor; brother, Donald Upchurch and two grandsons.

Jimmy is survived by his children, Lynne Saunders of Wilmington, Carol Albright of Mt. Gilead, Selena McDonald of Asheboro, Jeff Hoover of Tennessee, Dean Upchurch of Southmont, and Susan Wenda, of Asheboro; brother, Rick Upchurch of Coleridge; 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of Flowers the family would like you to pay it forward in Jimmy R. Upchurch's name.

Condolences may be offered online at www.joycebrady-chapel.com.

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

MARY LEE (JUDD) LEAK

July 11, 1950 ~ April 12, 2022

Mary Lee Leak, 71, of Sanford, passed away on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at First Health Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

Funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Monday, April 18, 2022, at Jonesboro Chapel AME Zion Church.

DAVID PEREZ NIEVES

May 13, 1956 ~ April 5, 2022

David Perez Nieves, 65 of Sanford, passed away Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at his residence.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Friday, April 15, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home.

HAZEL RAY CAMERON

March 29, 1945 ~ April 12, 2022

Hazel Ray Cameron passed away on April 12, 2022.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home in Sanford. Burial followed at Lee Memory Garden.

RICKY BOYKIN

Ricky Boykin, 65, of Sanford, passed away on Monday, April 4, 2022.

The funeral service was held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 12 at Blandonia Presbyteriana Church.

CHAUNCEY DEAN RUSSELL

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

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 10, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home.

ALVIN EDWARD AUSTIN

Alvin Edward Austin, 62, of Sanford, died Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at his home.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, April 17, 2022, at 3 p.m. at First Apostolic Church with Rev. George Akers presiding.

Alvin was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on January 28, 1960, to the late Alvin Melvin Austin and Ruby Johnson Austin. He was also preceded in death by one brother, Robert Austin.

Surviving relatives include two daughters, Amanda Patton and Jessica Hall, both of Sanford; one son, Shane Austin of Surf City; one stepdaughter, Corina Beal of Garland; 15 grandchildren; and three sisters, Cathy Freeman of Sanford, Debbie Gambrel of Kitts Hill, Ohio, and Darlene Breeden of Natural Bridge, Virginia.

Condolences may be made at www.donaldsonfunerals.com.

WILLIAM EDWARD SWANN

April 15, 1962 ~ April 16, 2022

William Edward Swann, 60, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, April 16, 2022.

Knotts Funeral Home is serving the family.

DE'BORA MARIE KING

November 25, 2018 ~ April 2, 2022

Little Miss De'borra Marie King, 3, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 2022, at True Gospel United Church of God with burial following at Johnsonville Community Cemetery.

JOHN LATHAN JONES

September 6, 1932 ~ April 9, 2022

John Lathan Jones, 89, of Sanford, passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Memorial service was held at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16, 2022, at Blandonia Presbyterian Church.

Chatham community gives the gift of life

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County employees and residents rolled up their sleeves on April 13 to give the gift of life at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, with 37 lifesaving blood donations collected to help hospital patients in need.

The Chatham County Employee Blood Drive is held every April with the American Red Cross. This spring, it's critically important the Red Cross maintains a readily available blood supply for patients. During National Volunteer Month in April, the Red Cross celebrates volunteer donors, who are the only source of blood, platelets and plasma for those in need. The Red Cross depends on volunteer donors to collect about 12,500 blood donations and nearly 3,000 platelet donations every day.

Volunteer donors included Chatham County resident Laurie Badone, who began donating while she was in college.

"There is a great need for blood, and I enjoy being able to help people with my donation," said Badone. "I admit that I have a bit of a needle and blood phobia, but the Red Cross staff do an awesome job, and they always make me feel comfortable."

The Red Cross blood supply remains vulnerable, and donated blood has a limited shelf life, so supplies must be continuously replenished to ensure sufficient inventory of blood products.

With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential for



Courtesy of Chatham County

Chatham resident Laurie Badone, a blood donor, shown with Johnnie Walker, a Red Cross Collections Specialist.



Courtesy of Chatham County

Blood donor and Red Cross volunteer Andrew Withrow, a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill.

hospital patients in need of transfusions. Patients need blood for a variety

of reasons, including individuals who have experienced trauma, peo-

ple fighting cancers and those with chronic illness like sickle cell disease.

Chatham County employee Jina Stamey donates blood in memory of her mom, who needed blood when she battled an illness.

"The blood my mom received was super important, and there's a good chance she would not have lived as long as she did without it," said Stamey. "I try to give as often as I can, because I know there are others like my mom who need it."

In addition to donors, the Red Cross needs individuals to volunteer at blood drives. Blood Donor Ambassadors engage donors by greeting, registering, answering questions, providing information, and supporting them through the recovery process at the



Courtesy of Chatham County

Blood donor Jina Stamey, a Chatham County employee.

refreshments table. The special attention these volunteers provide helps create a favorable impression that encourages ongoing donor support.

Andrew Withrow is a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill. After donating blood for several years, he decided to get involved even more as a Blood Donor Ambassador.

"I feel like I have a responsibility to help

others," said Withrow. "Being a volunteer is just another way to be part of the blood donation process, and I really enjoy it."

Information about blood donation and volunteer opportunities can be found by downloading the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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Small amounts of 1,4-Dioxane present in Pittsboro's treated water

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Small traces of 1,4-Dioxane were found in Pittsboro's water supply after a discharge of the likely carcinogenic compound on April 5.

Greensboro alerted the town to the release of 1,4-Dioxane into the Haw River on April 6, and Pittsboro town

staff asked to test water samples from town storage tanks following news of the discharge.

Town Manager Chris Kennedy provided an update last Thursday evening, releasing the newest lab results to the public. The treated water located at Pittsboro's treatment facility had a low concentration of 1,4-Dioxane with 4.94 micrograms per liter on April 11 and 1.97 micrograms per liter on April

12. "The numbers ... indicate limited contamination thus far with the event," Kennedy wrote in his Thursday news release. "The town expects this trend to continue with low levels of 1,4-Dioxane in our distribution system with consistent non-detect results in our raw water grabs."

Pittsboro hasn't provided updates in the last week. Staff are continuing

to send water samples for testing, as well as discussing potential solutions with Greensboro and the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality.

This is an ongoing story. Updates will be provided on the News + Record website at www.chathamnewsrecord.com.

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

CHATHAM CHAT | CHERYL CHAMBLEE

ClydeFEST returns to Bynum for 20th anniversary

BYNUM — For the first time since 2019, the Chatham Arts Council's ClydeFEST will return to Bynum. It's scheduled for 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, at the Bynum Ball Field inside Earl Thompson Park.

This year's celebration will also mark ClydeFEST's 20th anniversary — and for the first time since its inception, the kid' arts carnival will be free to children of all ages. This week, we speak with Cheryl Chamblee, the Chatham Arts Council's artistic director, about the carnival's return, history and free admission, as well as what Chatham can expect from ClydeFEST this year.

Chamblee attended her first ClydeFEST in the spring of 2013, just six months after she'd taken the reins as executive director of the Chatham Arts Council. She immediately fell in love with the carnival's "barn-raising atmosphere," what she described as the Chatham community coming together to "make a beautiful thing happen for kids all over the county."

"As Artistic Director of CAC, I get to work alongside a crew of amazing part-time staff and seriously dedicated long-time volunteers over many months to bring ClydeFEST to life," she said. "Every time, it's so hard. And every time, it's so worth it. Seeing those small kiddos in those over-sized t-shirt smocks crouched down in the grass with their plywood penguin or snake or turtle, painting and glittering with absolute concentration while that blue spring sky gleams overhead — it gets me every time."

Here's what she had to say about this year's ClydeFEST:



Submitted photo

A child tries out a stringed instrument at ClydeFEST's High Strung Instrument Petting Zoo. Named after Bynum folk art legend Clyde Jones, the Chatham Arts Council's ClydeFEST is a family-friendly day of hands-on arts immersion for children of all ages.

First things first: Chatham County hasn't celebrated ClydeFEST since 2019, and this year is the festival's 20th anniversary, no less. How does it feel to be able to celebrate ClydeFEST in person once again?

It's a bizarre mix of feeling totally normal and not quite believing it. There was a time when any of us would've given our eyeteeth to be able to gather like this again, and I try to remember that when we do things now. I don't want the gratitude and magic of it to fade. And there really is so much magic in an in-person ClydeFEST anyway!

What, if any, lingering COVID precautions or restrictions will be in place?

It's a big help that the festival is completely outdoors. We're shifting our usual face-painting to arm- and back-of-hand

painting to create a little extra distance, and we'll have plenty of hand sanitizer at spots all around the field. Anyone who feels safer in a mask is encouraged to wear one. Fluidity is the name of the game now, and we'll make sure we're following any guidelines that are in place at that time.

This year is the festival's 20th anniversary. In light of that, can you tell us a bit more about the festival's history and its place in Chatham County?

The early days of ClydeFEST were created as some sort of alchemy among Bynum Front Porch, Chatham Arts Council, and a group of special folks who decided to do something fun to honor folk artist Clyde Jones. From what I hear, the first few years were more along the lines of a mini Fearington Folk

Art Show, and it bounced around a bit from the Chatham County Fairgrounds to Shakori to a CAC space on Highway 64.

Around 2008 or so, ClydeFEST experienced a bit of a dip, and Bynum residents River Dukes and Diana Garside were working to reimagine it. They pulled in Stephan Meyers, who helped a slew of volunteers put the focus on the kids, where Clyde wanted it to be. Bynum residents welcomed the festival to the Bynum Ballfield, and with Stephan, Gilda McDaniel, Debbie Bousquet, and other ClydeFEST stalwarts pitching in, the crew focused on packing in as much art, learning, outdoors, and community feeling as possible. ClydeFEST's identity as the most unique kids' outdoor arts festival in the state coalesced. Parents and kids loved how the sweet fenced-in ballfield made for a safe place to let kids be free, and Clyde — on his iconic purple lawn mower — could escort festival-goers a few houses down to his yard, which was full of critters in all stages of completion. Now, at the 20th anniversary, Clyde's house is more of a Clyde gallery he visits from time to time on outings from his home at The Laurels, but the focus of ClydeFEST is still about kids making art outside together.

As for the festival's place in Chatham, it's been observed that, while the mill established the Bynum community, Clyde and his Critters have been part of the glue that has held Bynum together in such a special way. Chatham newcomers may not know that Clyde has never sold his Critters; he has only ever given them away — to friends, to neighbors, to organizations that raise money for kids. There's a spirit of community there of going against the grain to help create the kind of place you'd like to call home that feels very much a part

IF YOU'RE GOING:

WHAT: Art, games, music, food, critters and a silent auction for a Clyde Jones original work of art to commemorate ClydeFEST's 20th anniversary.

WHO: Children of all ages, plus "their grown-ups."

WHERE: The Bynum Ball Field inside Earl Thompson Park, just south of Chapel Hill/Carrboro towards Pittsboro.

WHEN: Saturday, April 30th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRICE: Free.

GETTING THERE: Park in the Carolina Brewery / Lowe's parking lot at 120 Lowes Drive in Pittsboro and take the Sky Blue Express Bus to Bynum. The bus will leave at every half-hour mark from Pittsboro and at every hour mark from Bynum between 10:30 a.m. and approximately 4:30 p.m.

of the unique identity of Chatham County.

ever. Why? What prompted the Arts Council to make that decision?

I'm so glad you asked this! It's been a secret dream of ours to make ClydeFEST free for years now, and thanks to a whole pile of new and returning sponsors — especially naming sponsors The Jester Group at Baird — ClydeFEST is indeed free to all for the first time ever on our 20th Anniversary. The arts are critical to mental, emotional, and physical health, and we want to be a part of equitable access to the arts for all the kids in Chatham. It's a huge part of what we do through Artists-in-Schools, ArtAssist for Kids, and Truck-and-Trailer Roving Performances — and we're working to remove barriers to ClydeFEST participation, too.

This year's ClydeFEST takes place on April 30, the same day as Chatham Partnership for Children's Día de los Libros event. How, if at all, do you expect that to impact attendance?

Yes! We love Día de los Libros; we support it financially through our Grassroots Arts Grants. We try not to have them fall on the same day, but we're making the most of it. We're so excited to bring a little ClydeFEST spirit to Día de los Libros this year by giving out Critter Cut-outs and paints at our booth there. As for attendance, we hope folks will consider checking out both festivals. There's time!

Anything else you want to add?

Three quick things:

- The auction is a silent auction this year, and it's actually open online now. Folks can find it at 32auctions.com/clydefest22.
- We've still got open volunteer spots, and we'd sure love to have you come on out to help. You can sign up on the CAC website (www.chathamartscouncil.org/clydefest-volunteer-registration/). It'll be fun!
- We're making parking easy! We've got a shuttle to and from Carolina Brewery, so make use of it!

This year's ClydeFEST is free to all for the first time

52-year-old inmate dies in Chatham County Detention Center

CN+R Staff Report

PITTSBORO — A Siler City man serving time for probation violation and scheduled for release in May was found dead Friday night in the Chatham County Detention Center, apparently of “natural causes.”

Michael Capone, 52, was found in “medical distress” just before 8 p.m. Friday by staff members performing rounds at the detention center. “Upon further inspection, the inmate was found to be unresponsive with a

weak pulse,” the Chatham Sheriff’s Office said in a release on Saturday morning.

“Detention Officers leapt into action to provide emergency care, performing CPR and other life-saving measures alongside FirstHealth EMS for nearly 40 minutes,” the release said. “Unfortunately, their joint attempts to resuscitate the inmate were unsuccessful.”

“Our staff members are shocked and saddened by Mr. Capone’s sudden passing,” Sheriff’s Office Captain Tammy Kirkman was quoted in the release

as saying. “We strive to provide the highest quality of care to individuals in our custody, so losing someone in our facility despite our best efforts to save him is nothing short of traumatic.”

“Our hearts go out to Mr. Capone’s surviving family and friends. Regardless of his custodial status at the time of death, he was a human being and his memory deserves respect,” Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson said. “Any loss of life is a tragedy, especially when it happens so suddenly. Our Victim Services Coordinators will be

available to provide emotional support and assistance as needed.”

Capone’s is the first in-custody death to occur inside the Chatham County Detention Center, according to the release.

“An investigation is currently underway to determine Mr. Capone’s cause of death and the circumstances leading up to his passing,” said Sheriff’s Office Lieutenant Sara Pack. “Although natural causes are suspected, we are still waiting on official autopsy results from the medical examiner regarding this unfortunate event.”

Immigrant Advisory Committee shares subcommittee updates, challenges to carrying out BIC plan

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — The Immigrant Community Advisory Committee shared subcommittee updates and pinpointed community engagement as a major roadblock to achieving goals outlined in the Building Integrated Communities plan during its monthly meeting last Tuesday.

But first, several subcommittees reported a more immediate and short-term challenge: town staff turnover and unavailability.

Following former Town Manager Roy Lynch’s resignation, Siler City’s new manager, Hank Raper, will not start until about mid-May, human resources director Nancy Darden told the committee. Town clerk Jenifer Johnson, the Communication & Leadership subcommittee’s town specialist, has also resigned her post and will leave Siler City for Pittsboro around the end of April. Darden will temporarily assume her role.

“So that is the biggest report coming from our subcommittee as well,” Chairperson Hanina Benitez, a Communications & Leadership subcommittee member, told the committee. “... On our part because of this transition, we (the subcommittee) have decided not to meet until June, the second week of June, right before our regular meeting.”

The Public Safety and Law Enforcement subcommittee has also been unable to schedule a meeting with Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner to discuss the BIC plan, something which Darden promised to help them address.

“We’re kind of paused for a bit, because we don’t really know who to reach out to ... because there’s a lot that we feel like we can do, but we also need to talk to Chief and see what is it that he would like to see more of that we can help

with within the community,” subcommittee member Shirley Villatoro said. “But like I said, we’ve kind of just been kind of, like, at a stop, because we haven’t been able to make contact with anyone.”

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

All subcommittee topics derive from the town’s 44-item Building Integrated Communities action plan, which community leaders finalized in early 2019 to address immigrant residents’ needs based on information gathered during a two- to three-year community planning project. Residents may view it in full at [unc. live/3Donqpl](https://www.siler-city.com/3Donqpl).

Yet, as the remaining subcommittees told the committee at large, engaging and involving the immigrant community poses a greater challenge to carrying out the BIC plan and achieving its long-term goals.

“I don’t think that is that our community doesn’t want to get involved, but I think our community has been known as, like, the sleeping giant,” member Victoria Navarro told the committee during her Parks & Recreation and Mental Health subcommittee report. “The Latinx community I think they’re just so used to ... people don’t speak directly to them. They just kind of go with the flow. They work. They take part in the community in certain ways, but they’re not involved, so I think they almost need that handheld approach for the first couple of times to get them involved, to get them in the community, and they

flourish on their own.”

Business & Entrepreneurship subcommittee members Norma Hernandez and Jisselle Perdomo found that this challenge had especially thwarted town- and county-level economic organizations’ attempts to include and serve local immigrant entrepreneurs.

According to their written report, one or both met with Siler City Downtown Advisory Committee member Richard Szary, Siler City Planning and Community Development Director Jack Meadows, and Central Carolina Community College Small Business Center Coordinator Phillip Pappas to discuss available resources, goals, challenges and ongoing efforts to address immigrant business owners’ needs.

One common thread of discussion? Latino and immigrant entrepreneurs’ lack of participation.

“I think what we gathered from talking to several people was just that they (CCCC) are offering small business classes there,” Hernandez told the committee. “... they’re offering (them) in Spanish, it’s free, it’s one-on-one, and they just don’t see a lot of participation from the Latinos or Spanish-speaking community. And so, we talked a lot about how it’s not language because it clearly is offered ... in Spanish, but they just didn’t get anyone.”

The solution, she said, may be to take a “more grassroots approach” to marketing — meeting community members where they are as opposed to “advertising on the community college website only.” She cited School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA) founder Valencia Toomer’s efforts to increase Hispanic enrollment in her Pittsboro charter school as an example.

“What she did was she literally went out to all the Spanish-speaking churches,

and that got some participation, because now, you know, it allowed a two-way conversation,” Hernandez said. “So parents were able to ask her, you know, ‘Well, what is it? What is SABA? Why would I want to send my kid there?’”

Beyond minimal participation, Hernandez also relayed a conversation with Pappas identifying other potential barriers some Latino entrepreneurs may face, including legal issues.

“Like, can they start businesses with just ITINs and EIN numbers, I think I saw? So, there was a lot of that discussion — and he didn’t know, either. This is probably more of a question for an immigrant accountant that could deal with some of that stuff,” she said. “... As far as businesses, we have businesses. It’s legitimizing those businesses, and making them formal and helping them take advantage of all the opportunities that businesses are offered, like small business loans and special taxation.”

The Immigrant Advisory Committee will convene again on Tuesday, May 10 via Zoom at 6 p.m.

Other meeting business

Siler City ESL teacher Alirio Estevez addressed committee members at the start of last Tuesday’s meeting, encouraging them to connect with CCCC’s vice president of workforce development, Margaret Robertson, about a workforce training program “that will benefit our Latino youth.” Robertson, he said, seeks input from Latino community leaders to make the program the best it can be.

“It will be a training that they wouldn’t have to pay (for) ... and will provide them with a job after they finish their training — and the jobs are with good companies that will provide a good salary and good benefits,” Estevez said. “These are technological and

manufacturing companies, and as you may know, our area is getting a lot of new companies. So that will be a good opportunity for our students, for our youth, to learn a trade, to get a good job if they don’t want to go to college.”

A member of the Chatham Literacy Council board, Estevez also asked committee members to consider joining the literacy nonprofit’s board of directors.

“Most of our clients are female and Latinos, like over nearly 80%, but unfortunately, I’m the only Latino on the board, and I’m male, so we need more voices, female voices, Latina voices,” he told the board. “... We need perspectives from different people, and you will be a godsend voice in our board because we need to hear from you, people like you who know the community.”

Chatham Literacy also would like to expand its programming, including Spanish literacy classes, as well as financial literacy courses in English and Spanish. To ensure the expanded programming best meets the needs of those it’s designed for, Estevez said they’d like to gather more and diverse feedback.

“Some of our families have said that they want to learn Spanish because they don’t know how to read in Spanish, and they haven’t received any elementary or secondary education,” he said, adding, “Your insight and advice will lead our organization to better serve our community. As I said, I’m the only Latino, and I don’t want to be alone. I invite you to join us. ... I really would love, love, love to have you serving in Chatham Literacy and to participate in the CCCC program.”

