

# Chatham News + Record

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'THESE PEOPLE ARE DOING YOU GUYS DIRTY'

## Newcomers challenge incumbents in Siler City candidate forum

Mayoral candidates Don Matthews (left) and Nick Gallardo answered questions for voters during Sunday's election forum event in Siler City.



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — A bloc of newcomers to Siler City, seeking seats on the town's board of commissioners, pledged to "make history" if elected during a candidate forum on Sunday.

But long-time board member

Cindy Bray — who was the target of heckling during the event from the bloc's patron, a Durham philanthropist named Courtney Jordan — warned of the dangers of the new candidates' rhetoric.

"People are hearing different things that change," Bray said during the event. "Quit giving out misinformation, and let's

talk about what is true."

Candidates made their case to voters at First Missionary Baptist Church in Siler City on Sunday afternoon. The four newcomers — Nick Gallardo, Sam Williams, Jared Picot and Dean Picot II — are running on what they describe as a "unity

See **FORUM**, page A6

## At Kildee Farm, strawberries are the juiciest crop

'People don't realize how much science and care it takes'

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

RAMSEUR — For five generations, members of the Beal family have toiled at Kildee Farm, expanding it from a small dairy farm into a 250-acre operation raising cattle and goats and growing corn and tobacco.

Its most prized crop, though, is strawberries.

Owner Michael Beal has been planting more than two and a half acres of strawberries in his family's fields off Kildee Church Road here for the last 22 years. He says he's learned a lot over that time about what makes for ideal strawberry conditions to give them the sweetest, juiciest flavor possible.

"I never thought I'd check the weather so much in my life," he said. "There's so much technicality that goes into making these berries. People don't realize how much science and care it takes."

The best berries, Beal said, come from knowledge about the species of strawberry grown and ensuring proper care from planting to picking: conditions for fertilizing, allowances for heat, and not letting the berries get too waterlogged. Long and hot spring seasons like this year, for example — with minimal rains —



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

A bucket of fresh strawberries is ready for purchase at Kildee Farm.

create optimal opportunities for the strawberry plants to grow and make for a longer season.

"With conditions like these we can probably easily get six to eight weeks of berries," Beal said. "I've had it be as short as four [weeks] before, but the heat that's coming in we are going to be rockin' and rollin' here soon."

He said he expects this year's strawberry season to last until the end of May.

Saturday was Kildee Farm's opening day for this year's strawberry season. The intensive and thorough care Beal, his family and his growers have

See **FARM**, page A9



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

Michael Beal shows off freshly-picked strawberries on Saturday's opening day at Kildee Farm.

## Siler City's new town manager starts May 16

Hank Raper says town won't squander opportunities during Chatham's growth spurt

BY BILL HORNER III  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City's new town manager will begin his tenure on May 16, but you'll forgive Hank Raper if one of the items on his to-do list is getting on good terms with his governmental counterparts over in Pittsboro.

That's where his predecessor and his predecessor's predecessor both work. Former Siler City Town Manager Roy Lynch left Siler City to become Chatham County's county finance director earlier this year; Lynch had replaced Bryan Thompson, now serving as assistant county manager.

Given Chatham's rapid growth and the role Raper thinks Siler City will play in it, he says it just makes sense to be in touch.

"We really are at the forefront, in Siler City, in Pittsboro, at the county," Raper told the News + Record. "There's a tremendous amount of economic development, opportunity and residential growth. And it's going to take collaboration and partnership between each of us to make sure that we maximize that potential we have for our area. There are areas all over the state that would be envious of the opportunity we have in front of us here in Siler City. And we're not going to squander it. We're going to work together and get the absolute best result we can for our businesses and our residents."

Raper, 33, comes to Siler City from the town manager post in Fairmont — a town of

See **MANAGER**, page A3



Raper

A HISTORY-MAKING DAY

## Hampton Inn & Suites' groundbreaking brings first hotel to Chatham

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Dirt has finally moved on the first hotel project in Chatham County history.

Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony for the Pittsboro Hampton Inn & Suites in Mosaic at Chatham Park marked a historic day as the development of Chatham Park continues: the 121-room hotel will be the latest addition to the mixed-use development of Mosaic at Chatham Park and marks the beginning of the construction of the county's long-awaited first hotel.

The \$200+ million Mosaic project

See **HOTEL**, page A16



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

Malcolm and Sally Bryant, the co-founders of Malcolm Bryant Corporation, pose with a rendering of the 121-key Hampton Inn to be built within Mosaic at Chatham Park. Chatham County's first hotel will open its doors for guests in the fall of 2023.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB/WREN FAMILY CENTER

## Author, author: students write their own stories, become published authors

BY ZENDA DOUGLAS  
News + Record Correspondent

SILER CITY — The more than three dozen students who participated in a program at the Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina's Wren Family Center last summer have good reason to feel accomplished: beautifully illustrated, hardcover books bearing their names and containing their stories have been delivered, making each of them published authors.

The Write Brain Books program, which was held here last summer, began with prompts consisting of only titles matched with colorful illustrations.

"The rest was up to the students,

each of whom chose a title and then used their imagination, knowledge or personal experience to compose a story," said Joy Roberts, the club's executive director.

Examples of titles included "Max and the Mouse," "Owen and Edy," "UFO Earth Attack" and "The Little Girl that Likes to Color." The others invited stories about baseball or aquariums. Once finished, the books ended up 10 to 12 pages in length, and the students even had the option to dedicate their book to someone if they wanted to.

Participants in the project ranged from grade 3 to high school seniors.

See **AUTHOR**, page A3

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

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

## ON THE AGENDA

The **Silk Hope Ruritans** host a Benefit Bingo on the first, third, and fifth Thursday of each month. Next on the schedule is May 5 and 19 at the Silk Hope Community Center.

The **Chatham County Parks and Recreation Department** invites the community to celebrate the planet at its Earth Day Celebration. This first-time event will take place Saturday, April 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the 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 the Park.

The **Friends of the Chatham Community Library** will hold a one-day sale of audio-visual materials — movies, music, and audio-books — on Saturday, May 7, from 9 a.m. until 3 at the library. Most items will be \$2, with a few items specially priced. Cash, check, charge or debit. This will be held in the large meeting room at the Library. Members of the Friends will receive a 10% discount. Join online or at the sale. More information: <https://friendscl.org/May-2022-Audio-Visual-sale>.

**Chatham Community Library** Presents Virtual Program: The Art of Biography: From Janis Joplin to Jack Kerouac, Saturday, May 7, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., Virtual Program, Zoom, Author, Holly George-Warren. Program participants should register online at <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8122222222>.

website, [www.chathamlibraries.org](http://www.chathamlibraries.org), or contact the Library at (919) 545-8084 or [rita.vandunen@chathamlibraries.org](mailto:rita.vandunen@chathamlibraries.org) for more information.

**Horton High School Alumni Assn.**, Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for 2022-2023 HHSAA Scholarship. Descendants of a Horton High School alumnus or attendee may apply online, at [hortonhighalumni.com](http://hortonhighalumni.com); click on "scholarship." Applications must be accepted by August 1, 2022.

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church** provides a healthy meal at no cost to those who come to us hungry at noon on Thursdays. We provide a place of hospitality and fellowship for everyone. All are welcome, regardless of race, sex, age, national origin, religious preference, handicap, or income.

The **Chatham Historical Museum** is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be following the governor's directive on occupancy, masks, and social distancing. Adult and kid friendly; no admission fee. Our permanent exhibits cover all aspects of Chatham's unique history. The Museum is located in the historic Chatham Coun-

ty Courthouse in the Circle. More info at <https://chatham-history.org>.

**Second Bloom** hours are 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](http://ChathamArtsCouncil.org).

**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](http://www.chathamCBA.com).

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

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

## Scout News

**Boy Scout Troop 93** in Pittsboro meets 7 p.m. Wednesdays at the Harold Boone Scout Park on Hwy 64W, just past CCCC. Open to boys, ages 11-17. Visit [www.bstrop93.org](http://www.bstrop93.org) for more information.

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

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

## NEWS BRIEF

### April proclaimed as World Autism Month in North Carolina

RALEIGH — Gov. Roy Cooper has proclaimed April as World Autism Month in North Carolina to raise awareness and recognize individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), their families and organizations working to support them.