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

NEWS BRIEF

Pittsboro adds public information officer, emergency management coordinator

PITTSBORO — Colby W. Sawyer has been named public information officer and emergency management coordinator for the town of Pittsboro, and will be responsible for issuing and posting press releases.

Prior to this role, he served as the emergency management specialist for Chatham County and the emergency management coordinator for the North Carolina Ferry System. He is a General and Specialized Instructor for North Carolina Emergency Management and qualified to teach for FEMA’s Emergency Management Institute. Sawyer has a B.A. in Criminology and Psychology and Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and serves on the North Carolina All-Hazards Incident Management Team.

—CN+R staff reports

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Carolina Tiger Rescue welcomes 2 red wolves to the sanctuary

Females from endangered group won't be on display, in accordance with RWSSP guidelines

From Carolina Animal Rescue

PITTSBORO — Carolina Tiger Rescue has announced the arrival of two 3-year-old female red wolves to the sanctuary, joining 49 other sanctuaries, zoos, and facilities as a part of the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan (RWSSP) and assisting in the captive breeding, care of, and public education about the critically endangered animals.

The two wolves, Caroline and Mist, are settling in nicely in the back of the sanctuary.

"We are incredibly proud to take part in such an important and extensive conservation plan for red wolves," said Carolina Tiger Rescue Executive Director Kris Marino. "In partnership with the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan and other involved facilities, we look forward to caring for Caroline and Mist and doing our part to save this special native species."

Caroline and Mist were born at the Durham Museum of Life and Science before being transferred to the Mill Mountain Zoo in Virginia. Now, they will live at the sanctuary for the next few



Courtesy of Carolina Tiger Rescue

The red wolf Caroline, who's 3 years old.

years while they reach the appropriate age for breeding. Both females are a vital part of the RWSSP, a set of extensive conservation measures and activities designed to ensure the longevity and security of red wolves as a species. Carolina Tiger's role in the RWSSP is to help free up space at other facilities for the continuation of the breeding program.

Red wolves are considered "the American wolf." Once native to the eastern part of the United States, aggressive predator mitigation strategies and habitat

loss virtually wiped them out during the 20th century. After a tumultuous few decades, the RWSSP reports that there are now approximately 20 to 30 individuals left in the wild (located in eastern North Carolina) and more than 200 individuals in captivity. Red wolves are critically important to North Carolina's ecosystems and could help control the overpopulation of a number of invasive species were they to return to and thrive in their native environment.

Caroline and Mist will not be on public display at the sanctuary in accor-



Courtesy of Carolina Tiger Rescue

Mist (in rear of photo) and Caroline, the two female red wolves now living at Carolina Tiger Rescue's Sanctuary.

dance with RWSSP guidelines. To keep up with news, photos, videos, and continued updates on their care, visit Carolina Tiger Rescue's website, Facebook, and Insta-

gram profiles, starting at <https://carolinatigerrescue.org>.

Carolina Tiger Rescue is a 501(c)3 GFAS-accredited nonprofit wildlife sanctuary dedicated to

saving and protecting wild cats in captivity and in the wild. We work toward a day when wild cats are living in their native habitats and not exploited by humans.

Budget director: Chatham on pace to exceed annual budget by \$2 million

BY KEITH T. BARBER
News + Record
Correspondent

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Finance Director Darrell Butts told the county commissioners Monday that despite the economic impacts of the global pandemic, the growth of the county's tax base has remained steady in the first seven months of the current fiscal year and will lead to an expansion of the county's budget by roughly \$2 million

"Actual collections are about \$1.7 million ahead of last year," Butts stated during the board's work session. "We've collected nearly \$12.5 million, so that's pretty rapid

growth."

Butts stated that six of the seven collection months in fiscal year 2022 have exceeded the same time period in fiscal year 2021 with the exception of January 2022.

"January collections were lower than last year by about 7 percent or \$100,000," Butts said. "It was actually the lowest month we had and since February of 2021."

Butts said the area where this trend is most evident is Article 46 sales tax, otherwise known as the one-quarter cent county sales and use tax.

The county budgeted \$1.6 million in Article 46 sales tax receipts for fiscal year 2022, allocating \$1 million of that revenue

towards education and the remaining \$600,000 toward affordable housing, agricultural preservation and enhancement and parks & recreation projects.

"We're \$39,000 and some change over budget through seven months" in collections, Butts stated. "So at the regular meeting in May, we'll be bringing a budget amendment to you to amend that Article 46 budget. We are on pace to exceed that that budget by between \$900,000 and \$1 million."

The county's annual budget is \$155,448,460.

Cara Townsend, Vaya Health's director of community relations, presented a map to the board depicting Vaya Health's

service area, which includes Chatham, during Monday's work session. Vaya Health manages publicly funded behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities services in 23 western North Carolina counties, including Chatham County.

Board Chairperson Karen Howard asked Townsend how Chatham residents living in the far reaches of the county would access mental health services if they are living just outside Vaya Health's service map area.

"We're looking at creative ways," Townsend answered. "We can have some providers come to Chatham County who aren't based here, so they could be based in Raleigh, and they can come here to do visits or assessments, but we are working through that."

Townsend stated Vaya Health had formed a work group to address a number of concerns raised by local stakeholders with regard to Chatham residents needing behavioral health services who could easily fall through the cracks. Townsend acknowledged that, at present, Chatham County does not have a domestic violence shelter or a homeless shelter.

Commissioner Diana Hales pointed out that Chatham County had previously partnered with Orange County to pool their mental health resources when Cardinal Health served as the county's behavioral health services provider. Townsend informed Hales that based on Vaya Health's service area map, Chatham would now partner with Alamance County to address future behavioral health needs.

"What type of relationship or partnerships do you have with the school district?" Commissioner Robert Logan asked Townsend. "How is that working?"

"It's working well," Townsend said. "It could

always be better. We're looking for creative solutions... I would love to work with you to figure out solutions."

Commissioners also recognized Shawn Poe, executive director of Chatham Trades Inc., at Monday's work session. Poe told the board that Chatham Trades is currently celebrating its 42nd year of serving intellectually and developmentally disabled adults in Chatham County, and Chatham Trades was recently named an inaugural community grant recipient of the N.C. Dept. of Labor's Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program or SHARP.

The SHARP Program is designed for small- and mid-size employers that have established, implemented and maintained exceptional workplace safety standards, according to the state agency's website.

Poe played a short video about the Siler City nonprofit, whose mission is to assist individuals in attaining goals enabling them to function at their highest degree of self-sufficiency and to integrate into the community.

"I just felt like it was important for the commissioners to see what others are seeing in the community," Poe said at the conclusion of the presentation, "and we certainly appreciate all the support that the county has given to us through the years."

Howard was visibly moved by Poe's presentation.

"As a parent of a special needs child, this touches me so deeply," Howard said. "He's a high functioning autistic individual, and I don't know whether he will need the kind of services you offer but to know that our community values these individuals — as human beings, as contributors — as an integral part of our community ..."

"It's just such a wonderful thing and to see the collaborations that came together to make

all of this possible — to know that our county staff is as deeply committed to ensuring that all of us have a place at home in Chatham County," Howard added.

Other meeting business

• Commissioners approved a request to accept \$16,444 from the N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services to help fund a portion of local expenditures created by state-mandated food, lodging and institution sanitation program. The funds will be administered by the Chatham County Public Health Department.

• Commissioners also approved a resolution to submit a \$400,000 grant application to the N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality to underwrite a feasibility study for a proposed new regional water treatment plant. In addition, county commissioners approved the acceptance of a \$2,500 grant on behalf of the Equity for Moms and Babies Across Chatham, or EMBRACe project, from the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

• Finally, Commissioner Logan lavished praise on the Chatham County Schools' One Chatham initiative, saying he was very impressed by the event held April 8 at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center. "I attend a lot of school district strategic planning sessions such as that, and that one was done as well as any I've seen across this country," Logan said. "I'm very comfortable knowing that this Board of Education and the school district are doing their jobs, and they are looking at this through an inclusive community approach."

The Chatham County Board of Commissioners will hold its next regular meeting on Monday, May 2, at 6 p.m. at the Historic Courthouse in Pittsboro.

Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling Earth Day Event



Saturday, April 23, 2022 Starts at 9 am



FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING 9 am - 1 pm

Residents can bring up to three boxes or bags of documents from their household. No businesses.



COMPOST BIN SALES 9 am - 1 pm

Backyard compost bins are available for purchase for \$45 each. \$5 for kitchen collector. Cash, check, debit, or credit.



MEDICINE TAKE BACK 9 am - 3 pm

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a medicine take back of unwanted medications. No needles.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 9 am - 3 pm

Residents can bring household hazardous waste items for proper disposal. Limit of 20 gallons of latex paint cans per household.

Spring mulch sales are scheduled as usual from 7:30 am to Noon

We load, you haul. \$5 per small scoop (~1 cubic yard) and \$10 per large scoop.

All loads must be secured. Mulch sales are cash or check only.

Solid Waste & Recycling Main Facility 28 County Services Road, Pittsboro

For more details - www.chathamcountync.gov/recycle

Guardians ad Litem: carefully selected, thoroughly trained

BY ZENDA DOUGLAS
News + Record
Correspondent

Editor's note: Due to a production error, an incorrect version of this story was published in last week's edition. This is the second of two parts.

People from all walks of life volunteer as Guardians ad Litem — retirees, students, people with flexible jobs or extra time, people who are interested in fostering children but not quite ready to take that step, and people who just want to give back.

Once an aspiring Guardian ad Litem turns in an application, program staff conduct screening interviews and background checks to determine if the person is a good fit.

The GAL program seeks long-term commitment from volunteers — at least a year and a half.

“One of our goals is for a child to have one guardian advocate throughout their time in the child welfare judicial system,” said Nicole Roman, the program’s district administrator.

On average, it takes about 18 months for children to be reunified with their parents — and sometimes three years, depending on the situation.

“We don’t want to discourage people from participating, but we do evaluate their life commitments to make sure they have the time needed,” Roman said.

GAL volunteers spend about an average of 10 hours per month on a case. One volunteer is usually appointed to a sibling group, which would require additional time.

“We also have to be very transparent about telling applicants that this is very difficult work — emotionally difficult. Some volunteers take one case

and don’t stay in the program,” said Roman.

The program offers training three to four times per year. A training course requires a minimum of 30 hours.

“The training was fabulous,” said GAL volunteer Marcia Cordova-Roth. “It provided understanding of the common challenges and issues that bring kids into the foster care system. I learned a lot about different aspects of issues such as domestic violence, substance use, incarceration, mental illness, homelessness, financial and food insecurity. Many families are experiencing multiple stressors simultaneously.”

Other components of the training deal with what’s available in the way of services, how to write a court report and how to understand — from the child’s perspective — all of the different parts of the report having to do with placement needs, school, relationship and visitation with a biological parent and family, medical/emotional/psychological needs and community involvement.

“We role play through various scenarios, discuss specific cases and talk with other trainees about what we were able to learn from documents such as previous court reports, medical records and criminal histories such as if the parent has been involved with substance use, been in treatment or spent time in a homeless shelter,” said Cordova-Roth.

“One of the things we learn in training is how to look at things with a trauma lens versus looking at it from our own perspective,” added GAL volunteer Janice Summers.

“This helps when seeing some parents so focused on survival but not doing what we need them to do to get their children back. A lot of them are doing the best they can.”

By any measure, the Guardian ad Litem has a tough job. Many work with children who often come out of homes in which families struggle with addiction, domestic violence or both.

“Even if the actual abuse is occurring among the adults in the home, the children are witnessing this, and it’s so destructive and psychologically damaging,” said GAL volunteer Karen Frisch.

“For kids that have been in the foster care system for a long time, there is greater likelihood that they have accumulated more trauma, have had tremendous challenges in staying engaged in education and are less likely to have the independent living skills that you would see with a peer who has not had the experience of being in the foster care system,” added Cordova-Roth.

According to Summers, building relationships with the children is essential because Guardian ad Litem need to ask them some hard questions and get information.

“I have to practice empathetic listening, to be able to step into their shoes and eyes. I need them to trust me,” she said. “As a Guardian ad Litem, sometimes we are the bright spot when children have been taken away from their homes.”

“To gain trust, you must really listen,” said Cordova-Roth. “A lot of people think that teens don’t want to talk. I have found that teens do want to talk. Once they know you are being real and honest, they open up.”

Staying connected with children and parents has been challenging for guardians during the COVID pandemic, during which they held “visits” virtually with Zoom calls.

“Sometimes I go and we just stand outside the house to at

least see the home they are living in,” said Frisch. “Some of the foster parents don’t have up-to-date technology, so we can’t do FaceTime, for instance. It’s been a fraught time for all of that.”

The pandemic significantly lowered the number of cases reported — not because of fewer incidences but because the children weren’t in public settings, such as school, permitting other people to see, pick up and report problems.

But guardians have one advantage: They can access a child’s records through teachers, therapists, psychologists and other health care providers who supply them with health diagnoses and information regarding medications and treatments.

What children want

“Over and over again, no matter what has happened, kids love and want to be with their parent, particularly for very young kids and even for some teenagers,” said Cordova-Roth. “It’s tragic to have to tell a child their mom is not able to keep them safe, to meet their needs.”

Conversely, sometimes parents have made sustained progress and seek to reunite with a child, but a child may say he or she is still really scared to go home.

What is good for the child is not always what is good for the adults involved, according to Roman. It can be heavy and draining to be part of a system that moves slowly and sad to walk alongside a child going through this process.

“Our job is to amplify the child’s needs and wishes, whatever they are, in the court, but sometimes the court doesn’t do what the child wants,” Roman said. “What we can do is provide continuity for the kids — a nurturing, caring adult

that shows up, time and time again.”

Children under 12 years old may go to court but generally have less understanding of the process and less interest in doing so. Older children often want to hear the judge but are not required to go.

“If the child is older and wants to come to court, I have the responsibility to make sure the child may testify and is heard,” said Karen Davidson, District 15B’s GAL attorney. “A great deal of thought and effort goes into deciding if going to court would be damaging or scary for the child.”

The Guardian ad Litem program’s primary objective isn’t the same as that of the Department of Social Services, Davidson said.

“The DSS’s objective is reunification, period,” she said. “They are seeking to come in and rectify the situation that brought the child into the system and return the child to their family. Clearly, if it’s harmful to the child, they will work to place the child, preferably in a kinship situation. They focus on the family, not the individual child.”

“There have been times when I disagreed with the DSS,” said Frisch. “We’re not rubberstamps. As long as I feel that we are all working in the best interest of the child, it’s a very cooperative, non-adversarial relationship. Our recommendations are usually followed.”

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 or call Nicole Roman and the District 15B office at (919) 644-4753.

Interest volunteers can access and fill in applications online.

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3 J-M juniors to head to N.C. Governor's School this summer, making school history

BY VICTORIA JOHNSON
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — For the first time in at least 41 years, three Jordan-Matthews juniors have been selected from among thousands to attend N.C. Governor's School this summer. Calvin Conroy, Maggie Thornton and Brady Andrew will attend Governor's School West at Winston-Salem State University from June 19 to July 16. Schools from across the state nominated over 1,700 high school students for the program, but only 820 — including Conroy, Thornton and Andrew — made the final cut.

"We're really proud of these great young people, and I'm delighted that they're going to have the chance to represent Jordan-Matthews," JMArts' president, Rose Pate, told the News + Record. She's been at the school for 41 years. "Through the years, in many years, we've had at least one student chosen from our school, and in some years, we've had two, but I believe this is the first time we've had three."

Founded in 1963, N.C. Governor's School is the nation's oldest statewide residential summer program for gifted high school students. Held at two North Carolina college campuses over a course of weeks, the program empowers select rising seniors to explore their academic and artistic interests and learn for the sake of learning, without worrying about grades or test scores.

Governor's School offers five academic disciplines — English, world languages, mathematics, natural science and social science — as well as five performing and visual arts disciplines, including art, choral music, instrumental music, dance and theater. Conroy, Thornton and Andrew will be going for social science, English and Spanish respectively.



Courtesy of Rose Pate

Three J-M juniors Brady Andrew (left), Calvin Conroy (middle) and Maggie Thornton will attend N.C. Governor's School this summer. More than 1,700 high school students across the state applied to attend, but just 820 were selected for the opportunity.

Schools first nominated students in December, based on a student applicant pool, and those chosen received the news in late March.

According to the N.C. Governor's School Nomination packet, school systems, charter schools, federal schools, special schools or non-public schools may only nominate a limited number of students to attend based on their total 10th- and 11th-grade populations. Per the packet's nomination chart, Chatham County Schools — with a population of just over 1,400 10th and 11th graders — could nominate up to eight students for academic disciplines, two for world languages and 16 for performing and visual arts.

"And you know, the bigger the school, usually the more students that have this opportunity," Pate said. "We're kind of a small-to-medium school, so it is really unusual to have

three kids from a school our size."

All three juniors are dual-language students, play in the school's marching band and participated in the school's spring musical, "Oklahoma!" They'd originally heard about N.C. Governor's from family and friends, and decided to give it a shot.

"I hadn't heard about it at all until my sister went," said Andrew, who's also involved in J-M's student government. "She's three years older than me, and ... she said that it just really changed her life. You know, she met people that she's still best friends with. She met her college roommate there, and she said this change in kind of how she viewed herself and how she viewed society was greatly impacted by it. So that's what really made me want to go."

Andrew then spread the

word to Thornton, prompting her to apply as well, while Conroy's mother, an alumna of the program, encouraged him to apply.

"The main thing is, I want to meet new people," said Thornton, who also plays basketball, soccer and tennis for Jordan-Matthews. "I'm kind of shy, so it's going to be kind of scary, but like, I want to challenge myself, and have, like, a life-changing experience."

While she applied for the English track based on her passion of writing and reading, Conroy put himself down for social science to pursue his interest in geography and other social studies.

"I'm, like, kind of a geography expert and stuff, you could say," Conroy said with a laugh. "I really like social studies, and all that kind of stuff. I think it's interesting. I want to learn more about the discipline and

all, so I figured I ought to apply there."

Similarly, Andrew said he chose Spanish to improve his language skills and learn more about Spanish-speaking cultures.

"I just thought, you know, what a perfect opportunity," he said. "I could use my Spanish-speaking skills ... and not only grow with my speaking, comprehending and writing abilities, but also just to kind of be more immersed in the culture and be able to make connections with other Spanish speakers, which we don't really have one have access to besides my close friends here at J-M. So, I think that would be super fun. I just saw it as a really good opportunity, especially for college. Going out in the real world and getting a job and being bilingual I think is just really a good skill."

Besides attending classes in their primary disciplines, each will also attend additional classes designed to help them develop their critical thinking, self-reflection and inquiry skills with students from various disciplines. But while they're excited to attend the classes themselves, all three said they're most looking forward to meeting new people, forging lifelong friendships and breaking outside of their comfort zones.

"I haven't been away from my parents for a month straight, which might be cool," Thornton said, laughing. "I mean, I think it's gonna be kind of nice."

"(I'm looking forward to) meeting new people, hanging out, being in — it's kind of in a big city and all, so getting out of this little country town," Conroy added. "... I'm really grateful for the opportunity to go to Governor's School."

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

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3 United Way of Chatham County residential campaigns win statewide awards

2021-'22 campaign sets record for most dollars raised in county history

From the United Way of Chatham County

The United Way of Chatham County's (UWCC) 2021/2022 campaign generated the most dollars and donors in its 36-year history in Chatham County, with 84% of donations coming from residential campaigns.

Three of UWCC's residential campaigns — Governors Club, Carolina Meadows and Encore at Briar Chapel — proved to be exceptional and record-breaking, each earning the Spirit of North Carolina Award from the United Way of North Carolina.

The Spirit of North Carolina Award is a statewide award and recognizes campaign excellence, honoring groups and organizations whose United Way campaigns exemplify the "spirit" of their community. The three UWCC campaigns were awarded in the "Campaign/Engagement Success" award category, which celebrates a campaign's growth in participation or dollars raised to build stronger loyalty to meeting the community need.

Spirit of North Carolina Award recipients meet specific standards of achievement and are selected by a team of United Way leaders from across the state. United Way of North Carolina leads the award nomination and judging process and presents the awards annually.

"The Governors Club, Carolina Meadows and Encore at Briar Chapel campaigns not only demonstrate excellence in their United Way campaigns, but are building a philanthropic culture community-wide," said Katie Childs, UWCC's executive director. "The ongoing and increasing support from all neighborhoods, donors and community partners in Chatham is outstanding."

Because of the 2021/2022 UWCC residential campaign success, Childs was invited to co-facilitate a workshop at the United Way Southeast Regional Conference, which will host 50 United Way representatives from an 11-state radius in late April. The workshop will highlight best-in-class practices that UWCC has learned from its community campaigns. In all, the conference will host more than 300 United Way representatives from the southeast region.

"I'm honored to represent Chatham County at the conference, sharing what makes our United Way campaign so unique and successful," said Childs. "Each year United Way board and staff lay the campaign's foundation. But the leadership, drive and passion from our neighborhood captains, support from commu-



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

The captains for Encore at Briar Chapel's campaign, which helped the United Way gain more than 100 new donors. Pictured, from left, are Gary LaMar, Stu Rothman, Lisa Rothman, Roscoe McWilliams, Donna Buckley, Jeff York, Melanie York, Bill Buckley, John Hughes, Dave Mirkovich and Mary Ann Hale.



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

George Evans, who oversaw the Carolina Meadows United Way campaign.

nity management, and buy-in from individuals and families are what enable United Way to increase its impact on poverty year after year."

Governors Club

UWCC's 2021 Governors Club residential campaign made United Way history in North Carolina: The neighborhood raised \$273,000 — the largest amount ever raised by a residential campaign in North Carolina. It was also the largest amount raised in Governors Club's 20-plus year history with UWCC. Governors Club utilizes a network of 27 area captains to champion the effort within their own streets/areas.

Carolina Meadows

UWCC's 2021 Carolina Meadows residential campaign raised the most in its 20-plus year history with United Way: the campaign brought in \$101,269, exceeding its campaign goal by 19%, and raising \$15,000 more in 2021 over 2020.

The Carolina Meadows residential campaign is led by United Way of Chatham County Board Treasurer George Evans, who is



Courtesy of the United Way of Chatham County

Area captains for Governors Club's United Way campaign, which played a significant role in a record-setting year. They are, bottom row, from left, Jim Sink, Helen Barnhardt, Pete Koelsch; second row, from left, Jim Kaufmann, Annie Lewis Garda, Carol Weingarten, John Caruso, Pam Caruso, Linda Patchett; third row, from left, Laura Mendelsohn, Stephanie Tindel, Jackson Breaks, Georgia Campbell; top row, from left, Mark Korell, Jane Mayberry, Jerry Wehmuller, Stan Campbell.

also an active and well-connected resident of Carolina Meadows.

Due to COVID-19, Carolina Meadows imposed visitor restrictions to ensure the safety of its residents. Evans saw this as an opportunity to remind residents of the importance of the United Way mission and organized a volunteer opportunity that could be completed without residents leaving the premises, and was part of UWCC's 2021 Day of Service.

Encore at Briar Chapel

UWCC's residential campaign reached a new neighborhood in

2021 — Encore at Briar Chapel — a new community for those aged 55 and above within the largest residential neighborhood in Chatham. One loyal United Way supporter and a new resident to Encore, John Hughes, helped coordinate a group of 16 neighborhood captains to spread the mission and impact United Way has in Chatham County. Encore captains also held socially distanced cookie exchanges, cocktail parties and door-to-door introductions to not only get to know their new neighbors, but to share the importance of supporting UWCC.

Because of the dedication of the Encore neighborhood captains, 66% of the Encore neighborhood donated to the campaign, with United Way gaining more than 100 new donors.

Each fall, UWCC kicks off its annual campaign, which includes more than 15 residential campaigns and countless volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in your neighborhood, please contact Katie Childs at 919-542-1110 or katie@UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org. Visit www.UnitedWayOfChathamCounty.org to learn more about our impact.

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Close losses define Bears' 0-3 performance in 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament

BY DAN E. WAY
News + Record
Correspondent

GRAHAM — Chatham Central's softball team wasn't able to explode offensively against Randleman because most of their best shots in the 5-2 loss were just at-'em bombs.

"When we did hit it, we hit it hard, right to them. They didn't have to move to make a play," Bears Head Coach Drew Hackney lamented after the game. "We couldn't find a hole."

The Bears finished 0-3 in the eight-team Southern Alamance

Patriots 25th Annual Easter Softball Tournament, dropping to 8-6 on the season. They lost 2-1 to Wayne Christian of Goldsboro on Friday night, and were edged 13-12 by South Granville on Saturday afternoon after the early morning loss to Randleman.

It was the first tournament Chatham Central played in this season, and each team was guaranteed to play three games. The Bears were a last-minute entry after another school dropped out, and they were the only 1A team competing among 2A, 3A and 4A squads.

"It's one of those games where you just weren't meant to win," Hackney said after the loss to Randleman. Runners were picked off base and caught stealing, ground conditions led to throwing errors, the team's best pitcher wasn't available to take the mound, the catcher was playing hurt and what looked to be a home run was declared a ground-rule double.

"We were just trying to make something happen," Hackney said of the base-running backfires. He was concerned that

See **EASTER**, page B3



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central head coach Drew Hackney (in red) addresses his team during a pause in the game during the Bears' 5-2 loss to the Randleman Tigers last Saturday.

SHIFTING INTO GEAR

How a 2-year hiatus, canceled 1st season only made the Chatham Chaos stronger

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

BRIAR CHAPEL — The first time they dug their tires into the dirt at Browns Creek, they had no idea it'd be the last.

After all, it was the Chatham County Chaos' first official race as a team on March 8, 2020, one sanctioned by the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) and its North Carolina branch, the North Carolina Interscholastic Cycling League (NCICL), to kick off its spring mountain biking season.

The bright-eyed student-athletes, with participants from both middle and high school, rode with the expectation that there'd be plenty of races left.

Then, COVID-19 happened.

It tore through the cycling world just as it did any other — races were canceled, restrictions were imposed and seasons were over. Just like that.

"We were honestly just trying to keep the team together through the pandemic because there were a lot of restrictions to keep kids and the coaches safe," said Michael Clamann, an assistant coach for the Chaos.

The NCICL canceled the remainder of its 2020 race season, followed by another announcement in November 2020 that it'd be canceling the entirety of its 2021 season, too.

For two years, all the Chaos could do was practice.

But 742 days after its inaugural race, on March 20 of this year, the Chaos stepped onto that same course at Browns Creek



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

The Chatham County Chaos mountain biking team poses for a photo during a practice at Briar Chapel on April 9.

alongside 42 other middle school teams, where they earned 1,971 points across nine races to take first place as a team.

A couple of years of nothing but practice — and the occasional non-NCICL race for some of their more experienced athletes — clearly paid off.

"That was great, but there was something kind of bigger (about that win) because two years ago, the entire league got shut down all of a sudden and we didn't get to finish our season," Clamann said. "Yes, it's important to watch the winners and their celebrations were great, but I think a lot of people were just so happy we were doing it again."

The origin

The Chaos were founded in 2019, when coaches from the Carolina Crushers — a large composite team in Chapel Hill and Carrboro — split to form a number of different teams, including the Chaos, started by a group of coaches and student-ath-

letes from the area. While some teams are formed out of specific middle schools and high schools, including those at Chapel Hill High School, East Chapel Hill High School and even Hope Middle School in Pitt County, composite teams are made up of athletes from a larger area or region.

It's safe to say that the Chaos are a Chatham County melting pot.

The 21 student-athletes on this year's squad represent a variety of schools across the county, including Silk Hope (Siler City), George Moses Horton Middle (Pittsboro), Margaret B. Pollard Middle (Pittsboro), Jordan-Matthews (Siler City), Northwood (Pittsboro) and Woods Charter (Chapel Hill).

"In Chatham, because we're new and we're growing, we're more spread out," said Karin Clamann, the mother of Nicole Clamann, one of the Chaos' top racers, and wife of Michael Clamann. "Our team stretches the

whole county. ... Our hope is to grow and get kids across the county interested in us and know that we exist, basically."

The team's student-athletes are not just representative of different towns across the county, but also of different skill and experience levels.

Some athletes on the team are there to compete in races, while others aren't. And no matter an athletes' past experience, there's always room for them to race if they're interested. The Clamanns said that's one reason why the team's special.

"The nice thing about it is that there's no pressure to race, that's not what the team is about," said Michael Clamann. "It's more about getting a bunch of kids together to have fun mountain biking and the races are optional, but the races are also open to anybody, so anyone on the team — no matter how long they've been riding — is allowed to race if they want to."

See **CHAOS**, page B4



Photo courtesy of Deborah Hage

Chatham Chaos middle-school racer Nicole Clamann bounds down the course at Browns Creek on March 20, where she won the Middle School Girls A race with a time of 35:23.95. Clamann was a member of the Chaos' inaugural 2019-20 team and is now one of their top riders.

Unwritten rules make baseball less enjoyable

Every couple of months, a conversation around the sports world features one of the most unnecessary topics: Unwritten Rules.

And there is nothing more pointless than this debate. Let me preface that unwritten rules make

more sense in youth sports. There's no reason for teams to be full-court pressing while winning by 50 points or laying down bunts while winning by 10 runs.

But in professional sports, this shouldn't be an issue. Many years before I was born, some "old school"

baseball folks decided that teams should stop trying to score runs at an undefined point to show good sportsmanship. Not only are the rules unwritten, but they are unclear.

In a game against the San Diego Padres on last Tuesday, San Francisco Giants infielder Mauricio Dubón laid down a bunt with his team leading by nine runs. The Padres expressed their displeasure on the field and it carried over into the postgame.

"Our goal is not exclusively to win one game in a series. It's to try to win the entire series," Giants manager Gabe Kapler said, according to CBS Sports. "Sometimes, that means trying to get a little deeper into the opposition's 'pen. I understand that many

teams don't love that strategy. And I get why. It's something that we talked about as a club before the season and that we were comfortable going forward with that strategy. It's not to be disrespectful in any way. It's because we feel very cool and strategic. It's the best way to win a series. When I say cool, I mean calm. We're not emotional about it. We're not trying to hurt anybody."

Baseball is a marathon and carrying success across an entire season is the name of the game. Dubón is no slugger either and he's likely fighting for playing time on a deep Giants roster. He batted .240 last year and was in and out of the lineup on a regular basis. These are professional athletes

and playing sports is their livelihood. Their income and life depend on their performance on the field and telling a player to stop trying has a direct impact on that.

"If we don't want a team to bunt, we will defend the bunt. If we don't want a team to steal, we will defend the steal," Kapler said. "If we don't want a team to swing 3-0 late in the game, we'll throw a ball."

Baseball isn't a dying sport, but it's a game that is still trying to cater to a younger audience. If we're encouraging people to stop trying at a certain point, we're taking a step back.

Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and [@maxbaker_15](https://twitter.com/maxbaker_15).



MAX BAKER
CN+R Intern

CHATHAM COUNTY ATHLETICS RUNDOWN

This week's schedule and last week's results

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

This week will be a little slow thanks to CCS spring break — keeping most teams from Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Seaforth off the field/pitch/track. However, Chatham Charter and Woods Charter still have plenty of action this week, including games from the Wolves' unbeaten women's soccer team (8-0-2) and the Knights' high-scoring baseball team (8-2). Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

THIS WEEK

Wednesday, April 20

Tennis: Chatham Charter men at Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tournament, 1 p.m.
Golf: Woods Charter men vs. Research Triangle, Cornerstone, 3:30 p.m.
Soccer: Chatham Charter women vs. Triangle Math & Science, 4:30 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Central vs. Union Pines (CCHS Easter Tournament), 5 p.m.
Softball: Chatham Charter vs. Southern Wake, 5 p.m.
Baseball: Seaforth at Hillside, 6 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Charter at Bethany Community, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 21
Baseball: Chatham Central vs. TBA (CCHS Easter Tournament), time TBA
Tennis: Chatham Charter men at Central Tar Heel 1A Conference Tournament (Day 2), 2 p.m.
Baseball: Chatham Charter at Southern Wake, 5:30 p.m.
Softball: Chatham Charter at Southern Wake, 5:30 p.m.
Soccer: Woods Charter women vs. Eno River, 6 p.m.
Soccer: Northwood women at Southern Lee, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 22
Soccer: Chatham Charter women at NC Leadership Academy, 6 p.m.
Track & Field: Northwood at Mt. Tabor, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 23
No events scheduled.

LAST WEEK

Monday, April 11
Tennis: The Chatham Charter men were swept by the North Moore Mustangs, 9-0, at home.
Tennis: The Northwood men defeated the Western Alamance Warriors, 7-2, to improve to 8-5 on the season (8-2 in the Central 3A conference). Winning singles matches for the Chargers were junior Jio Sumogod (6-3, 7-5), senior Tate Clark (6-3, 6-3), senior Mason Erman (6-2, 6-1), junior Ragul Ramesh (6-0, 6-1) and junior Ben Starling (6-0, 6-1), while the duos of Clark/Erman (8-2) and Ramesh/senior Cole Murray (8-0) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Chatham Central men defeated the Graham Red Devils, 6-3, at home to improve to 4-6 on the season (3-5 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference). Winning singles matches for the Bears were sophomore Jacob Gilliland (6-0, 6-1), senior Landon Hackney (6-4, 6-1), sophomore Charlie Thomas (6-3, 6-3) and sophomore Jonaven Martin (6-2, 6-2), while the duos of Gilliland/Hackney (8-1) and Martin/Thomas (8-5) won their doubles matches.
Tennis: The Seaforth men downed the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 7-2, on the road to improve to 8-3 on the season (and stay perfect in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference) at 6-0. Winning singles matches for the Hawks were sophomore Walker Magrnat (6-1, 6-0), sophomore Felton Burleigh (6-0, 6-3), freshman Henry McFall (6-1, 6-2) and freshman Broden Jones (6-3, 6-2), while the duos of Burleigh/Magrnat (8-4), Jones/freshman Matthew Bowser (8-2) and sophomore Shivam Patel/sophomore Logan Ching (8-5) all won their doubles matches.
Track & Field: The Jordan-Matthews Jets hosted a meet in Siler City against Chatham Central, along with Father Vincent Capodanno High School and North Moore, where the Jets took first place in both the men's (86 points) and women's (94 points) events. Meanwhile, the Bears took fourth place in the men's events (26 points) and second place in the women's events (64.5 points). Winning their respective men's events for the Jets and Bears were Jets senior Calvin Schwartz (boys 100-meter dash, 11.66; boys 200-meter dash, 24.41), Jets sophomore Marvin Herrea (boys 1,600-meter run, 5:55.01), Jets sophomore Emir Vargas (boys 300-meter hurdles, 46.91), Jets junior Aiden Harrison (boys 800-meter dash, 2:24.95) and Jets senior Pedro Artites (boys 3,200-meter run, 12:42.60), while the Jets also took first place in the Boys 4x800-meter relay (9:59.99), Boys 4x100-meter relay (47.56) and Boys 4x400-meter relay (3:50.50). Winning their respective women's events for the Jets and Bears were Jets freshman Ariana Harris (girls 100-meter hurdles, 20.28), Jets junior Baldwin Jaylyn (girls 100-meter dash, 13.87), Bears junior Samantha Scott (girls 1,600-meter run, 6:20.40), Jets freshman Rachel Woods (girls 400-meter dash, 1:05.15; girls long jump, 15-11.00), Jets freshman Sadessa Green (girls 200-meter dash, 30.09), Jets sophomore Damise-la Rivera (girls discus throw, 66-10), Bears freshman Mattie Caviness (girls shot put, 25-10.00), Bears senior Carleigh Gentry (girls triple jump, 30-08.00) and Bears junior Kailey Green (girls high jump, 4-10.00), while the Jets took home first in the Girls 4x800-meter relay (12:56.87), Girls 4x100-meter relay (54.38) and Girls 4x400-meter relay (4:44.97) and the Bears took first in the Girls 4x200-meter relay (1:59.06).
Lacrosse: The Northwood men suffered a loss to the Chapel Hill Tigers, 12-6, at home to fall to 10-4 on the season.
Soccer: The Seaforth women earned a strong win over the Cummings Cavaliers, 4-1, to improve to 7-3 on the season (3-2 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).
Soccer: The Woods Charter women shut out the River Mill Jaguars, 6-0, to stay unbeaten on the year at 8-0-2 (5-0 in the Central Tar Heel 1A). Scoring for the Wolves in the victory were sophomore Leyla Noronha (2 goals, 2 assists), junior Lucy Miller (2 goals), sophomore Taylor Young (1 goal) and junior Chloe Richard (1 goal).
Soccer: The Northwood women suffered an overtime loss to the Williams Bulldogs, 3-2, to fall to 4-8 on the season (2-4 in the Central 3A conference). Scoring for the Chargers in defeat were sophomore Ava Arias and freshman Sarah Ann Murrell, each with 1 goal.
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews Jets narrowly escaped with a win over the Chatham Central Bears, 4-1, in 9

innings.
Baseball: The Chatham Charter men clobbered the River Mill Jaguars, 10-0, at home. Leading the Knights on the evening were sophomore Lucas Smith (1-for-2, HR, BB, RBI), sophomore Aiden Allred (1-for-4, R, 2B, 2 RBI) and senior Landon Hussey (5.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, BB, 7 K; 2-for-3, RBI).
Tuesday, April 12
Golf: The Chatham Charter and Woods Charter men competed in a match with the River Mill Jaguars (first, 183), Cornerstone Charter Cardinals (second, 186), Trinity Bulldogs (third, 202) and Glover Garden Grizzlies (DNP), where the Knights didn't place as a team, but the Wolves took fourth (252).
Tennis: The Chatham Charter men narrowly defeated the River Mill Jaguars, 4-3. Winning singles matches for the Knights were freshman Zane Morgan (8-1) and freshman Noah Hayhurst (8-3), while the duo of junior Silas Christenbury/junior Cameron McMillan (7-5) won its doubles match.
Track & Field: The Chatham Charter Knights participated in a meet alongside Cornerstone Charter (host), Bishop McGuinness and Westchester Country Day, where they placed second in the women's events (57 points) and fourth in the men's events (12 points). Winning their respective women's events for the Knights were senior Brooke Garner (girls triple jump, 33-01.00; girls high jump, 4-10.00; girls 300-meter hurdles, 1:05.31) and junior Tamaya Walden (girls 100-meter dash, 13.11; girls 400-meter dash, 1:04.35; girls 200-meter dash, 27.74). The Knights had no first-place finishers on the men's side.
Softball: The Chatham Central women crushed the Cummings Cavaliers in both games of a doubleheader, including a 19-0 win in Game 1 and an 18-1 win in Game 2. Leading the Bears in Game 1 were sophomore Cassie McKeithan (2-for-2, 2 HR, 3 R, BB, 4 RBI), senior Taylor Poe (2-for-2, 2B, 3B, 3 R, BB), senior Gracie Gaines (1-for-1, 3B, 2 R, BB, 2 RBI) and senior Ashley Roberts (2.2 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 5 K). Leading the Bears in the Game 2 win were senior Taylor Poe (3-for-3, 3B, HR, 3 R, 4 RBI), sophomore Cassie McKeithan (2-for-3, HR, 2 R, 2 RBI), sophomore Kelsey Hussey (2-for-2, 3B, HR, 3 R, 2 RBI) and senior Ashley Roberts (2.0 IP, 0 H, 0 ER, 3 K; 3-for-3, 2B, 3B, 2 R, RBI).
Softball: The Chatham Charter women defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies in a high-scoring affair, 13-8, at home. Leading the Knights in the win were senior Olivia Cheek (4-for-4, 2B, RBI), junior Hailee Edmondson (3-for-4, 2B, 3B, BB, 2 R, 5 RBI; 7.0 IP, 6 H, 4 ER, 7 BB, 11 K) and senior Taylor Jones (2-for-4, 3B, R, 2 RBI).
Baseball: The Northwood men lost in walk-off fashion to the Orange Panthers in 8 innings, 3-2, in a low-scoring game. Leading the Chargers on the night were freshman Kaleb Howell (0-for-3, RBI), junior Nate Ortiz (1-for-3, R), junior Luke Smith (1-for-3, R) and junior Zach Barnes (4.0 IP, 3 H, 0 ER, BB, 2 K).
Baseball: The Seaforth men lost to the North Moore Mustangs, 9-3, to extend their 8-game losing streak. Leading the Hawks on the night were sophomore Dane O'Neill (2-for-3, R, BB, RBI), freshman Cade Elmore