"People with autism offer so much to our communities, our workforce and our state," Cooper said. "They and their families deserve our support and understanding as they overcome the challenges of ASD, and I am grateful for the North Carolina organizations working hard to raise awareness and provide resources."

Autism spectrum disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that begins early in childhood and consists of a broad range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication. A 2020 report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the percentage of 8-year-olds that have been identified as having autism in North Carolina—1 in 39, or 2.5 percent—exceeds that national average of 1.85 percent. Compared to other areas in the U.S. that were monitored for ASD prevalence, N.C. had the highest proportion of children with ASD who had received a comprehensive evaluation performed by age 3.

March 2022 marked the third anniversary of Governor Cooper's Executive Order 92: Employment First for North Carolinians with Disabilities. The executive order charged state agencies with facilitating welcoming environments across state government where individuals with disabilities could successfully participate in

competitive, integrated employment. State employees have credited the designation of North Carolina as an Employment First state with creating a more supportive environment for state employees with disabilities.

In 2018, Cooper and the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE) launched LiNC-IT, the first state-wide neurodiversity internship program. LiNC-IT supports early career individuals with ASD and helps employers find the talent they need and develop neurodiversity programs to support that talent. Since the program's launch, over 135 individuals have been referred to the program and 70 have completed or are currently in a paid

internship. Over 90 percent of participants who completed their internship are now in full time employment.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety has also hosted free trainings for law enforcement leaders and first responders to learn best practices on interacting with North Carolinians with ASD. The goal of Helping Enhance Autism Response Training (HEART) is to further safe contacts among law enforcement, first responders and individuals with autism.

To learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder, visit the UNC TEACCH Autism Center, Autism Society of North Carolina and the Duke Center for Autism and Brain Development.

For more information on launching a neuro-

diversity program or to apply for a LiNC-IT

internship, visit [LiNC-IT.org](http://LiNC-IT.org). —CN+R staff reports

# How did you LAND here?



**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 (184 Acres)
  - 0 NC 42 Highway (10.89 Acres)
  - 0 Jim Gilliland Road (64.882 Acres)
  - 218 Pete Thomas Road (109.11 Acres)
  - 0 Roselle Road (46.2 Acres)
  - 323 Patterson Drive (5.46 Acres)
  - 106 Caley Wilson Road (2.185 Acres)
  - 0 Pete Roberson (61.21 Acres)
  - 180 Thompson Street (.30 Acres)
  - 1562 Hadley Mill Road (15.489 Acres)
  - 0 Stone Street (50.72 Acres)
  - 1604 Bonlee School Road (110.49 Acres)
  - 720 Hamlets Chapel Road (.69 Acres)
  - 1447 Old US 1 (.870 Acres)
  - 0 Chicken Bridge Road (10.051 Acres)
  - 00 Manns Chapel Road (49.41 Acres)
  - 2328 Andrews Store Road (24.385 Acres)
  - 0 Pearleman Teague (23.1 Acres)
  - 00 Roberts Chapel Road (123.87 Acres)
  - 45 The Whites Way (5.61 Acres)
  - 271 Talon Drive (11.97 Acres)
  - 1835 Lewter Shop Road (3.24 Acres)
  - 0000 Jim Gilliland Road (57.284 Acres)
  - 18 Pearleman Teague Road (2 Acres)

- 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=00GcW32E3Gc>



## VIDEO TOPIC: What is "Memo To Buyer" in NC Real Estate?

**919-542-0523**

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

# A LOVING MEMORY

## Ashley Nicole Pyrtle

February 4, 1990 - April 26, 2008

*Our hearts are broken but we will see our Angel again in Heaven one day! We love you, Daddy, Mama, Caroline & Lauren*

*~ Sleep well my princess, each passing day is a day closer to seeing you again! ~ I love you always, Mom*

*The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of God stands forever. ~Isaiah 40:8*

## Chatham News + Record

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# Rappaport joins News + Record staff

CN+R Staff Report

Ben Rappaport, a 2021 graduate of the Hussman School of Journalism at the UNC-Chapel Hill who has covered news for radio stations in Chapel Hill and Cape Town, South Africa, has joined the staff of the News + Record, Publisher Bill Horner III has announced.