(2-for-4, R) and freshman Joshua Brown (2-for-3, R).
Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women shut out the Graham Red Devils, 12-0, at home. Leading the Jets on the evening were junior Macy Beavers (2-for-3, 2B, 3 R, 3 RBI), sophomore Lia Carter (2-for-2, 3B, R, 2 RBI), sophomore Korbyn Kirchner (2-for-3, 3B, 2 R, RBI) and freshman Marcy Clark (4.2 IP, 3 H, 0 ER, 4 K).
Softball: The Northwood women lost to the Cedar Ridge Fighting Red Wolves, 8-4, to fall to 5-11 on the season (2-7 in the Central 3A conference). Leading the Chargers on the night were senior Natalie Bell (3-for-4, 2B, R, RBI; 6.0 IP, 7 H, 4 ER, 5 BB, 2 K) and freshman Jasmine Wichowski (2-for-4, 2 RBI).
Baseball: The Chatham Central men got revenge over the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 8-5, after suffering an extra-inning loss to their rivals on Monday. Leading the Bears in the win were junior Hasten T. Paige (4-for-5, R, RBI), senior Collin Lageron (3-for-5, 2B, R) and sophomore Wesley Clewis (4.2 IP, 4 H, ER, 3 BB, 6 K).
Wednesday, April 13
Tennis: The Chatham Charter men were swept by the Clover Garden Grizzlies, 9-0, to fall to 2-10 on the season (2-6 in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference).
Soccer: The Chatham Charter women won a close game over the River Mill Jaguars, 2-1, to improve to 2-5-1 on the season (1-3 in the Central Tar Heel 1A conference). Scoring for the Knights were sophomore Alina Borchmann and junior Tabitha Felch, each with 1 goal.
Track & Field: The Northwood Chargers competed in a meet alongside Cedar Ridge, Western Alamance and Williams, where the Chargers took second place in the women's events (80.5 points) and first place in the men's events (115.5 points). Winning their respective women's events for the Chargers were sophomore Rokia Sissoko (girls 200-meter dash, 29.05), senior Emma Serrano (12:40.59), senior Bentley Brooks (girls discus throw, 89-09) and sophomore Skylar Adams (girls triple jump, 30-03.50), while they also took first in the Girls 4x400-meter relay (4:51.09). Winning their respective men's events for the Chargers were junior Ethan Wilson (boys 110-meter hurdles, 16.81), senior Colin Henry (boys 3,200-meter run, 10:51.53), freshman Gus Fisher (boys shot put, 39-06.00) and junior Jack Nicholson (boys discus throw, 119-00; boys triple jump, 37-02.00), while the Chargers also took home first in the Boys 4x800-meter relay (8:29.18).
Track & Field: The Seaforth Hawks competed in a meet alongside the Jordan-Matthews Jets, Chatham Central Bears and North Moore Mustangs, where the Hawks took first place in both the women's (68 points) and men's (71 points) events. The Bears took second place in the women's events (47 points) and fourth in the men's events (15 points), while the Jets took third place in the women's events (29 points) and second in the men's events (46 points). Winning their respective women's events for the Bears, Hawks and Jets were Jets freshman Rachel Woods (girls 100-meter dash, 13.34), Hawks freshman Gabby

White (girls 200-meter dash, 28.14; girls 400-meter dash, 1:06.54; girls long jump, 16-05.00), Hawks freshman Claire Morgan (girls 800-meter run, 2:57.10; girls pole vault, 7-03.00), Bears junior Samantha Scott (girls 1,600-meter run, 6:23.00), Hawks freshman Juliette VanOlinda (girls 100-meter hurdles, 19.44; girls 300-meter hurdles, 56.14), Bears junior Kailey Green (girls high jump, 4-08.00), Bears senior Carleigh Gentry (girls triple jump, 30-04.00), Bears junior Livvy Brooks (girls discus throw, 71-07.00) and Jets junior Madelyn Eubanks (girls shot put, 26-00.00), while the Hawks took first in the Girls 4x100-meter relay (56.54), the Bears won the Girls 4x200-meter relay (2:02.10) and the Jets won the Girls 4x400-meter relay (4:43.10). Winning their respective men's events for the Bears, Hawks and Jets were Hawks sophomore Anthony Vesce (boys 100-meter dash, 11.74; boys 200-meter dash, 24.54), Hawks freshman Walter Entrekim (boys 400-meter dash, 57.04), Jets junior Aiden Harrison (boys 800-meter run, 2:22.80), Hawks freshman Jack Anstrom (boys 1,600-meter run, 5:04.30), Hawks freshman Mikel Kokas (boys high jump, 4-04.00), Bears senior Malachi Moore (boys long jump, 19-04.00), Hawks sophomore Chris Scanlon (boys pole vault, 6-06.00) and Bears junior Austin Reed (boys discus throw, 86-02.00), while the Bears took first in the Boys 4x100-meter relay (47.84), the Jets won the Boys 4x400-meter relay (3:54.90) and the Hawks won the Boys 4x800-meter relay (9:47.20).
Baseball: The Chatham Charter men defeated the Clover Garden Grizzlies in both games of a doubleheader, including a 12-2 thumping in Game 1 and a close 9-8 nail-biter in Game 2.
Baseball: The Seaforth men lost their second game in a row to the North Moore Mustangs, 5-1, on the road to fall to 3-11 on the season (0-8 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).
Lacrosse: The Northwood women earned a close, overtime victory over the Chapel Hill Tigers on the road, 13-12, to improve to 9-2 on the season. Scoring for the Chargers in the win were senior Kendall LaBerge (6 goals, 1 assist), junior Grazi Costa (4 goals), sophomore Ryan Tiner (1 goal), junior Mia Collins (1 goal) and junior Sophia Cremeans (1 goal).
Soccer: The Jordan-Matthews women pulled out a win in a defensive battle against the Graham Red Devils, 1-0, to improve to 7-2-2 on the season (7-0 in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference).
Softball: The Chatham Charter women were

shut out by the Cornerstone Cardinals, 4-0, to fall to 5-7 on the season. Senior Taylor Jones was the lone Knight with a hit in the loss.
Softball: The Jordan-Matthews women defeated the North Moore Mustangs, 8-3, on the road.
Thursday, April 14
Softball: The Chatham Central women crushed the Jordan-Matthews Jets, 8-1, on the road. Leading the Bears in the win were senior Gracie Gaines (3-for-3, 2 R, RBI), junior Jaylee Williams (1-for-4, 3B, R), senior Lindsey Johnson (1-for-1, 2 RBI) and junior Mary Gaines (7.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, BB, 5 K; 1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI).
Friday, April 15
Softball: The Chatham Central women lost in extra innings, 2-1, to the Wayne Christian Eagles in the 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament.
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men were thumped by the Trinity Bulldogs, 12-2, in the J-M Easter Tournament.
Baseball: The Northwood men were shut out by the Orange Panthers, 5-0, to fall to 10-8 on the season (4-6 in the conference).
Saturday, April 16
Baseball: The Northwood men were shut out by the Pinecrest Patriots, 5-0, in the Bulldog Invitational, hosted at Terry Sanford. Leading the Chargers on the day were junior Jackson Shaner (1-for-1, BB), junior Seth Davis (1-for-3) and senior Walker Johnson (3.0 IP, H, 0 ER).
Baseball: The Jordan-Matthews men were shut out by the Lee County Yellow Jackets in the J-M Easter Tournament, 10-0.
Softball: The Chatham Central women fell to the Randleman Tigers, 5-2, in the 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament.
Softball: The Chatham Central women lost a close game to the South Granville Vikings, 13-12, to fall to 0-3 in the 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament. All three of the Bears' losses in the tournament came by a combined 5 runs.

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



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EASTER

Continued from page B1

his team wasn't playing with the intensity needed to come back against the Tigers. He attributed that to the extra-inning loss to Wayne Christian on Friday. "It just took a lot of energy out of us."

It also sapped him of his ace pitcher, junior Mary Gaines, the 2021 All-Yadkin Valley Conference Pitcher of the Year. She pitched last Thursday against Jordan Matthews in an 8-1 conference win, and hurled 8 innings Friday night, so Hackney rested her on Saturday.

"I'm not going to let her get hurt," Hackney said. "It's a long season."

As if that wasn't bad enough, catcher Lindsey Johnson was dealing with a shoulder injury after the battle with the Tigers.

"My other catcher is not here," Hackney said. "I just asked for volunteers a while ago. But we'll get through it."

With three conference games left on the schedule before the conference tournament and state playoffs, Hackney said he needs to see more consistency from his young squad. He starts three seniors, two juniors and four sophomores.

"We can be decent, or we can be very good," Hackney said. The ups and downs are not for lack of talent. "They've just got to stay together as a team. We just need energy and to stay fired up."

Randleman wasted no time jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning.

Winning pitcher Camden Scott ignited the scoring with a leadoff single to center and advanced to second on a fielder's choice groundout. Center fielder Jesslyn Perez smacked an RBI single to center, scoring Scott, and moved up to second on Bears center fielder Ashley Roberts' botched throw to the bag that sailed high above the infield to home plate. Johnson attempted to throw Perez out, but the ball soared into center field, allowing Perez to scoot all the way home.

Hackney blamed the back-to-back throwing errors on wet grass that made the ball slippery.

Bears' first baseman Mary Gaines reached first, leading off the second inning after being hit by a pitch. Starting



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central senior Ashley Roberts sprints to first base in the Bears' 5-2 loss to Randleman in the 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament last Saturday.

pitcher Cassie McKeithan beat out an infield single to shortstop, pushing Gaines to second base. Katherine Gaines reached first safely on a fielder's choice to avert a double play, and Mary Gaines legged it to third, putting runners on the corners.

Katherine Gaines stole second, then Johnson beat out an RBI infield single, scoring Mary Gaines as Katherine Gaines advanced to third. Roberts laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt to plate Katherine Gaines and knot the score at 2-2.

Randleman regained the lead, 5-2, in the third after Scott lashed a hard single to center, which shortstop Jordan Booker followed with a single to center and third baseman Mackenzie Roach knocked Scott and Booker home with a one-out single to right. Mackenzie Roach scored when shortstop Jaylee Williams bobbled a grounder by Tigers catcher Emily Roach, and the Bears threw the ball around, which also allowed Emily Roach to go to second.

The brightest spot for Chatham Central in the inning was

a nifty double play to extinguish the rally. Roberts chased down a fly ball to center by Tigers first baseman Savannah Scott, and threw Emily Roach out as she attempted to tag and go to third.

Controversy erupted in the bottom of the sixth when Bears third baseman Taylor Poe walloped a ball to deep center that Perez was unable to catch up to. Perez crashed into the fence trying to make the grab, but the ball landed beyond the nylon netting that was stretching backwards under her weight. It appeared Poe had a leadoff dinger.

But the bases umpire said the ball bounced over the fence, calling it a ground-rule double. Hackney disputed the call to no avail.

"To me it looked like a home run. The girl was against the fence, and I don't see how it bounced in if the girl was against the fence," Hackney said.

Poe moved to third on a passed ball, and with no outs the Bears were stirring.

But Katherine Gaines flew out to first, and Mary Gaines popped up to third, where



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central junior Mary Gaines drives a pitch during the 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament last Saturday.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central sophomore Cassie McKeithan hits a ball over the foul line during the Bears' 5-2 loss to the Randleman Tigers in the 2022 Southern Alamance Easter Tournament last Saturday.

Mackenzie Roach looked Poe back to the bag. When it appeared Roach was throwing the ball back to the pitcher, Poe had a notion to scurry home, but it was a fake pump by Roach. Poe was frozen on the play, leaning towards home but attempting to pivot back to the bag. She was tagged out before she could get there.

It was the third time the Bears ended an inning on a daring but failed base-running play. Williams got to third on a two-out double and error in the fifth, but was caught trying to steal home. Poe was thrown out trying to steal second after drawing a walk in the third inning.

The Bears are on spring break until April 26, when they begin their string of three-straight conference games before the start of the conference tournament.



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Chatham Central senior Chloe Fuquay sits in the away team dugout watching teammates face off against the Randleman Tigers last Saturday. The Bears saw an early morning defeat, 5-2, to the Tigers.

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EASTER BASEBALL

Jets go winless in weather-shortened Easter Tournament, fall to scorching Bulldogs, Yellow Jackets

BY VICTOR HENSLEY
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — There were a lot of things working against Jordan-Matthews in its Easter Tournament over the weekend: inclement weather, an impending spring break and the occasional fielding mistake, to name a few.

However, none may have had more of an impact than their opponents' hot bats.

At times, they were scalding as Bulldog and Yellow Jacket batters scorched favorable Jets pitches into the outfield at an alarming rate.

The result? A seemingly unavoidable 0-2 finish in the team's holiday tournament with blowout losses to the Trinity Bulldogs, 12-2, last Friday and the Lee County Yellow Jackets, 10-0, on Saturday.

The game's final day — which would have hosted the championship game, along with the third-place game — was canceled on Monday due to poor weather, leaving J-M without a chance to redeem its two losses.

"When we played at (Trinity's) place, when we beat them, they squared some balls up," John Headen, the Jets' head coach, said on Friday after the loss to the Bulldogs. "They were probably the toughest hitters we've seen, they just didn't miss."

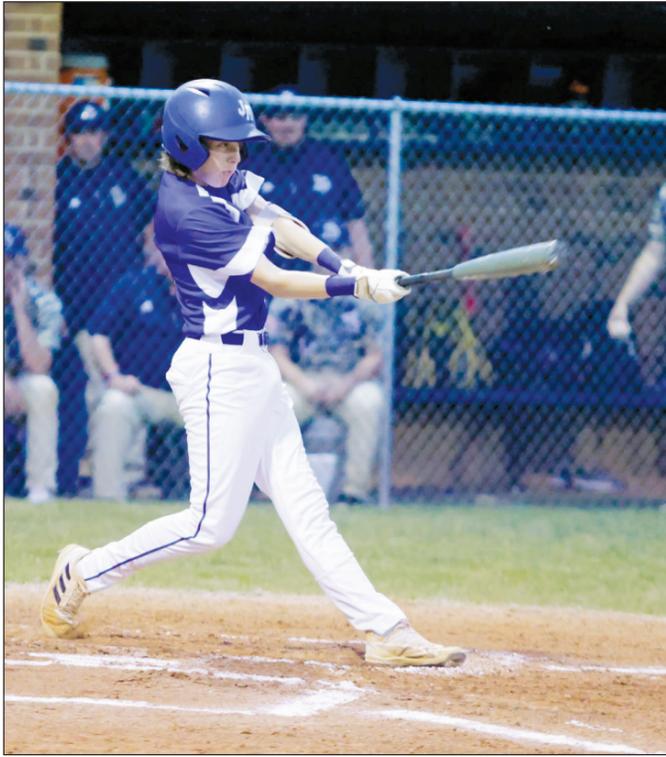
In the two Easter games, the Jets (7-12) allowed a combined 20 hits amounting to 22 runs.

Some were the result of poor fielding, others of fresh pitchers getting their first taste of varsity action, but many, many more were because Trinity (12-6) and Lee County (12-7) simply couldn't miss.

And the Jets paid for it. Both matchups were rematches from earlier this month, with the Jets falling to the Yellow Jackets, 8-2, in Sanford on April 7 and defeating the Bulldogs on the road, 14-7, the next day, on April 8.

The Jets' first bout with the Bulldogs was an offensive showcase that saw J-M score the most runs (14) its had in a single game this season — and just the third where its scored double-digit runs.

The rematch, however, couldn't have been more opposite, with the Jets scoring just a



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Jordan-Matthews junior Jackson Headen swings at a pitch in the Jets' 10-0 loss to the Lee County Yellow Jackets on the second day of the J-M Easter Tournament last Saturday.

pair of runs as the team's bats failed to get in a rhythm.

You can't say they didn't try, however.

To open the bottom of the first inning, the Jets got two doubles from its first three batters, with sophomore Ian McMillan knocking a lead-off double to left field, followed by a left-field RBI two-bagger from Carson Whitehead just two batters later, scoring Whitehead and tying the game at 1 apiece.

After sophomore starting pitcher Kelton Fuquay walked, junior Conner Martin came up and sliced a pitch to third base. It bounced into shallow left field and scored Whitehead to give the Jets a 2-1 advantage.

Despite an electric offensive showing to start — earning three hits and a walk off of Bulldogs starter Landen Mosley before Trinity recorded two outs — that'd be the last time a Jets baserunner touched home plate for the rest of the tournament.

From there, J-M had just one more inning with at least two baserunners, which came in the second after an error in left field gave freshman Quinn Woolford a spot at first, fol-

lowed by a fielder's choice that forced him out at second base.

Instead, the Jets couldn't capitalize anytime one of them reached base for the remainder of the game. In the fourth, Woolford reached second base with two outs after a single turned into two bases following another error in left field, but sophomore Christopher Ray struck out in the next at-bat to end the inning.

Then, after McMillan walked to lead off the fifth inning, junior Jackson Headen hit into a double-play that left the Jets with two outs and nobody on.

While there was often contact made by the Jets' batters, the ball mostly landed directly in the glove of Trinity outfielders and rarely turned into positive, momentum-swinging plays.

"We put some balls in play," Headen said, referring to the Jets striking out just three times against the Bulldogs. "We've been pretty bad to strike out, so we were able to put some balls in play and I was pleased with that."

Trinity took the lead in the second inning, 3-2, after a well-hit single from sophomore

Jacob Proctor scored freshman Ethan Willard to tie it, then a stolen base and advance on a passed ball allowed Proctor to get to third and then promptly score on a sacrifice fly from senior Cole Mince.

But after a pair of three-up, three-down innings by Fuquay — including the fourth, where he struck out the side — it all came crashing down for the Jets.

The Bulldogs benefitted from a lead-off triple from Mince, followed by a sacrifice fly from junior Landon Mowery that gave Trinity a 4-2 lead. Then came a double from senior Siler Parrish, knocking Fuquay out of the game after 4.0 innings pitched.

In came Woolford to pitch for the first time in his varsity career.

He struggled to find his control, walking the first two batters to load the bases, then allowed a two-RBI double from junior Cade Hill to score two runners and give the Bulldogs a 6-2 advantage and effectively end the game.

He managed to get just one batter out on a sacrifice fly, making the game 7-2, before walking another and being switched out for Jackson Headen.

Despite his mistakes, John Headen appeared impressed with the way Woolford threw on the mound in his varsity debut. It wasn't perfect, but freshmen pitching for the first time often aren't.

"He was a freshman getting to come up. He's been battling some stuff and he got to get on the mound tonight and get his feet wet," John Headen said. "He can play ball. You've got to get that first little shock and stuff out and that's a good team to do it against. They didn't really swing it on him, he just has to find the strike zone in the game, that's a little different."

By the time the Jets finally made it out of the fifth inning, they trailed 9-2.

And, after a three-run sixth that included a double from Parrish and an RBI triple from Mosley — followed by a scoreless sixth from J-M — that was that. The Bulldogs had won in six innings.

John Headen chalked up a majority of the loss to poor de-

fense, which he said also made Fuquay's outing look worse than it should have.

"We could have made plays behind (Fuquay)," John Headen said. "It might have gotten him into a better rhythm."

"They hit into one of our weaknesses: fly balls," he added. "We didn't get a lot of ground balls today. When we did, if we would have made those plays, then it would have been quicker. ... It just seemed like we were dropping balls everywhere, not even in play, just when they're nonchalantly throwing the ball."

He also said that he wondered if the team's upcoming spring break — which began on Friday — was to blame for a lack of focus.

"It was just a lack of energy, a lack of maturity," John Headen said. "That's a good ballclub that we played tonight and they were coming off of spring break, so I'm sure they're not playing as crisp as they'd like to be either, but we were just very immature with the way we handled ourselves from top to bottom. It's like our spring break had just started and we weren't here."

Despite the team's three-game losing streak, hiccups against the Bulldogs and Yellow Jackets and third-place position in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference right now, the Jets have a postseason spot waiting for them.

North Moore (6-0 in conference) and Chatham Central (5-3) are sitting ahead of J-M (5-3) in the standings, but with them both being 1A schools, the Jets are still the top 2A team in the Mid-Carolina, meaning they're likely to get a postseason bid over Bartlett Yancey (2-4) and Seaforth (0-8).

"We're coming off of five games in seven days and one of them locked us into the playoffs and that was our goal and we hit that," John Headen said. "This is what it feels like to play in the playoffs. And because those teams are good, you've got to be able to handle these guys. So far, both of these tests, they've fallen short, but it could really be the fatigue."

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

CHAOS

Continued from page B1

The Chaos practice anywhere from two to three times per week — typically at Briar Chapel in Chapel Hill or at another course nearby that closely resembles the course they're racing at next — where the team's staff of 11 licensed coaches splits them into groups by ability levels, teaching them fundamentals and brand new skills to improve their riding habits.

Middle school-aged athletes make up 81% of the team's total roster, with 17 middle schoolers outnumbering the team's four high schoolers.

In this year's group, there are nine student-athletes returning from the original 2019-20 squad, with the rest being brand new to the Chaos, a strong sign of growth for such a fresh organization.