A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Rappaport, 21, will cover the education and county government beats for the newspaper. "I'm thrilled to be part of this blossoming community in Chatham and I can't wait to

meet the people that make this place the vibrant county it is," he said. "I know my previous experiences in the surrounding areas of Orange County will help me learn and understand the issues impacting here in Chatham. This is such a bright news team and it's such an honor to be part of a team at the forefront of the conversations in Chatham County."

Rappaport was a reporter at Chapelboro.com and WCHL in Chapel Hill, where he covered the community online and on-air. At UNC, he was assistant opinion editor at the Daily Tar Heel, where he wrote columns about development and transportation issues. Most recently he was a reporter and radio host at Bush Radio in Cape Town.

"Ben brings a unique set of story-telling skills to the position," Horner said. "He's familiar with Chatham County and his newspaper and radio experience will help us provide more depth and breadth in our news coverage. We're so fortunate to have him and I'm excited he's chosen the News + Record's newsroom on his career path."



Rappaport

## AUTHOR

Continued from page A1

After the students finished crafting their stories, the books were sent off to WRiTE BRAiN World to be processed and published. Just recently, the books in their final form were returned to the club where they are on display and serve as reading opportunities for club members — and lifelong memories for the young authors.

"Some of the students had really great imagination; others were not so enthused about writing at first, but the more they worked on it, the more they enjoyed it," said Angela Glover, program leader at the club. "In the end, they were fascinated with it and very proud — the idea that they were published."

Roberts and Glover are pursuing a way for the books to be shared at the Wren Library in town.

### 'Engaged and excited'

Students expressed a variety of reasons for wanting to write the stories and how it made them feel.

"I wrote this book because I play baseball and that's what my book is about," said Wyatt Luna, age 9. Braeden Person, 9, said, "I wrote my book because I think aquariums are cool and I've never been to one."

"Writing the book made me feel happy but it

was hard and kind of sad because the lady killed the mouse because she was scared of it," says Zariah Moore, also 9.

Taniya Snipes was thinking about her readers when she wrote "The Little Girl that Likes to Color."

"I wrote this book because I wanted to let little children know not to let people push them around and to follow their dreams," the 10-year-old said.

The writing project was initiated as part of the 21st Century Summer Program, a grant which focused on lost education from the school year affected by the COVID pandemic.

"Our students as well as parents reported positive feedback on the new information learned through our 21st Century Program implemented this year," Roberts said. "Students became engaged and excited to learn various new forms of information, while parents showed their gratitude for the implementation of a program that provided needed knowledge and information lost from the previous school year."

Nationally, students within the 21st Century Summer Program were shown to have improved in reading and/or math as well as in behavioral performance, according to Roberts.

WRiTE BRAiN World, now operating in 49 states, was founded by "Legally Blonde" and



Staff photo by Zenda Douglas

Some of the 40 or so participants in a program last summer at the Boys & Girls Club in Siler City hold up the books they authored.

"Days of Our Lives" actor Meredith Scott Lynn, who serves as its CEO. She says she quit "a pretty good career" when she left acting with a desire to elevate the self-esteem of young people through "disguised learning experiences."

"[This gives] the kids instant evidence of their creativity because creativity, met with positive response, increases self-esteem," Lynn said.

Lynn praised the work of the Boys & Girls Club in Siler City, crediting it with providing a safe space and freedom for kids to learn in ways that don't feel overly academic.

"Boys & Girls Clubs really get it," Lynn said. "They don't babysit; they provide enriching programs that inspire kids."

The stated goal of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Carolina is to provide every child with



Staff photo by Zenda Douglas

Club Program Director Angela Glover helped club members produce their own books through a summer program at the Boys & Girls Club in Siler City.



Staff photo by Zenda Douglas

Joy Roberts, the director of the Wren Family Center, poses with a few of the books authored by Boys & Girls Club members.

and more. In addition, members gain confidence by developing a sense of usefulness and belonging, and taking part in daily "Power Hour" homework sessions and programs like "Money Matters," which teaches the basic financial concepts of banking, credit scores, and budgeting.

"I think it [The Write Brain Project] is something we'll do again this summer," said Glover.

The Club is now working on enrollment to see how many kids will be attending. The Boys & Girls Club at Wren Family Center's summer program starts June 20. Deadline for enrolling is May 27.