"A lot of it is really word of mouth between the different students," said Michael Clamann. "They bring their friends on board, but we also host efforts through the schools, reaching out through advertisements to get more kids."

"There's kind of a push every fall, around October, and then we have an interest meeting in November or December, where we'll get together to tell people what NICA is and all about the team," he continued. "We'll let anybody sign up, it doesn't matter if

they're veteran racers or first-time riders. We take pretty much anybody between 6th grade and 12th grade."

With 11 coaches and a tight-knit atmosphere, the Chaos have been a desirable option for any Chatham student-athletes interested in mountain biking since its creation.

Now, the addition of a successful racing program — aided by the break in 2020 and 2021 — is just the icing on the cake.

The build-up

After the NCICL shut-down in 2020, the team resumed practice following the required pause in all team activities with their own COVID-safe guidelines, including the phrase, "Foot Down, Mask Up," which meant that if an athlete was actively riding, they didn't need a face covering, which changed once their feet hit the ground.

They maintained their typical practice schedule, training in smaller groups called "pods" while also keeping their distance from one another as much as they could.

"If you ask the kids, I think one of the most important parts to them was getting out to be with their friends and riding," said Scott Bredenberg, who was an assistant coach before taking over as the team's head coach to start the 2021-22 season. "The racing wasn't a huge loss to them. ... It was difficult for the riders that wanted to race, so that was a challenge, but they were still able to

pick up events outside of the league, as well."

Nicole Clamann, an 8th grader, was one of the Chaos riders that chose to seek other options to get her racing fix in 2021 while still practicing with the team.

"Recently, I think it was October of 2020, I started training more and that opened a lot of doors for me," she said. "I joined a junior development team in 2021-ish and I did my first national race last year. I've been doing a lot more cyclocross recently, too."

Cyclocross is a form of bike racing that takes place on variety of course types (pavement, grass, dirt trails, etc.) and has obstacles that racers must avoid, often requiring they dismount and remount their bikes to get around them.

Over the course of 2021, Nicole's training significantly improved the way she raced, paving the way for her hot start to the 2021-22 NCICL racing season.

In her first two races, she finished in the top two of the Middle School Girls A division, having taken first at Browns Creek (35:23.95) and second at Salisbury Community Park (41:13.85) in the season's second leg on April 3.

The same could be said for Willie Boynton, a 7th grader that's also recently raced at the national level in cyclocross and placed third in the 7th Grade A Boys race at Browns Creek (36:46.16) and fourth in

the same race at Salisbury (41:26.09).

But even without outside activities, the Chaos' commitment to practicing throughout the pandemic has worked wonders for many of the team's student-athletes, not just Nicole.

"I can think of a few student-athletes in particular that we were teaching some more basic skills early on when they were in 6th or 7th grade, but now, a few of them are challenging me as a coach to ride faster because they've gotten that much better," said Bredenberg. "Their skills and speed have improved so much, partially just with growing up, obviously, but partially because they continue to practice and stay on the bike both inside and outside of scheduled practices."

Gwenyth Williams is an example of that, as her first race ever came at Browns Creek last month, where she took first place in the 8th Grade Girls division (22:06.37), followed by a second-place finish in the same race at Salisbury (25:51.05).

"She's just good," Karin Clamann said of Williams. "She's just good. She rode her bike a lot during COVID and was already in shape from other sports."

Through two races in the NCICL circuit, the Chaos are sitting in second place in Middle School Division 2, having earned 1,971 points in Race #1 and 1,924 points in Race #2 (placing fourth

in their division) for a total of 3,895 points.

They're just 28 points behind the first-place Myers Park Thoroughbreds (3,923 points) with three races to go, including the NCICL State Championship on May 22 at Farris Memorial Park in Mayodan.

'It's just so positive'

Race results aside, the Chaos are striving to follow in NICA's footsteps and create an environment that's inclusive, fun and welcoming to all middle and high-school cyclists, according to Karin Clamann.

During races, parents cheer and ring cowbells for other riders as they pass by, not just their children and their teammates.

"Everybody cheers on everybody," said Karin. "I've noticed that with all the cycling our daughter has done and it's definitely true with mountain biking. Everybody's just into it."

At practices, Bredenberg has encouraged some of the older, more experienced riders to be leaders for those who are just getting started, a concept that has not only helped the student-athletes get closer to one another, but assists in building team chemistry.

"We try to always support each other," Bredenberg said. "Once they're out having fun, they're just enjoying their time out, so that's been really rewarding to see."

Nicole Clamann is one of the riders also

involved in Girls Riding Together (GRIT), a program put forth by NICA to "bring more girls and women into the cycling community to close the opportunity gap for current and future generations," according to NICA's website.

She became a GRIT ambassador after participating in some of the program's earlier events, meaning she mentors young female riders that are new to the sport.

"For me, as a mom, I love seeing that there's a lot of encouragement to bring the girls into it, too," Karin said.

"That's part of the reason why I got involved — being biased because I have a daughter who's an athlete — was to help pave the way for her to make sure that there aren't as many barriers," Michael Clamann added.

Karin praised NICA, GRIT and the overall atmosphere of a Chaos organization that's in the midst of its first true racing season, giving those in Chatham a place to practice organized mountain biking and providing parents, coaches and athletes alike with positive experiences.

"I don't really ride, so for me, it's the enthusiasm, it's that everybody has a role, has a way to participate," she said. "It's just so positive. It's just a really, really good thing."

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

THE SLAP

Will Smith's slap was heard all the way to China, where the actor is loved and ... humor is, well, different

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO
Special to the News + Record Staff

Journalism professor Buck Ryan in Kentucky and English lecturer Lei Jiao in Wuhan, China, are back pursuing cross-cultural understanding through current events — this time the Hollywood smack heard 'round the world.

“Hello, Lei! Can you hear me? I know you are 7,767 miles away.”
“Yes, Buck, I hear you.”
“Did you hear about Will Smith slapping Chris Rock?”
“Yes, Buck, I could hear the smack clearly myself.”
“What do you think?”
“Oh, Buck, it's just so sad for everyone concerned.”
“Can you imagine something like that play out on CCTV?”
“No, it's unimaginable. But I know some Chinese people, like me, who would like to teach Chris Rock a lesson.”
“Why's that?”
“Well, Buck, in 2016 when Chris was the Oscars host he took a cheap shot at Asians. It wasn't a one-liner — like the one he fired at Will's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. It was a well-orchestrated slap.”
“You'll have to remind me, Lei.”
“Chris said he was going to introduce the 'hard-working' accountants for the firm Price-waterhouseCoopers who tabulated the Oscar ballots. Then he called up three Asian children on stage. They were an 8-year-old girl and two little boys dressed in tuxedos; they were all holding briefcases.”
“Oh my.”
“Chris gave the kids the names Ming Zhu, Bao Ling and David Moskowitz, then he doubled down by saying, 'If anybody's upset about that joke, just tweet about it on your phone that was also made by these kids.'”
“Oh, Lei, get me the child labor law police on the horn!”
“And, Buck, that was the year following the protest over a lack of



Chris, 我想藉此公开向你道歉。我的行为越... 全文

Will Smith's apology statement appeared simultaneously on his Facebook page and on Weibo, China's combination of Facebook and Twitter, both of which are blocked by the Chinese government.

diversity. Remember the hashtag #OscarsSoWhite?”
“Yes, I do. So what was the reaction?”
“Asian Hollywood types filed a protest letter, Twitter heated up, but that was about it. You know, Chris Rock stepped in it again with Asian people on slap night, right?”
“No, what happened?”
“Well, after he amazingly regained his composure, he turned to introduce the winner of the Oscar for best documentary. It was ‘Summer of Soul’ with director Ahmir ‘Questlove’ Thompson.”
“Yes.”
“Except Rock said the winners were ‘Questlove and four white guys.’”
“No.”
“Buck, one of the producers was Joseph Patel, an Indian American. He was furious.”
“Sorry to hear that, Lei.”
“We're used to it, Buck. We Asians just take those slaps and move on.”
“Sadly, that's not the

case for the Will Smith slap. That story keeps going and going and going.”
“Yes, Buck, as you woke Americans like to say, ‘There's a lot there to unpack.’”
“I'll say, Lei.”
“Didn't somebody even blame Trump?”
“Yes, Lei, more than one somebody!”
“Well, Buck, if there's one big difference between our two countries, it's that you have a black-and-white race relations problem that can make a complex issue look Byzantine.”
“So what's the view in China?”
“Oh let's see, Buck. It will take a minute for me to analyze the thoughts of 1.4 billion people.”
“Sorry, Lei. Let me try again: Do you see any online support for Will Smith?”
“Yes, for two reasons: one, his great popularity, especially for his movie ‘The Pursuit of Happiness,’ and two, a high loyalty to family combined with a low tolerance for insult comedy.”

“Hmm, tell me more.”
“Will Smith is a big star in China, and he's been quite active on Chinese social media platforms like Weibo and Douyin for years.”
“Wait, Lei, Weibo is like Facebook and Twitter combined, right?”
“Correct.”
“And both Facebook and Twitter are blocked in China, right?”
“Right again. Will Smith's apology statement to Chris Rock was posted in Chinese on Weibo simultaneously with the English-language version posted on Will's Facebook page with its 111,657,102 followers.”
“That's 111 million followers, you say?”
“Yes, Buck, give or take a half million.”
“Wow. So what is Douyin?”
“That's TikTok, Buck.”
“Oh, I see. So Will Smith and his people have spent a lot of time and effort creating a positive image in China.”
“Right, Buck. He's burnished a good father/

family man persona. People here are still inspired by him.”
“And what about support for Chris Rock?”
“Yes, there's support for Chris, too. As much as some people might want to smack him, or do something worse to a comedian — not laugh at his jokes — they draw the line at physical violence.”
“Lei, there must be a wise ancient expression to share about that.”
“Yes, Buck, as Confucius once said, ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me.’”
“LOL. You're too much, Lei.”
“An idiom that many Chinese people know translates to something like, ‘A gentleman uses his tongue but not his fists’ or ‘A man of honor reasons things out and does not resort to force.’”
“Anything from the ‘Art of War’? It looks like the Smith-Rock feud dated back to at least those same Oscars in 2016, when Chris Rock made another crack about Will and Jada.”
“Yes, Sun Tzu's advice was to subdue the enemy without fighting — to win without going to battle.”
“Thanks, Lei.”
“Buck, for all the deep issues wrapped up in the slap, there's one question that intrigues me.”
“What's that?”
“What's funny?”
“Oh, Lei, I know enough about China to say that's one thing that divides us — the Great Wall of Humor.”
“Right, Buck. The closest thing we have to the Oscars as a national telecast is CCTV's New Year's Gala. And, frankly, the jokes and skits are really not that funny.”
“So who do you think is funny, Lei?”
“The G.O.A.T. for me is George Carlin.”
“Now that's funny. Why?”
“He was a linguist, a philosopher and a comedian, all rolled into one — and a trailblazer, too. I'm a fan of political satire, so he was my go-to guy.”
“Carlin, of course, made a name for himself in 1972 with his ‘Seven

Words You Can Never Say on Television’ monologue.”
“Well, Buck, in China there's three topics in the Forbidden City of Laughs: politics, people with disabilities, and sex.”
“Oh, you don't say.”
“That's why so many Chinese people like watching ‘Saturday Night Live’ — that's how they get their political news about the U.S. and laugh at raunchy jokes.”
“Oh gee.”
“Buck, I remember one SNL skit that was an epilogue to ‘It's a Wonderful Life.’ I can still picture actors smacking Old Man Potter in his wheelchair. Nothing's off limits.”
“Or so it seems, Lei.”
“You know, Buck, there's another ancient expression that comes to mind: ‘There's no such thing as bad publicity.’”
“Wait, Lei, that was P.T. Barnum!”
“Yes, Buck, and P.T. would have loved to cash in on the Smith-Rock Circus. Did you see what's happening to the \$40 tickets for Chris Rock's shows?”
“Yes, The Hollywood Reporter and CNBC are reporting that the asking prices for resale tickets on StubHub range from \$444 per ticket to \$1,705.”
“Slap-dab, Buck! That's capitalism for you.”

About the authors: Buck Ryan, a University of Kentucky journalism professor, and Lei Jiao, an English lecturer at Wuhan University of Technology, Hubei Province, China, collaborate on articles to advance cross-cultural understanding. Ryan, who is doing a “participatory case study” of the News + Record, has been a visiting scholar at three universities in China, including Jiao's WUT.

Here's the link to read their last current events exchange, “Asians sue UNC over admissions, as universities in China deal with affirmative action, too”:

<https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/asians-sue-unc-over-admissions-as-universities,12699>

Chatham Development Briefing 2022

April 26, 2022 | 8:30am - 10:30am

Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center
1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Network with 200 – 300 attendees from all areas of business.
Hear the latest in development news for Chatham County.

8:30am: Full Breakfast & Networking
8:55am: Development Briefing begins
10:30am: Briefing ends
Stay till 11:00am for coffee, a danish & networking

Register at: www.ccucc.net/event-registration

Admission: \$35 Chamber Members | \$40 Non-Members

Questions? Contact the Chatham Chamber of Commerce.
cindyp@ccucc.net - 919-742-3333 | cheryll@ccucc.net - 984-265-9172

The Chatham Development Briefing is sponsored by...

Presenting Sponsor: Mountaire Farms

Gold Sponsors: Adcock Real Estate Services, Atlantic Power Solutions, Cambridge Hills Assisted Living, Twin Rivers Independent Senior Living, Hobbs Architects, Chatham Park, MOSAIC, Bold Companies, Samet Corporation, Edward Jones - Chatham County Financial Advisors: Chad Virgil, Sharon Dickens, Lee Shanklin, Kathy Brommage, Laura Clapp, Eric Williams, Kevin Maley, Jessica Villagrana

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NEWS BRIEF

SDA Bio cancels plans for Pittsboro facility

PITTSBORO — A company that makes ingredients used in vaccines has scrapped plans to build a research and laboratory space at Deegan Drive.

SDA Bio purchased a .4-acre tract of land in March 2020 for a facility, according to a report in the Triangle Business Journal, but notified town officials in February it had abandoned the plans.

TBJ said SDA Bio's Shawn Zhang wrote a letter to notify the town about the change on Feb. 23 and to seek reimbursement from Pittsboro for \$23,073.50 worth of development fees the company had put into the site. Pittsboro's Board of Commissioners approved the reimbursement March 28.

Zhang's letter provided no reason for the change in plans.

—CN+R staff reports

THE OUTSIDERS

live on stage 4/30-5/1

OUTSTANDING 2020 AWARDS IN THE TRIANGLE

PITTSBORO YOUTH THEATER

CCS' music education program gets national honor for 4th year in a row

From Chatham County Schools

PITTSBORO — For the fourth year running, Chatham County Schools has been honored with the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

Now in its 23rd year, the Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify for the Best Communities designation, Chatham County Schools answered detailed questions about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Music



Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

“The arts are a fundamental part of what we want our students to experience during their time with Chatham County Schools and beyond,” said Superintendent Dr. Anthony Jackson. “Our district’s music programs are outstanding, and ones we hope to continue to grow in the years to come.”

Sharon Allen, lead arts teacher at Chatham County Schools in Pittsboro, North Carolina, says that for their district, “When other programs in our area did not allow singing and playing instruments due to COVID concerns,

our district administrators went before the board of education to present the data from the NFHS aerosol study (National Federation of State High School Associations) and demonstrate playing/singing with adaptive masks and instrument bell covers. As a result, the board approved students singing and playing in music classes following the recommendations of the aerosol study and provided the necessary PPE. I believe this action helped maintain student enrollments in music programs.”

Since the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015 and a stated emphasis on a well-rounded education, many school districts have recommitted to music and arts education programs. During the pandemic, music and arts programs were a vital component to keeping students engaged in school. ESSA provides designated funding for well-rounded educational

opportunities through Title IV Part A Student Academic Success and Achievement grants. NAMM Foundation research has revealed that these grants are being widely used by school districts to address instructional gaps in access to music and arts education.

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music: After two years of music education, researchers found that participants showed more substantial improvements in how the brain processes speech and reading scores than their less-involved peers and that students who are involved in music are not only more likely to graduate high school, but also to attend college as well.

Everyday listening skills are stronger in musically trained children than in those without music training. Significantly, listening skills are closely tied to the ability to: perceive

speech in a noisy background, pay attention, and keep sounds in memory.

Later in life, individuals who took music lessons as children show stronger neural processing of sound: Young adults and even older adults who have not played an instrument for up to 50 years show enhanced neural processing compared to their peers. Not to mention, social benefits include conflict resolution, teamwork skills, and how to give and receive constructive criticism.

The NAMM Foundation is a nonprofit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,300 members around the world. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving and public service programs. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

STATE ADVISORY

Chatham farmers should watch for signs of avian flu in chickens, turkeys, and other poultry

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

PITTSBORO — The N.C. Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) is warning all farmers to prepare for a highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), or avian flu, after nine different flocks of turkeys and broilers have tested positive for the virus.

As such, the Chatham County Public Health Department is asking all Chatham County farmers and bird owners to take precautions with their animals to protect them from this highly contagious flu. The virus can be spread in many ways, including coughing, sneezing and feces from bird to bird. It can

also be carried to and from flocks on clothing, boots and equipment. Some of the warning signs for avian flu include:

- Reduced energy, decreased appetites, and/or decreased activity
- Lower egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, and wattles
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, comb, and legs
- Difficulty breathing, runny nares (nose), and/or sneezing
- Twisting of the head and neck, stumbling, falling down, tremors, and/or circling
- Greenish diarrhea

To ensure that the virus does not spread to humans, avian flu is a report-

able disease by law. If your birds are sick or dying, report it right away. This is one of the most important things you can do to keep HPAI from spreading. To make a report, call your local veterinarian or the N.C. State Veterinary Office at 919-707-3250.

This type of HPAI virus is considered a low risk to people according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. There are no cases to date of this strain of HPAI infecting a person. The virus is also not considered a food safety threat and infected birds do not enter the food supply. All properly cooked poultry products are safe to consume.

For local inquiries regarding poultry-based issues, please contact Ag

Extension Agent Kristina Britt at the NC Cooperative Extension - Chatham County Center at kristina_britt@ncsu.edu or 919-542-8242. Inquiries can also be made to Jonas Asbill, Poultry Area Specialized Agent, at jonas_asbill@ncsu.edu. For additional resources on HPAI from NC Cooperative Extension, please visit <https://poultry.ces.ncsu.edu/2022/02/highly-pathogenic-avian-influenza-educational-resources/>.

To learn more about the avian flu and its current status in North Carolina, visit www.ncagr.gov/avianflu. To learn more about the Chatham County Public Health Department, visit www.chathamcountync.gov/publichealth.

Chatham Arts Council opens two grants for application

From the Chatham Arts Council

PITTSBORO — The Chatham Arts Council has opened two grants for application this week, partnering with the North Carolina Arts Commission as its Designated County Partner to award Grassroots Arts Grants.

Additionally, CAC's own JumpstART grants will return this year, in support of Chatham artists who have been economically impacted by the pandemic.

Grassroots Arts Grants

Since 2000, the CAC, through the Grassroots Arts Grant — established to ensure every citizen in North Carolina has access to quality arts experiences — has awarded more than \$200,000 to nonprofits, who in turn use the money to fund artists and carry the arts into every corner of the county. This year's funding through the NCAC represents a \$4,000 increase over last year. Applications are now available online at www.chathamartscouncil.org/grassroots-arts-grants/. The deadline for applications and supporting materials is May 15.

Cash grants range from \$500 to \$2,500, and areas of particular interest for the CAC are local artist fees/fair payment to artists and outreach to diverse or underserved communities.

“Over the past couple of years, investing in artists and arts organizations has been crucial to Chatham’s post-pandemic recovery and transformation,” said Cheryl Chamblee, artistic direc-

tor of the CAC. “Through grants like this one, we can support community organizations that are working to deliver meaningful arts programs throughout Chatham.”

Organizations applying must:

- Have been in operation for at least one year as a 501(c)(3);
- Have an arts mission, or a program that uses the arts to help accomplish the organization’s mission;
- Be based in Chatham County.

CAC will hold a virtual

grants workshop from 4-5 p.m. on May 5 via Zoom. All applicants — including those who have successfully applied in the past — are encouraged to attend, as there are new guidelines this year. RSVP is required to Jenni Detwiler at jenni@chathamartscouncil.org.

JumpstART

The CAC’s JumpstART grant was born out of the pandemic as a way to help get Chatham County artists and arts-workers back to work. JumpstART pays artists to make art — and

to put the arts in the public sphere as we reconnect with one another in our public spaces.

“JumpstART was originally a one-year-only kind of program, a bridge from deep pandemic to cautious reopening,” Chamblee said. “But engaging in JumpstART exposed a need that continues to exist. A springboard that pays artists to make new work — especially right now as we’re all working to find our equilibrium — is recovery for both artists and for our Chatham

community.”

This year, grants range from \$250 to \$1,000 for individual projects, and \$500 to \$1,500 for collaborative projects. Eligibility for the JumpstART grant requires the applicant to be a professional performing, visual, or literary artist or arts-worker who has been financially impacted due to COVID-19 cancellations and closures, rising cost-of-living, or other economic challenges. JumpstART applicants must be residents of Chatham County.

This year’s JumpstART project theme is Equilibrium. All proposed projects should engage with the concept of Equilibrium in some way.

All JumpstART awardees agree to participate in a public sharing in the fall of 2022 that will include all JumpstART-funded work, as arranged by the Chatham Arts Council. The Chatham Arts Council will not require artists to participate in a way that feels COVID-unsafe to the artist. The application deadline is Sunday, May 8.

Chatham County Partnership for Children

a partner in the smart start network

DAY OF THE BOOKS

A FREE FAMILY EVENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 30
10 AM - 1 PM

BRAY PARK
ALSTON BRIDGE ROAD
SILER CITY

Enjoy multicultural arts performances and activities and receive FREE bilingual books for children of all ages!

This event made possible by the following sponsors:

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- NORTH CAROLINA arts COUNCIL
- Siler City
- AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina
- 39 WEST
- CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS
- WINLAND REALTY GROUP

This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Girl Scout Troop 1024 partners with Pittsboro for Arbor Day event

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Girl Scout Troop 1024, along with Pittsboro town officials, gathered in Mary Hayes Barber Holmes park earlier this month to plant a Cherokee Brave Dogwood and a native North Carolina tree to celebrate Arbor Day.

The annual Arbor Day celebration, observed April 8, began last year as an effort to help some girls achieve their Bronze Award, an honor given to scouts who spend at least 20 hours developing a project to give back to their community.

Troop leaders Rachel Hill and Christina Jenrette said the troop contacted Pittsboro Commissioner Kyle Shipp in 2021 to see what projects the girls could do in partnership with the town.

“He (Shipp) shared that Pittsboro was trying to become a (part of) Tree City USA,” Hill said, “so they made it the official first Arbor Day celebration of Pittsboro.”

Last year’s celebration was deemed a success, according to Hill and Jenrette, so when the troop approached the town to do this event again, the town brought in more resources to help with the project.

Hill said more girls became involved with Girl Scouts since last year’s Arbor Day ceremony, meaning more people helped with the ceremony.

“This is a little bit more meaningful for everyone,” Hill said.

Members of Troop 1024 also made posters as a part of their contributions to the Arbor Day festivities. Jenrette said each troop member researched the important functions of trees for the environment, including providing shelter for wildlife, absorbing carbon dioxide, as well as other “greenhouse gases” and more.

“Each poster is supposed to show something that the trees can do for us,” she said. “They wanted to make posters that would teach people about the trees.”

In addition to the posters and the tree planting, Jenrette said the girls were tasked with calling bakeries in the community, asking for donations of baked goodies for the event’s guests. The troop received a donation of a couple dozen cupcakes from Phoenix Bakery in Pittsboro.

“We wanted to get more local companies involved,” Jenrette said. “So the girls from the troop were encouraged to reach out themselves and ask for donations.”

This annual project, Hill said, has helped the girls develop an appreciation for the community, as well as set a precursor for what she hopes the troop will do with the town in the future.

“In the process of planning it, I think they (the town) tried to have a kids group — be it Girl Scouts or someone else — be a part of it every year, so they kind of set the precedent for it,” Hill said. “Once you get the girls started on something, especially if they are creating something, they tend to love it.”

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry addressed the girls during the event. She thanked the troop for helping their town by joining in an effort to support the natural environment of Pittsboro.

Perry added the town wants to continue emphasizing a need for environmentally conscious projects and hopes events



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Troop members plant a tree during the town’s Arbor Day commemoration.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Girl Scout Troop 1024 members stand with Mayor Cindy Perry, Commissioner Kyle Shipp and Town Manager Chris Kennedy.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Mayor Cindy Perry helps two Girl Scout Juniors place a plaque for this year’s Arbor Day tree.



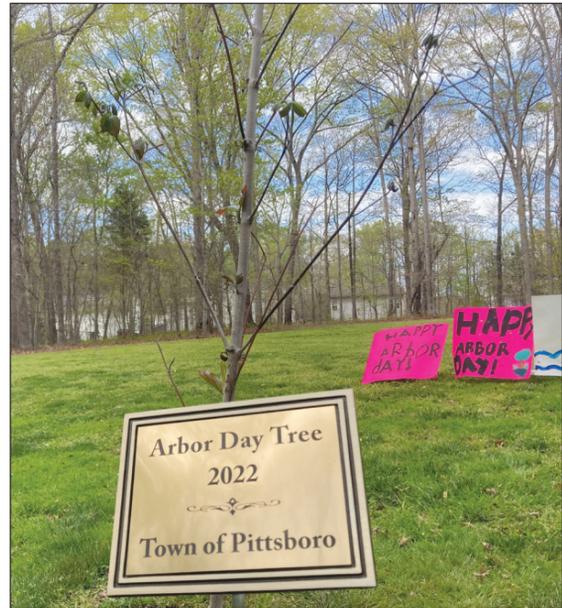
Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Members of Girl Scout Troop 1024 set up a table of snacks for the Pittsboro Arbor Day event.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Girl Scouts from Troop 1024 shovel dirt to plant a tree for Arbor Day.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

The Arbor Day tree in Mary Hayes Barber Holmes Park in Pittsboro.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Pittsboro Mayor Cindy Perry gave a speech about the importance of trees during a tree-planting event on April 8.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Perry speaks with scouts and leaders before the start of the Arbor Day event.

such as the Arbor Day tree planting ceremony will provide more opportunities for similar initiatives.

“One of the things we’re trying to do as a town is to create more projects that honor the environment and honor what we need to do in order to limit climate change,” Perry said. “This is a ceremonial tree, but we will be doing other trees — some at Knight (Farm) Park and some other locations.”

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



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

The tree planting event allowed the scouts to give back to their community and the environment.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

Girls from Troop 1024 embrace as they work to plant a tree for Pittsboro’s Arbor Day celebration

POLICE REPORTS

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On April 11, Dwight Melvin Alston, 58, of 101 Old Walden Road, Siler City, was arrested by SSgt. Ashley Ellington for failure to appear related to child support. He was issued a \$500 cash purge payment and is scheduled to appear

in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 22.

On April 13, Edgar Diaz-Easterly, 49, of 100 Village Circle Way Apt. 1206, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Matthew Mitchell for assault by pointing a gun. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Durham County

Court on April 25.

On April 13, Dominick Lynn Sloan, 35, of 9697 US Highway 64 East, Ramseur, was arrested by Deputy Olivia Soles for assault with a deadly weapon and communicating threats. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District

Court in Pittsboro on May 11.

On April 13, Timothy Claude Phillips, 60, of 10346 US Highway 64 East, Staley, was arrested by Deputy Percy Grady for failure to appear. He was issued a \$200 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 20.

SILER CITY COMMISSIONERS

Board approves zoning for trucking business

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Commissioners approved a rezoning request for a local trucking company and salvage yard during their regular meeting on Monday.

The property, located at 140 Silk Hope Rd., is owned by Bryce Terrell Horton, who previously came to the board after being notified by town staff about some complaints people made about the state of his property.

“Jack [Meadows, Siler City’s planning director] told me people were complaining, and we needed to do something about it,” Horton said in the March 21 meeting. “So, I said, ‘Let’s go ahead and do what we need to do.’”

Commissioners raised a number of concerns regarding the plans for some of the work Horton wanted to do on the property, home of Horton Trucking Company. Two involved having a proper buffer between the Chatham Memorial Park cemetery and the automobile graveyard and a proposed washing station for trucks.

After the March hearing, Horton talked to Meadows to see what needed to be done to address some of the concerns commissioners had. Horton ultimately decided to not pursue a wash station on his property, but to pursue a natural buffer between the cemetery and the business.

Commissioners emphasized they wanted to make sure Horton was able to continue operating his business while

going through the process of cleaning up the property, which has been the subject of complaints from neighbors and other residents.

Commissioner Norma Boone applauded Horton for the work he’d done, and she said she wants to make sure he can flourish as a Siler City business owner.

“We want to be sure that whatever happens, we want him to be successful and get him to wherever he needs to be,” Boone said. “Just by looking at some of the plans that are here, it seems like there is that working relationship there, which is what we were looking for.”

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

NEWS BRIEFS

Candidate forum set for April 24

SILER CITY — The Concerned Citizens of Siler City will hold a District 4 Chatham County and Siler City Municipal Candidate Forum on Sunday, April 24, at First Missionary Baptist Church in Siler City. The purpose of this candidate forum is to give Siler City and Chatham County voters an opportunity to hear candidates discuss the issues of importance to them in this election. The event is free and open to the public.

The church is located at 914 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Martin named new COA executive director

The Chatham County Council on Aging has named Ashlyn Martin as its new executive director.

Martin, who began work at the COA on April 18, comes to Chatham from Senior Resources of Guilford, where she served in a variety of roles since August 2014, most recently as assistant director. In that span, Martin has been the access to services program director/family caregiver support coordinator and the assistant director of home and community-based services.

With experience in a wide number of aging services roles, Martin has worked with or supervised social work staff, access to services staff, integrated services, nutrition services, senior center management,

volunteer coordination, SHIP, geriatric/adult mental health specialty teams as well as rural outreach and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA).

Martin holds a bachelors and masters degree in social work from UNC Greensboro and is certified in options counseling with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. She is a certified community resources specialist with the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems and is certified in the Seniors Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP).

She succeeds Dennis Streets Feb. 1.

Medicare alcohol abuse screenings available

As part of Alcohol Awareness Month, Medicare beneficiaries who struggle with alcohol addiction and excessive misuse can receive an annual screening, and those who screen positive may receive up to four counseling interventions annually.

Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in the United States. Alcohol addiction and excessive alcohol misuse affects people of all ages, genders and ethnicities. For more information, contact Lynn Parks, the human services team leader/family caregiver specialist at the Chatham County Council on Aging at 919-742-3975 or by email at lynn.parks@chathamcoa.org.

—CN+R staff reports

HONORS

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Phi Kappa Phi

The following students were recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi:

- Jessica Smith of Pittsboro at East Carolina University
- Darien Wellma of Goldston at North Carolina A&T State University

• Matthew Streets of Pittsboro at the University of Mississippi

Phi Beta Kappa

The following students were recently initiated in the Honor Society of Phi Beta Kappa:

- Avery Elizabeth Harris of Siler City at UNC at Chapel Hill
- Jillian Mary Janssen of Apex at UNC at Chapel Hill

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI AWARDS PHARMACY COAT PATCH

University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy student Margaret Moore of Siler City received the traditional white coat patch in a ceremony at the Medical Center Campus in Jackson.



CHATHAM COUNTY N.C. ONE STOP SITES



MAY 17, 2022 • Primary/Delayed Municipal Election

Goldston Town Hall

40A Coral Ave., Goldston, NC 27252

Paul Braxton Gym

115 S. 3rd Ave, Siler City, NC 27344

Chatham County Agriculture Conference Center

(in Lieu of BOE Office)

1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC 27312

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



DAY	DATE	TIME
THURSDAY	4/28/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	4/29/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
SATURDAY	4/30/2022	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNDAY	5/1/2022	12:00 Noon - 3:00 PM
MONDAY	5/2/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
TUESDAY	5/3/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	5/4/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
THURSDAY	5/5/2022	8:00AM - 7:30PM
FRIDAY	5/6/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM

DAY	DATE	TIME
SATURDAY	5/7/2022	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
SUNDAY	5/8/2022	12:00 Noon - 3:00 PM
MONDAY	5/9/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
TUESDAY	5/10/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	5/11/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
THURSDAY	5/12/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
FRIDAY	5/13/2022	8:00 AM - 7:30 PM
SATURDAY	5/14/2022	8:00 AM - 3:00 PM



No Photo I.D. Required to Vote in This Election

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THE CN+R REVIEW | NEIL MORRIS

Michael Bay's 'Ambulance' is a dizzying, 5-alarm thrill ride

One day, drone camerawork will become a blasé part of filmmaking. Today, it is a burgeoning, exciting expansion of the production process, employed with dizzying exhilaration in Michael Bay's "Ambulance."

Filmed in under 40 days, the action thriller is raw, uncut "Bayhem," a loud, sensorially assaultive cacophony that, when graded on the post-pandemic parabola, satisfies you by doing what you would expect while avoiding most of the usual Bay pitfalls.



NEIL MORRIS
Film Critic

AMBULANCE

GRADE: B -
DIRECTOR: Michael Bay
STARRING: Jake Gyllenhaal, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II, Eiza González, Garret Dillahunt, Keir O'Donnell and Jackson White
MCAA RATING: R
RUNNING TIME: 2 hr. 16 min.

as exactly how long can an ambulance drive on one tank of gas? Why didn't Danny and Will wear masks? How is Zach awake and chatting with Cam about a half hour after she and Will perform an open-chest surgical procedure on Zach and his spleen bursts in the process? And if Cam's primary focus is keeping Zach alive, why does she attempt to escape at one point while leaving Zach behind?

The film is based on a 2005 Danish film of the same name, which clocked in at a tidy 80 minutes. Bay drags on for over 135 minutes, which is overlong to the point of preposterous. Needless elements are globbed on, including a Latino street gang who turns from friend to foe and no fewer than two self-reverential references to Bay's oeuvre. Any sidelong salute to emergency service personnel that Bay may have intended gets suffocated by the film's sheer sound and fury.

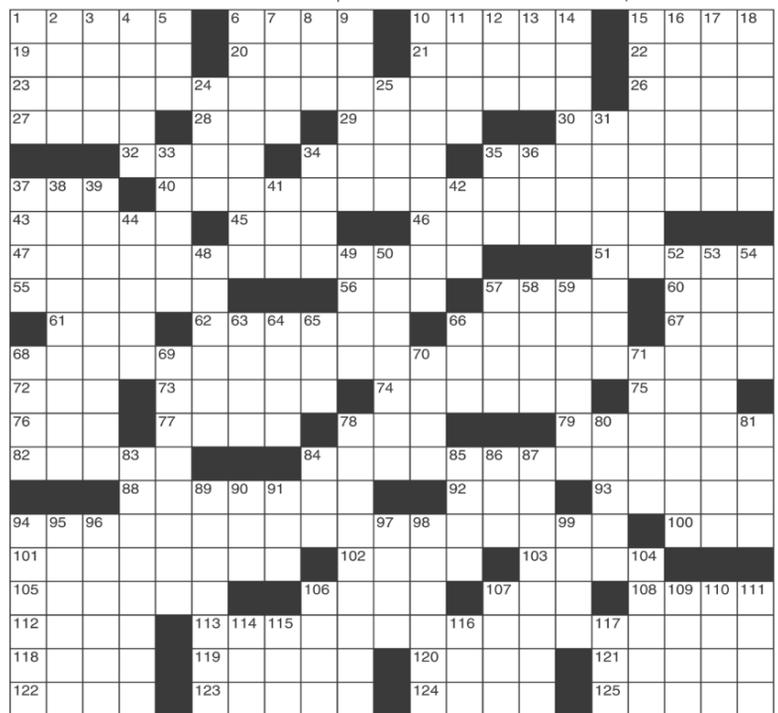
Still, you do not go to a Michael Bay movie for emotional or intellectual depth, and for all of Bay's many faults, he has always been a dexterous visual filmmaker. "Ambulance" excises many of Bay's excesses, including his reliance on special effects and predilection for offensive humor.

What is left is a high-octane actioner with enough adequate acting to compensate for an otherwise solid plot that gets more risible as the film goes on and on. And if you see "Ambulance," it is a movie that demands to be seen on the biggest theater screen possible. Given our post-pandemic cinematic landscape, that is as purposeful as a Michael Bay movie has ever been.

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ADDITIVE-FREE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not suitable
 - 6 "Sorry to intrude..."
 - 10 Capricious ideas
 - 15 Cartoonist Addams, informally
 - 19 Payments to the IRS
 - 20 Oscar winner Robert De —
 - 21 Capital of Vietnam
 - 22 Sword handle
 - 23 Fifth Avenue skyscraper
 - 26 Other, in Acapulco
 - 27 Identity hider
 - 28 Altitudes: Abbr.
 - 29 — C (PC copy command)
 - 30 What a groom may toss
 - 32 "Uh-huh"
 - 34 Pioneer Boone, informally
 - 35 Orthodox Jewish movement
 - 37 Rapper — Rida
 - 40 Technique for viewing a slow process quickly
 - 43 Cattle farm
 - 45 Prefix with nourished
 - 46 In a daze
 - 47 First first lady of the U.S.
 - 51 Gets close to
 - 55 Sesame seed paste
 - 56 Pucksters' org., with the Calder Cup
 - 57 Newspaper think piece
 - 60 Born as
 - 61 Toon sheet
 - 62 Hedy of "Ecstasy"
 - 66 Rome's — Fountain
 - 67 Dollar bill
 - 68 Advance inquiry into a crime, e.g.
 - 72 Israeli city close to Ben Gurion Airport
 - 73 Big name in life insurance
 - 74 Decrease
 - 75 Doc for the neck up
 - 76 D-H linkup
 - 77 FDR or HST
 - 78 Former "Idol" judge
 - 79 Bob of play-by-play
 - 82 Wolfed down
 - 84 Launching of people into orbit
 - 88 Insurance payment
 - 92 "The Simpsons" shopkeeper
 - 93 Was overlong
 - 94 Dual-focus course about bodily structures
 - 100 Some kitchen appliances, for short
 - 101 From a northwest Italian port
 - 102 Certain South African
 - 103 Arena level
 - 105 "Hallelujah Chorus" composer
 - 106 Rough-wood
 - 107 City vehicle
 - 108 Gas brand
 - 112 Water, in Acapulco
 - 113 What love is, per a Four Aces #1 tune, with "a"
 - 118 Crate piece
 - 119 Capital of South Korea
 - 120 Actress Best
 - 121 Really mad
 - 122 The "T" of 66-Down
 - 123 Day divisions
 - 124 Bargain
 - 125 Restaurant notice that's applicable to this puzzle's seven longest answers?
 - 18 Tempestuous
 - 24 Spicy cuisine
 - 25 — Reader (magazine)
 - 31 Carrier based in New Delhi
 - 33 Hawke of film
 - 34 Salvador of surreal art
 - 35 Spicy
 - 36 From — Z
 - 37 Sig Nu, e.g.
 - 38 Video game tomb raider
 - 39 Teetering
 - 41 — di-dah
 - 42 Attila follower
 - 44 Refrigerate
 - 48 More artful
 - 49 — a soul
 - 50 "— in Manila" (Ali-Frazier fight)
 - 52 Consecrating
 - 53 Nevada airport
 - 54 In view
 - 57 Mining finds
 - 58 Sampras of the court
 - 59 Show plainly
 - 63 Poker cost
 - 64 Supplies with personnel
 - 65 Coach
 - 66 LG or RCA products
 - 68 Petition
 - 69 "Thumbs-up!"
 - 70 Gas in signs
 - 71 Gasless car
 - 78 Tipoffs in hoops, e.g.
 - 80 Christie's "A Pocket Full —"
 - 81 Depots: Abbr.
 - 83 Not old-fashioned
 - 84 Cabinet dept. since 1965
 - 85 Twosome
 - 86 Abbr. on military mail
 - 87 Societal
 - 89 It might have mascara on it
 - 90 Pas' mates
 - 91 Opal ending
 - 94 Horror-struck
 - 95 All-Star pitcher Denny
 - 96 Yearly
 - 97 Gordie of hockey
 - 98 Itched (for)
 - 99 Seine feeder
 - 104 Tremly again
 - 106 Stimulate
 - 107 — fide
 - 109 Phony
 - 110 Creates a lap
 - 111 Blood type, for short
 - 114 Prefix with pagan
 - 115 Part of TTYL
 - 116 HST follower
 - 117 Loud noise



Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

G E N I A L P A P A W S N I T B B S
O P E N L Y A R U B A B O D S E R N
B A T T E R I N G R A M A T I T L E A
O C A S I O B U L L T E R R I E R
N O U N A N N O Y O O O A A N D E
O L S E N T W I N S C R A B S P I D E R
S E N S E I E X A M I N E E T A R S
E L A M L O S S L I T
C O W A R D L Y L I O N B A M M O I
A P A R E U N I C E B S A A T I L T
V I R G I N M A R Y B A T H S C A L E S
E N D O R N S A S Y R I A C C L I O
D E S M B A S C O R P I O N K I C K
M A R A S T A E S P O
M A K E R E C L I N E D I S R A E L
A N N E A R C H E R G O A T C H E E S E
E D I C T L I E C O N C H C R E D
W A T E R M A N P E N A R E O L A
E N T I L I E B O T T O M F I S H E S
S T E S I R S A T H O S O M E A R A
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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

8				5			3
		7			8		9
	1		3			4	
	8			1			6
		3		4	9	1	
6			8				7
4		6			7	8	
		9	5				4
	2			6			
							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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MAGIC MAZE ● COULDN'T READ MUSIC

P N K H E B Y W R T R O L J G
 E B Y W U Y R P N R K I G D B
 Z E N X V L E S Q O A M K C N
 J I I E X G E L I V E T H O O
 A C A H L I N U S Y L W S B T
 C U M C C A R T N E Y I A A P
 K S Q P H I H D N A R N L I A
 S L J G H F R N N R M P S N L
 O E U C A Y O X A E V M U S C
 N A L Y D N Q H P V H N E M K
 V J H F E C B Z Y X V U T R Q

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: KING OF POP

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Clapton | Harrison | Presley | Van Halen |
| Cobain | Hendrix | Richie | Vaughan |
| Dylan | Lennon | Slash | Vile |
| Emmanuel | McCartney | Starr | |

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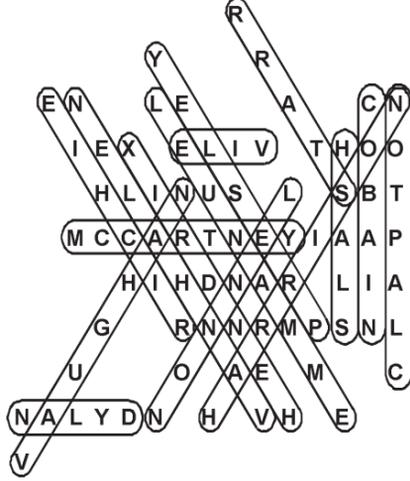
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COULDN'T READ MUSIC



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

8	6	2	9	5	4	7	3	1
3	4	7	1	2	8	5	6	9
9	1	5	3	7	6	4	2	8
5	8	4	7	1	2	3	9	6
2	7	3	6	4	9	1	8	5
6	9	1	8	3	5	2	7	4
4	5	6	2	9	7	8	1	3
7	3	9	5	8	1	6	4	2
1	2	8	4	6	3	9	5	7

Mom, redux, redux

My mom makes no secret that she is not an enthusiastic cook.