Information about The Boys & Girls Club of Central Carolina at Wren Family Center can be found by visiting <http://www.centralcarolinacclubs.org> or by calling 919-663-6159.

## MANAGER

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about 2,700 people in Robeson County, not far off I-95 south of Fayetteville — where he's worked since March of last year. The Danville, Virginia, native leaves Fairmont after just over a year there; Fairmont's mayor, Charles Kemp, called Raper's departure "a great loss for us."

"I know we made the right decision at the time we hired him," Kemp was quoted in The Robesonian newspaper when Raper announced he was leaving for Siler City. "I have never met anybody in government that I have learned more from."

Kemp particularly cited Raper's work on a downtown revitalization project and zoning.

"I see him going further and doing great things in his career, and I wish him well," Kemp said.

And he's no stranger to Chatham County, having served an internship — working on projects like stormwater management — with the town of Pittsboro during his college days at N.C. State.

He says he couldn't be more excited.

Raper, who was hired in Fairmont at a salary of \$63,000, will be paid \$123,800 annually as Siler City's town manager. Former Town Manager Roy Lynch was paid \$106,244 per year before taking a position as Chatham County's finance director earlier this year.

Raper has a bachelor's degree in public administration and social science history from Campbell University, earned a Master of Public Administration from N.C. State in 2013, and a Juris Doctor from Campbell University School of Law in 2015. He said his experience as a certified budget and evaluation officer, certified zoning official and certified local government finance officer — as

well as an attorney — makes him well suited for a town like Siler City.

"I think it's critical that someone who's going to be the manager of a smaller municipality be a 'jack of all trades,'" he said. "I want to be able to empower the employees and help give them the resources they need to be successful. I think it's really helpful as a manager to be able to have some in-depth knowledge of a variety of different service areas — not to circumvent them, by any means, but to be a helpful part of the team and have something to contribute."

In making the announcement about Raper's hiring, Siler City Commissioner Chip Price said, "We are extremely pleased to have someone of Hank's professionalism, capabilities and experience as our next town manager."

Raper's hiring does indeed come at a period of unprecedented growth for Chatham County. Neighborhoods are now being built in Chatham Park in Pittsboro and more jobs are coming — from the \$4 billion VinFast automotive plant announced March 29 at Triangle Innovation Point near Moncure and FedEx's announcement of a 338,000-sq.-ft. distribution center nearby. Siler City's own Chatham Advanced Manufacturing megasite continues to draw major interest from companies, and local economic development officials say the site's first tenant announcement could come very soon.

As a municipal administrator, Raper said he'd been aware of Chatham County's growth potential for some time.

"I've had my eye on Siler City for a few years now — if that opportunity was going to make itself available," he said. "I think it's in the right location at the right time, with the right opportunity to really boom in the next few years. And I can't express how excited I am to be a part of that oppor-

tunity to work with a tremendous staff and the board and to get to know the citizens in the Siler City community."

In addition to his work in Fairmont, Raper also served as a consultant for the city of Fayetteville for a period of seven months, where he worked on a number of projects to help administration shore up problems in its public works department.

He also served as the town manager in Nashville, where he worked nearly three years until he was fired from his position on June 1, 2018. Raper's tenure in Nashville ended after a months-long controversy involving a local family's attempt in January 2018 to have a family member buried in a town-maintained cemetery.

The family couldn't prove ownership of a plot in the cemetery, Raper said, and he and Linda Modlin, the town's finance director — who served as the cemetery's administrator — turned down the family's request for burial.

That angered one of the family members, whom Raper said "got ballistic" at Nashville's town hall, making threats.

"It was just really out of control," he said. "And I had to ask them to leave town hall. I told him [the family member] all I need you to do is just show me some paperwork that will basically say you own this plot and we can move forward with this. They said they were not willing to do that."

Raper said he briefed town commissioners about the incident and nothing further happened until the board's April meeting, where some of the same family members — supported by others in the audience — showed up to make complaints about Raper and his treatment of them. Raper said he was instructed by town commissioners to hold his ground.

"The board just tells me to just leave it alone — don't address it, that's just going to

make it worse, just let it blow over," he said.