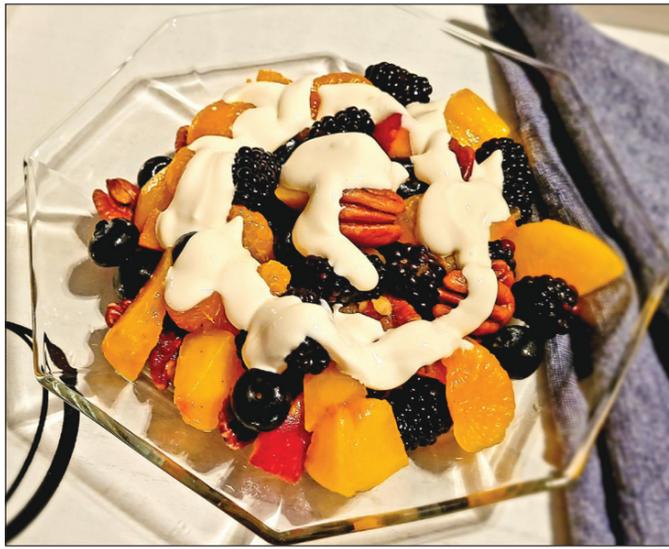
DEBBIE MATTHEWS
The Curious Cook

Growing up, she kept us well fed ("well fed" is an extreme understatement; she kept the neighborhood and even strangers on the street well fed to the point of bursting). But in the kitchen she was neither experimental nor adventurous.

She has a large handful of dishes that have become favorites of different members of the family. Mine? Potato salad, of course. The Kid adores her chicken fried steak and asks for it for every celebration where they get the pick of the menu. My little brother could happily dine solely on her stuffed chicken breasts for the rest of his life. My father loves her pecan pie — it's his birthday confection every year.

And of course, anyone who tries them becomes instant acolytes of her frosted Christmas cookies.

Also, growing up, we went to seemingly never-ending potluck dinners. Church, neighborhood, Coast Guard-related, you name it, all organizations to which we as a family belonged had regular, frequent



Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

Fruit medley with bourbon brown sugar cream.

potlucks.

So, my mother had to come up with a repertoire of recipes that were appropriate to carry to clubhouses, church basements, and any other assorted rooms where folks gathered with covered dishes.

Her slime.

I know Gentle Raeder, it sounds disgusting. But it's delicious and refreshing. It's a gelatin dish with lime jello, canned pears, cream cheese, and Dream Whip, a whipped cream product that comes in a box and is mixed with milk.

It's not slimy at all, but my little brother named it during

the "slime" craze. Slime was a slimy sort of play-doh product that was acid green and came packaged in an acid green trash can.

What can I say. It was the '70s.

Of course, I loved her her potato salad, which is what I also take to the infrequent potlucks I now attend.

And then, her showstopper, her fruit salad. She'd slice a pineapple in half, length-wise, and hollow it out. She then mix the now chopped pineapple, canned mandarin oranges, strawberries, and banana slices. She would then toss it all in

Fruit Medley with Bourbon Brown Sugar Cream

When you make this, use the fruits that you like. Buy what's in season at the farmer's market, or go retro and get strictly supermarket fair. I'll share what I used in my most recent salad (I still use the canned mandarin oranges — they warm the heart of my 10-year-old self).

Dressing:

- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon Bourbon
- Pinch of salt

Whisk together dressing ingredients and refrigerate for at least an hour for brown sugar to fully dissolve and flavors to meld.

Salad:

- 1 1/2 cup frozen peaches, cut up into bite-size pieces
- 1 small can mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 1/2 cup blueberries
- 1 1/2 cup blackberries
- 1/2 cup whole pecans toasted in butter, salted, and cooled

Toss ingredients together.

Service:

Place salad on individual dessert plates and drizzle on dressing. Serves 6-8.

a large amount of her favorite shelf stable Dream Whip.

Then the sliced pineapple would be filled with the "salad."

Other potluckers were always impressed, and the pineapple shells were always eaten clean.

The funny thing was we were living in Puerto Rico when she began making the salad, but never used any of the abundant tropical fruits that literally grew on trees all over the place. My mom's a child of the '50s and just loves supermarkets and box mixes.

My aunt used to work at a wondrous farm stand that had grown into a huge market, Delicious Orchards. It was a Whole Foods/Fresh Market/Foster's Market kind of place. They had gorgeous, gourmet foods of every stripe.

In the bakery they made this cheesecake that was topped with a sour cream layer. It was sour cream, but lightly sweetened, with the tang still a big part of the flavor.

So I decided to remake mom's salad and combine it with a dressing featuring that sour cream kick.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Adam Phillips, Miranda Parker, Mary Maloney, Gary Phillips, Jay Parker, Don Basnight, Ken Tunnell, Terri Turner, Crystal Fisher



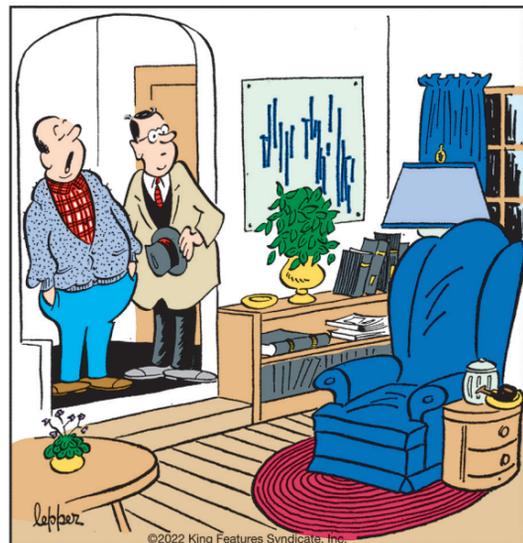
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LAFF - A - DAY



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An Egg-cellent Easter



Easter eggs on the lawn of Community Baptist Church in Siler City wait to be found during the church's annual Easter egg hunt last Sunday.



Staff photos by Simon Barbre

Josephine Harrelson (center) walks around the lawn of Community Baptist Church in Siler City during its annual spring Easter egg hunt last Sunday.

Wildlife Commission says resist the urge to 'rescue' baby wildlife

From N.C. Wildlife Commission

RALEIGH — Cute baby bunnies are a staple of Easter, but taking young rabbits out of your yard and into your home will likely do more harm than good. Well-meaning people often put young wildlife's health in danger when they intervene in a wild animal's natural process of growing up. As people begin to garden and play in their yards this spring, they may stumble upon young bunnies, fawns and fledgling birds mistakenly thought to be abandoned. The natural response for most people will be to help, but in the majority of cases, one or both parents is a short distance away searching for food and will only return when the coast is clear. "Wild parents can't hire a babysitter, so most young animals spend a lot of time on their own well before they can fend for themselves," said Falyn Owens, extension biologist at the Wildlife Commission. "When the

mother returns, sometimes many hours later, she expects to find her young where she left them."

Owens advises that if you truly feel the animal needs help, the best thing you can do is leave it alone (or put it back) and call a wildlife rehabilitator for advice.

Rabbits

Newborn rabbits (kits) spend their first few weeks hiding in plain sight, in shallow holes tucked among clumps of thick grass, under shrubs, or in the middle of open lawns. Rabbit nests can be hard to spot, often resembling a small patch of dead grass. Female rabbits (or does) actively avoid their nests, only visiting once or twice a day for a few minutes, to avoid attracting the attention of hungry predators.

"We hear from concerned people every spring who say they've found an abandoned nest of bunnies, when in fact the kits are just fine and quietly waiting for the

doe to return," Owens said. "If they appear to be healthy and unharmed, the best thing you can do is to cover up the nest and walk away. The mother won't return until well after you have left the area."

Fawns

Newborn deer also spend nearly all their time hiding for the first few weeks of their life. After nursing, the doe gives a signal and her fawns instinctively split up to find a quiet place to lay down and stay put. They will usually stay curled up for several hours while the doe ventures away to feed. Fawns rely on a dappled coat and no scent, which make it difficult for predators to find them.

If you find a fawn appearing calm and uninjured, leave it be and check on it the next day. If it is still there and bleating loudly, appears thin, injured or has visible diarrhea, contact a licensed fawn rehabilitator for advice.

"If a fawn has already

been moved from where it was found but only a little time has passed, return it immediately," Owens said. "A doe will usually try to find her missing fawn for about 48 hours before she gives up. After 48 hours have passed, or the fawn has been given any food, contact a fawn rehabilitator as soon as possible."

Songbirds

Knowing the difference between a nestling and a fledgling can help you make the right decision if you see a young bird on the ground. Nestlings don't have their feathers yet and can't survive outside of their nest for long. Fledglings have their feathers and are able to walk, hop, or fly short distances; they might appear helpless, but those which have already left the nest are being cared for by the parents — typically at a distance.

"If you find a nestling on the ground, return it to the nest as quickly as

possible, if you're able to find it," Owens said. "If the entire nest has fallen, you can place it back in the tree, or even construct a makeshift nest."

Fledglings, however, should be left alone in most cases. They are busy with the important tasks of learning to fly and survive on their own. If a fledgling isn't obviously injured or in any immediate danger, leave them to it. Like human toddlers, young birds need tons of practice to gain the muscles and coordination to become graceful adults. Keeping cats inside and dogs on leash is the best way to assure these young birds make it through this vulnerable learning stage.

Obey the law

Leaving young wildlife alone is not only part of being a responsible steward of nature, but it is also the law.

"Taking most wild animals out of the wild and into your possession is il-

legal," Owens said. "The chances that a young wild animal will survive in human care are slim at best. Even those that live long enough to be released won't have developed the skills to survive on their own."

Owens also stresses the importance of never feeding young wildlife, which can lead to irreversible harm, and is often fatal for the animal.

"When in doubt, contact a professional before you do anything," she advises. "Each spring, wildlife rehabilitators take in a lot of young that are malnourished, sick, or injured from well-meaning people trying to provide care."

And one final piece of advice: It's best to leave the animal where you found it, even if someone has picked it up or touched it. Wild parents almost never abandon their young, even if they detect human scent.

For more information, go to <https://www.ncwildlife.org>.

Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling plans April events

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling is hosting several events in April, including an annual Earth Day event with document shredding and tours of the recycling facility. All events are free and available to Chatham County residents.

Earth Day — Saturday, April 23

The annual Earth Day event is open to all Chatham County residents (no decal needed) and will feature free document shredding, free take-back of unwanted medications, compost bin sales, and household hazardous waste collection. The Earth Day event will be held at the Solid Waste & Recycling Main Facility, located at 28 County Services Rd., Pittsboro. The event starts at 9 a.m. with various end times, and includes:

Document Shredding

Chatham County residents can bring up to three boxes or bags of documents from their household for free shredding. Remove papers from folders or files, as those items can go in residential curbside recycling bins and do not need to be shredded. Businesses

are not allowed, including home businesses. Document shredding is available from 9 a.m. to p.m.

Compost Bins for Sale

Backyard compost bins will be sold for \$45 and kitchen collectors for \$5. Composting is a great way to reduce waste at home. Staff will be onsite to answer questions. Cash, checks, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover are accepted (all cards have a 3% fee). Compost bins and kitchen collectors will be on sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event will accept household hazardous waste items such as cleaners, solvents, gasoline, motor oil, stains, oil-based paint and more from Chatham County residents. There is a new limit of 20 gallons of latex paint cans. Trash will not be accepted, and businesses are not allowed. The HHW event is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Medication Take-Back

The Chatham County Sheriff's Office will conduct a medication take-back as a safe way for residents to dispose of unwanted medications.

No needles, sharps or liquids will be accepted. The Sheriff's Office will be onsite from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More details about the event can be found at www.chathamcountync.gov/recycle.

Sonoco Recycling Facility Tours — April 26 & 28

Residents can learn about where their recycling goes after they put it in the recycling bin. Chatham County Solid Waste & Recycling is offering two free tours of the Sonoco Recycling Facility in Raleigh. The tours are for residents of Chatham County only. Space is limited, and registration is required.

There are two tours scheduled: Tuesday, April 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Thursday, April 28, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The tour includes transportation to the Sonoco Recycling facility in Raleigh, and all participants must take the transportation provided. Participants will meet at the Solid Waste & Recycling Main Office. Register by Wednesday, April 20.

Learn more details and register at www.chathamcountync.gov/education or contact the Solid Waste & Recycling Division at 919-542-5516 or recycle@chathamcountync.gov.



Chatham COA Events & Announcements

April 25th through April 29th

Monday, April 25

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧑🏻
- [Strong & Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC) 🧑🏻
- [SilverArts Visual & Heritage Arts Intake](#) at 10:00 AM (at ECSC) 🧑🏻
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧑🏻 📶
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧑🏻

Tuesday, April 26

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧑🏻
- [Walking at CCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot) 🧑🏻

Wednesday, April 27

- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC) 🧑🏻

Thursday, April 28

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧑🏻
- [Senior Games Bowling Practice](#) at 12:30 PM (at Buffalo Lanes, Cary, RSVP Jackie) 🧑🏻
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🧑🏻

Friday, April 29

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🧑🏻
- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC) 🧑🏻
- [Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program w/Jackie](#) at 10:00 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills and on Zoom) 🧑🏻 📶
- [Senior Games Drive Thru T-Shirt and Packet Pickup](#) at 10 AM (at ECSC) 🧑🏻
- [Senior Games Practice](#) at 10:00 AM (Northwest District Park, Siler City) 🧑🏻
- [Friday Night Dance](#) at 7:00 PM (at WCSC) 💰

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

🧑🏻 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**

📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**

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YARD SALE

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

HELP WANTED

UTILITY MECHANIC I/UTILITY MECHANIC II, (CDL - Will train) - Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high-quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services seeks highly responsible, detail-oriented individuals to join our Water Distribution and Sewer Collection team as a Utility Mechanic I or Utility Mechanic II. - This position maintains, repairs, and installs, water, sewer and reclaimed water lines and associated infrastructure. This includes water services, meters, valves, hydrants, manholes, and maintaining easements. Position uses a wide variety of equipment and tools including, hand tools, air compressors, jack hammers, pavement saw, dump trucks, backhoes, compact rollers and tapping machine. Employees need skills to correspond via email and utilize computerized work order management system. - Candidates must have the ability to work outdoors in all kinds of weather and respond to after-hour situations on a rotating on-call basis. Typical work hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Physical requirements include exerting 20-50 pounds constantly, 50-100 pounds frequently and walking/standing to a significant degree. - Title and salary range are dependent on experience. - Utility Mechanic I: No experience required. Requires a High School Diploma or equivalent and a valid NC Driver's License. Within 6 months, successful candidate must be able to obtain (and maintain) a Class A Commercial Driver's License. Prior experience in a water and wastewater utility preferred. - Salary range: \$35,246 - \$54,279. -- Utility Mechanic II: One to three years of experience in a water and wastewater utility required. Position requires a High School Diploma or equivalent and a valid Class A NC Commercial Driver's License. Candidates must have a Sewer Collection System Grade 1 certification or a Water Distribution System Grade C certification. Salary range: \$40,801 - \$62,833. -- OWASA provides excellent benefits to include membership in the NC Local Government Employees Retirement System, employer 457 plan contribution and retirement health savings account. Paid Health, Dental, Vision and Life insurances. Additional benefits include: Paid Holidays, Vacation, Sick, Personal, Bereavement and Parental Leave, Educational Reimbursement, Bonus Pay for Additional Certifications and/or Education and more! - OWASA is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to continuous improvement, sustainability, creativity, diversity, and inclusion. OWASA does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, or employment decisions. - Certified Orange County Living Wage Employer. If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, you must apply on our website: <https://www.owasa.org/jobs/> - Closing date is April 29, 2022. A21,1tc

VEHICLE AND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE MECHANIC - Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA), Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high-quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services seeks a highly responsible, detail-oriented individual to join our team as a Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance Mechanic. Ideal candidates should be self-motivated team players with a positive attitude and the ability to work independently. Candidates must have good communication skills with the ability to assist the team to fulfill the mission and goals of OWASA while ensuring safe work practices are always followed. - Responsible for ensuring safe, reliable, and efficient operations within repair and maintenance of OWASA's vehicles and equipment. This is accomplished by performing skilled mechanic work on vehicle systems, brakes, steering, tires, transmission, air conditioners, inspections, etc. Position operates various trucks and other equipment to complete preventative maintenance and repairs. Other duties include purchasing materials, spare parts and communicating with vendors. Work is accomplished by receiving and completing work orders through a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). - This position requires six-months to one year of advanced study or training at a community college or technical school with three to five years of relevant experience. - Position requires a valid North Carolina (NC) Commercial Driver's License (CDL). - Must be able to obtain a NC Inspections Licenses and the EPA Section 609 Certification. - Must meet and maintain requirements for safety sensitive position (ability to wear a full-face respirator, complete HAZWOPER training, etc.). - Position frequently exerts 10-25 pounds and occasionally 50-100 pounds. Previous experience using a CMMS is preferred. - OWASA provides excellent benefits to include membership in the NC Local Government Employees Retirement System. Paid Health, Dental, Vision and Life insurances. Additional benefits include: Paid Holidays, Vacation, Sick and Personal Leave, Bereavement and Parental Leave, Educational Reimbursement, Bonus Pay for Additional Certifications and/or Education. - OWASA is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to continuous improvement, sustainability, creativity, diversity, and inclusion. - OWASA does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex in administration of its programs or activities, or employment decisions. Salary range: \$48,138 - \$74,13 -- If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, you must apply on our website: <https://www.owasa.org/jobs/> - Closing date: April 29, 2022 - Certified Orange County Living Wage Employer. A21,1tc

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

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

HOMECARE SEEKING, Now hiring for immediate positions in Pittsboro/Siler City - Certified Nurse Aides - Competitive

weekly pay, CNAs start at \$10.00/hr. & up for extra care cases - Total LifeCare, Call 919-776-0352 or visit 824 South Horner Blvd., Sanford for more info or to apply. A29,tfnc

MISCELLANEOUS

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

NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, having qualified at 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 of 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,A21,4tc

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 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 M31,A7,A14,A21,4tp

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 Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **BEVERLY LONG CHAPIN**, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, the undersigned does hereby notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the estate of said decedent to exhibit them to the undersigned at 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271, Capel Hill, North Carolina 27517, on or before the 1st day of July, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, corporations indebted to the aid estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned. This is the 31st Day of March, 2022. Lawrence Grossberg, Executor of the Estate of Beverly Long Chapin c/o Dori J. Dixon Schelll Bray PLLC Attorney for the Estate 100 Europa Drive, Suite 271 Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517 M31,A7,A14,A21,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **BERNARD L. BRYANT, JR.**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 7th, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 7th day of April, 2022. Nancy Bryant Poppe, Executor Estate of Bernard L. Bryant, Jr. c/o Roberson Law Firm 1829 E. Franklin St., Ste. 800C Chapel Hill, NC 27514 A7,A14,A21,A18,4tc

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. Wilmington, NC 27519 A7,A14,A21,A28,4tp

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

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.

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

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM COUNTY In the General Court of Justice District Court Division Orange County **FILE NO. 22 CV 00324** Tiffany LeAnne Beckwith vs **JOSE ANTONIO AGUIRRE PACHECO** Unknown Address Please take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: **ABSOLUTE DIVORCE**. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than 40 days after publication and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This, the 28th day of March, 2022 NC General Statutes Tiffany LeAnne Beckwith 605 Jones Ferry Rd Apt TT05 Carrboro, NC 27510 A7,A14,A21,3tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 179 All persons having claims against **HARRY LEE GOODWIN**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 14th 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 11th day of April, 2022. Leigh Goodwin, Executrix 109 Bradwyck Drive Cary, NC 27513 A14,A21,A28,My5,4tp

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION CHATHAM COUNTY 22SP25 IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF A DEED OF TRUST EXECUTED BY ROBIN ITEN PORTER AND TYLER BRETT PORTER DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2008 AND RECORDED IN BOOK 1386 AT PAGE 244 IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC REGISTRY, NORTH CAROLINA NOTICE OF SALE Under and by virtue of the power and authority contained in the above-referenced deed of trust and because of default in payment of the secured debt and failure to perform the

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@ECCMGt.com
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Career Opportunities Available
Visit www.chathamcountync.gov and click Jobs.

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

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

agreements contained therein and, pursuant to demand of the holder of the secured debt, the undersigned will expose for sale at public auction at the usual place of sale at the Chatham County courthouse at 10:00AM on April 26, 2022, the following described real estate and any improvements situated thereon, in Chatham County, North Carolina, and being more particularly described in that certain Deed of Trust executed Robin Iten Porter and Tyler Brett Porter, dated February 15, 2008 to secure the original principal amount of \$134,450.00, and recorded in Book 1386 at Page 244 of the Chatham County Public Registry. The terms of the said Deed of Trust may be modified by other instruments appearing in the public record. Additional identifying information regarding the collateral property is below and is believed to be accurate, but no representation or warranty is intended.

Address of property: 307 Danbury Ct, Pittsboro, NC 27312
Tax Parcel ID: 0083002
Present Record Owners: Tyler Brett Porer and Robin Iten Porter

The record owner(s) of the property, according to the records of the Register of Deeds, is/are Tyler Brett Porer and Robin Iten Porter. The property to be offered pursuant to this notice of sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance AS IS, WHERE IS. Neither the Trustee nor the holder of the note secured by the deed of trust being foreclosed, nor the officers, directors, attorneys, employees, agents or authorized representative of either the Trustee or the holder of the note make any representation or warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at or relating to the property offered for sale. Any and all responsibilities or liabilities arising out of or in any way relating to any such condition expressly are disclaimed. This sale is subject to all prior liens and encumbrances and unpaid taxes and assessments including any transfer tax associated with the foreclosure. A deposit of five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid or seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, is required from the highest bidder and must be tendered in the form of certified funds at the time of the sale. **Cash will not be accepted.** This sale will be held open ten days for upset bids as required by law. After the expiration of the upset period, all remaining amounts are IMMEDIATELY DUE AND OWING. Failure to remit funds in a timely manner will result in a Declaration of Default and any deposit will be frozen pending the outcome of any re-sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Substituted Trustee or the attorney of any of the foregoing.

SPECIAL NOTICE FOR LEASE-HOLD TENANTS residing at the property: be advised that an Order for Possession of the property may be issued in favor of the purchaser. Also, if your lease began or was renewed on or after October 1, 2007, be advised that you may terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days written notice to the landlord. You may be liable for rent due under the agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination. The date of this Notice is April 6, 2022. Attorney for the Substituted Trustee 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400 Charlotte, NC 28216 (704) 333-8107 Posted: By:

22-112662

A14,A21,2tc

EXECUTORS NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY File No.: 22-E-197 ALL PERSONS, firms and corporations having claims against **WALTER E. DELLINGER, a/k/a Walter Estes Dellinger III**, deceased, of Chatham County, N.C., are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before July 13, 2022, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment. This 14th day of April, 2022. Hampton Y. Dellinger, Executor c/o Deborah A. McDermott, Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. P.O. Box 2611 Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-2611.

A14,A21,A28,M5,4tp

CREDITOR'S NOTICE NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY Having qualified on the 8th day of March 2022, as Executrix of the Estate of **ANNA M. MALCOLM**, 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 13th day of July, 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 14th day of April 2022 Christina Germano, Executor of the

Estate of Anna M. Malcolm 211 Kindred Way Cary, NC 27513 Attorneys: Law Offices of W. Woods Doster, P.A. 206 Hawkins Avenue Sanford, NC 27330 A14,A21,A28,M5,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY The undersigned, Bryan Boone, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of **RACHEL W. BOONE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 15th day of July, 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 14th day of April, 2022. Bryan Boone, Executor 7408 Villanow Drive Sanford, NC 27332 919-721-8985 W. Ben Atwater, Jr. Moody, Williams, Atwater & Lee PO Box 629 Siler City, NC 27344 919-663-2850 benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com A14,A21,A28,M5,4tc

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHATHAM COUNTY, IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE, DISTRICT COURT DIVISION SMALL CLAIMS, 22-CVM-99. VAN NESS APARTMENTS LLC, Plaintiff, v. GREGORIO SAN JUAN TOLENTINO, Defendant. TO: DEFENDANT: Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Plaintiff claims a possessory lien on the 2002 Coronado Mobile Home with Vehicle Identification Number VAF1219A57435C012 for storage of the mobile home in the total amount of \$4,140.00. Defendant is the registered owner of the mobile home. Plaintiff has given notice to the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles that the mobile home is an unclaimed

vehicle, that Plaintiff is in possession of the mobile home, and that a lien is asserted and sale is proposed for the above described mobile home. Plaintiff seeks a judgment from the Court declaring the lien valid and enforceable by sale and ordering that the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles transfer title to the person who purchases at the sale. A hearing before the Court in the above-captioned action is currently scheduled for June 7, 2022 at 9:30am at the Chatham County Courthouse, located at 40 E. Chatham Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312, Room #3B. You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than May 24, 2022, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought. This 14th day of April, 2022. Brienne M. Glass, Jessica B. Vickers, B. Zachary Taylor, Jr., Manning, Fulton & Skinner, P.A., Attorneys for Plaintiff, 3605 Glenwood Ave., Suite 500, Raleigh, North Carolina 27612. Chatham News + Record, April 14, April 21, April 28, 2022.

A14,A21,A28,3tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 185 All persons having claims against **SKINNER ARTHUR WHITE, III**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th 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 11th day of April, 2022. India White, Administratrix 674 Pine Forest South Siler City, NC 27344 A14,A21,A28,M5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 211 All persons having claims against **LISA RENE' PHILLIPS**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 15th 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 11th day of April, 2022. Larry F. Phillips, Executor 509 Beal Road Goldston, NC 27252 A14,A21,A28,M5,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 655 All persons having claims against **ROBERT LEE CARMINES**, deceased, late of

Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21th day of April, 2022. Holly Jackson, Executrix 2514 Carver Oaks Ct. Rockville, VA 23146 A21,A28,M5,My12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM 22-E-215 All persons having claims against **BONNIE A. FINKLE**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21st day of April, 2022. Denise Joan Lynch, Executor c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 A21,A28,M5,My12,4tc

TOWN OF SILER CITY PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO CLOSE A PORTION OF PATTERSON STREET. WHEREAS, the subject portion of Patterson Street is located within the Town of Siler City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). WHEREAS, the subject portion of Patterson Street is shown and more particularly described in Plat Book 2020, Page 58 of the Chatham County Registry. WHEREAS, Craig Brooks Wood and wife, Margaret Ann Wood fee simple owners of certain real property located adjacent to the subject portion of Patterson Street. The owners acquired said property via Warranty Deed, in Deed Book 2123, Page 720 of the Chatham County Registry. The property is identified as 1053 Pine Forest South Drive. The property is also shown as Chatham County Tax Parcel ID 17187. WHEREAS, Craig Brooks Wood and wife, Margaret Ann Wood have petitioned and requested the Board of Commissioners to permanently close a portion of Patterson Street. NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Siler City do RESOLVE, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-299, the following: 1. A public hearing shall be held on the 16th day of May, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be convenient, before the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Siler City, North Carolina at which time the Board shall consider the permanent closing of said street and so as to determine whether or not said street shall be permanently closed or otherwise restricted in accordance with N.C. Gen.

Stat. §160A-299. 2. The public hearing will be held in the conference room at Wren Memorial Library at 500 N. 2nd Ave. 3. That a copy of this Resolution shall be mailed by registered or certified mail to all owners of property adjoining the said street as shown on the county tax records. 4. That a copy of this Resolution shall be published once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to said hearing, as required by applicable law. 5. That a notice of closing and public hearing shall be prominently posted in at least two places along said street. 6. That after said public hearing, if the Board of Commissioners are of the opinion that the closing of said street would not be contrary to the public interest or to the rights of individuals owning property abutting or in the vicinity of said street and does not interfere with ingress and egress of said property, the Board of Commissioners may adopt an Order permanently closing said street above described. 7. That in the event that Order is made closing said street, a copy of said Order shall be submitted to North Carolina Department of Transportation. 8. That in the event that North Carolina Department of Transportation abandons maintenance of said street, a copy of said Order shall be filed in the Office of Register of Deeds for Chatham County, North Carolina. 9. That in the event the Board of Commissioners shall close said street as above described, the title to said properties contained within the boundaries of said street shall vest in the persons or entities owning said street provided by §160A-299 of the North Carolina General Statutes. RESOLVED, this 21st day of March, 2022. Thomas K. Price III, Mayor Pro Tempore. ATTEST: Jenifer K. Johnson, Town Clerk The proposed item is available for review by contacting the Planning and Community Development Director at jmeadows@silercity.org or 919-742-2323. The Town of Siler City as an Equal Opportunity Employer, invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. The Town of Siler

City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided other accommodations, such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or nhannah@silercity.org for accommodations for this request. Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Nancy Hannah al nhannah@silercity.org o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. A21,A28,M5,My12,4tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY All persons, firms and corporations having claims against **ESTATE OF RAY C. WILLIAMS** late of Chatham County, North Carolina, who died on October 28, 2021 are hereby notified to present their claims to EDWARD LEE WILLIAMS, Executor in care of the undersigned attorney at her address, on or before July 20, 2022 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the deceased, please make immediate payment. This 21st day of April, 2022 EDWARD LEE WILLIAMS, EXECUTOR c/o Janet H. McLamb, Attorney 102 Presque Isle Lane Chapel Hill, NC 27514 A21,A28,M5,My12,4tp

CREDITORS NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM Having qualified on the 12th day of April, 2022 as Executrix for the Estate of **RITCHIE WAYNE BUCKNER, SR.** deceased late of Chatham County, North Carolina this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the estate to present them to the undersigned on or before July 21, 2022 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons,

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Online Auction, Commercial Lots in Yadkinville, NC, Begins Closing 5/4 at 2pm, 5 Light Industrial Lots located off US 421 & US 601, Low Reserve, ironhorseauction.com, 800.997.2248, NCAL 3936

Online Only Auction, Income Producing Properties in Richmond County, NC, Begins Closing: April 26, 2022 at 2pm, Apartments and Homes, Contact Anthony Bristow at 910.331.6765, ironhorseauction.com, 800.997.2248, NCAL 3936

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firms and corporations indebted to said estate should make immediate payment to said estate. This the 12th day of April, 2022. Beverly R. Buckner, Executrix 5458 Siler City Snow Camp Road Siler City, NC 27344 W.W. Seymour, Jr., Attorney at Law, PA Attorney for the Estate PO Box 3516 Sanford, NC 27331-3516 Telephone Number: (919)-775-2137

County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21st day of April, 2022. Tara Parnell, Executrix 1122 Arboretum Dr Wilmington, NC 28405 A21,A28,My5,My12,4tp

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 216 All persons having claims against **EVERETT TYSON**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21st day of April, 2022. Felicia Austin, Administator 7715 Haigler Gin Rd Monroe, NC 28110 A21,A28,My5,My12,4tp

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold one (1) Public Hearing on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. during its Regular Meeting. This will be a hybrid meeting with the Board of Commissioners and Town staff meeting in-person at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center with an identical broadcast and the ability for the public to participate

virtually via Zoom. The meeting will also be livestreamed to the Town of Pittsboro YouTube page. The Board will consider the following items: 1. Legislative Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Manager's Proposed Annual Budget: This will be the first Public Hearing on the budget for the 2022-23 fiscal year. The proposed budget has been submitted to the governing board and is available for public inspection in the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall (635 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312). The purpose of the legislative public hearing is to provide interested parties with an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Interested persons may review the complete records of the public hearing

items on the Town's website (www.pittsboronc.gov) or at the Town of Pittsboro Town Hall located at 635 East Street, Pittsboro, NC 27312 during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday). Please call Town Hall at 919-542-4621 in advance if accommodations for individuals with disabilities or impairments will be required. Substantial changes in the proposed items may be made following the public hearings. The public can participate virtually via Zoom, a teleconference software. Instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting can be found on the Town's website at www.pittsboronc.gov. If you wish to make written comments, please send them to the Town Manager, Chris Kennedy, PO Box 759, Pittsboro, NC 27312

or via email at ckennedy@pittsboronc.gov by 4:00 p.m. on April 25, 2022. A21,1tc

NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 189 All persons having claims against **ADA C. PEOPLES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 21st 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 21st day of April, 2022. JULIUS COLTER, JR., Executor 6916 Olde Sycamore Dr Mint Hill, NC 28227 bd A21,A28,My5,My12,4tp

NEWS BRIEFS

Merchants' group hosts scavenger hunt

PITTSBORO — Circle City Merchants, a Pittsboro-based group of business owners, entrepreneurs, food producers and restaurants, is hosting its first "Treasure Quest," a scavenger hunt for the Pittsboro area, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 23.

Teams of up to six people are welcome to register for this event through the website Eventbrite under "Pittsboro Treasure Quest."

Registration is \$25 and due by Friday, and there will be prizes for best team name, most enthusiastic team/team spirit, and team costumes. This event is not time-based; rather, prizes of \$500 for 1st place, \$300 for 2nd place, and \$200 for 3rd place will be awarded based on total points accumulated from the challenges.

Sign-in starts at 10:30 a.m. at the SOCO parking lot downtown and participants will receive a packet of clues leading to local businesses, landmarks, and special guest locations. At each location, teams will complete a challenge before heading to their next stop. The Circle City Merchants team will be monitoring these challenges through social media and tabulating points for each team.

Gov. Cooper proclaims April 17-23 'National Volunteer Week,' encourages North Carolinians to assist in local communities

RALEIGH — Governor Roy Cooper has declared April 17-23 as National Volunteer Week in North Carolina to celebrate the important work volunteers do across the state and encourage more North Carolinians to volunteer.

There are many opportunities for people to mark the week.

"When we work together, we build a stronger state for all," Cooper said in a statement. "I am grateful for all the volunteers across our state and encourage North Carolinians to spend time volunteering. Whether you're donating to a local food bank, assisting with disaster recovery, giving blood or helping seniors, there are many ways to help out your community."

VolunteerNC, an agency within the Office of the Governor, promotes community service and volunteering across North Carolina. The agency has more information on volunteer opportunities across the state including volunteering onsite, outdoors, from home or virtually. Volunteer needs vary across the state from working at a local food bank to helping rebuild homes damaged by severe weather.

"National Volunteer Week celebrates the year-round impact of volunteers in our community. Volunteers are true change makers: dedicating their efforts to causes they care about, including disaster recovery, COVID response, food drives and more," said Briles Johnson,

executive director of VolunteerNC. "North Carolina is the great state we love because so many people volunteer their time and talents to serve their neighbors and communities."

More than 2.8 million North Carolina volunteers have contributed over 265 million hours of service in 2021, meaning 35% of North Carolinians volunteered last year. More than 30% of North Carolinians participated in local groups or organizations, and over 50% of North Carolinians donated \$25 or more to charities.

In 1974, National Volunteer Week was established by presidential proclamation to acknowledge and promote the value of community service across the country. National Volunteer Week has been federally celebrated each year since then as well as through many states across the country.

Visit VolunteerNC's website to learn more about volunteer opportunities in the state.

Chatham County Parks & Recreation to host Earth Day celebration

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Parks & Recreation Department invites the community to celebrate the planet at its Earth Day Celebration. This first-time event will take place to 2 to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, at Southwest District Park, located at 15124 NC-902, Bear Creek.

The Earth Day Celebration will serve as a grand opening for the Kids in Parks TRACK Trails program that has been installed at Southwest District Park. The TRACK Trails feature self-guided brochures and signs that offer a fun and exciting outdoors experience while learning about various plants and animals. Community members can register for free through Kids in Parks and win prizes for tracking their adventures. In addition to the grand opening, community members can also expect a natural play area, nature crafts, a scavenger hunt, activities from other community organizations, and a food truck at the Earth Day Celebration.

"Chatham County Parks and Recreation is excited to celebrate the grand opening of the Kids in Parks TRACK Trails program," said Chatham County Parks and Recreation Director Tracy Burnett. "TRACK Trails and the Earth Day Celebration are a great way to help our community members experience and appreciate nature and our planet."

For more information on Kids in Parks TRACK Trails, individuals may visit <https://www.kidsinparks.com>. For more information on the Earth Day Celebration, individuals may visit the Earth Day Celebration 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@chathamcountync.gov.

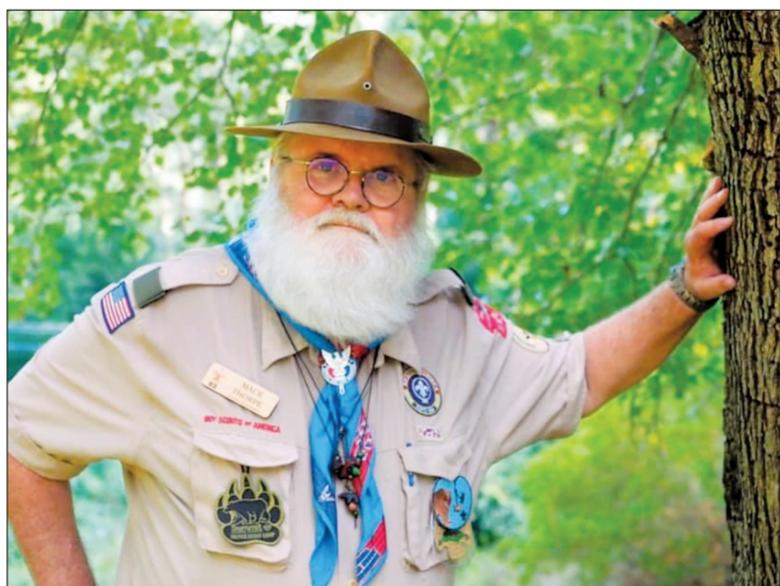
—CN+R staff reports



Submitted photos

Scoutmaster of the Year

Troop 93 Scoutmaster William Huneycutt was awarded 'Scoutmaster of the Year' for his leadership, character, Scouting knowledge and success at leading Boy Scout of America Troop 93 Pittsboro.



Submitted photos

Unit Commissioner of the Year

Troop 93 Assistant Scoutmaster Mack Thorpe, a Eno River District Unit Commissioner working as a liaison with BSA Troop 911 and Cub Scout Pack 911 Silk Hope, was awarded 'Unit Commissioner of the Year' for his leadership in keeping Scouting alive and moving forward in the Silk Hope Community.

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