But family members continued to attend town board meetings and budget work sessions over the next two months, speaking out during public comment periods and making accusations about Raper.

"They said several things that were factually incorrect," he said. "We had done everything we can to accommodate them. But I can't just give someone property they don't own."

Raper said the board ultimately came to him to say that "someone's going to have to fall on the sword for this to kind of quell the crowd." The board asked him to terminate Modlin and make her the "scapegoat."

"You know, I was just put in a very tenuous situation where I was told, 'Somebody's going to fall on the sword for this,'" he recalls the town's board telling him. "And we'd rather it be her than you."

Raper refused. Ultimately both he and Modlin were terminated. At the time, the Nashville Graphic newspaper, in its coverage of the story, quoted Nashville Councilman Larry Taylor in a story as saying "it was the first time in his tenure on the board he'd seen the council meeting attending by so many citizens. He said he hoped the most recent circumstances proved to citizens that the board listened to its constituents."

"When you show up and speak your mind and tell us what's going on in town and give us your concerns, we do listen," Taylor was quoted as saying.

A local television station broke the news by saying that recent Nashville town council meetings "have been met with an unusual throng of attendance and emotional appeals to the council regarding incidents related to the town cemetery and other experiences with the town's administration."

Raper looks back on the situation and said he was "very uncomfortable" with his board's request to fire Modlin, whom he said acted appropriately during the brouhaha and "tried to bend over backward" to help the family.

Not firing Modlin was "the most consequential decision that I've had to make in my career," he said. But it's one he said he would make "100 times out of 100," even though he paid a substantial professional price for it in the short term.

"You know, at the end of my career, I'll probably look back and say that's probably the most important decision that I've made," he said. "I just believe in treating all employees the same, all the way down to the maintenance worker — if you're doing the job right, then I'll go to the mat and fight for you."

Raper said Nashville paid a price as well. After Modlin's departure, the town had a series of interim finance directors and was placed on the Local Government Commission's watchlist because of late audit reports and concerns over financial practices dating back to the period after Raper left.

"You know, I will say that's probably attributable to the fact that they just missed the leadership, and did not have people in place that kept things going," he said. "There's consequences all the way around when you make decisions like that."

Raper says he plans to move from his home in Pembroke to Siler City by the time he begins work.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to be afforded the opportunity to serve the town of Siler City in this capacity," he said. "... it's my steadfast commitment to be an effective team leader and continue to build on the success of those dedicated professionals who have come before me in service to their community."

# VIEWPOINTS

## The spirit of Earth Day

Last Friday, my 4-year-old daughter came home from preschool proudly showing off a tiny model Earth made out of green and blue clay that hung from a piece of yarn around her neck. I'm proud of her school for marking Earth Day.

In 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson organized a nationwide demonstration against unchecked pollution of lands, skies and water sources. As a result of the first Earth Day demonstrations, Congress authorized the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency that same year and

later passed legislation for clean air, safe drinking water and protection of endangered species. Sen. Nelson is rightly remembered in history for his leadership.

But Jack Lewis, former Assistant Editor of the EPA Journal, credits grassroots volunteers as "the driving force not only behind Earth Day, but also behind many smaller and less publicized environmental reforms in the 1960s." In the same essay, "The Spirit of the First Earth Day," Lewis also observed an evolution of language. The early stages of activism were characterized by the term "conservation," which emphasized setting aside land and bodies of water for parks and sanctuaries. By the end of the decade, "environment" was the preferred term because it related to where people lived,

worked and played. Americans turned out by the millions on that first Earth Day because they understood the "environmental issues" directly impacted their lives.

Last Friday, millions more people gathered in rallies and demonstrations around the world. These events are still driven by countless grassroots volunteers. Recent years have also shifted the way we talk about the environmental crisis of our time — instead of "global warming," we now reference "climate change." The earth's temperatures are steadily rising. But "warm" has positive connotations in the English language: warm hearts, warm welcome, warm regards. We warm up to ideas and people. Loved ones share warm and fuzzy feelings.

But no one likes change!

Change is unsettling and calls for our attention.

As a writer, I know that the choice of words makes a difference. As a pastor, I know that actions and decisions are often a matter of the heart not simply the head. I take to heart knowing that Lewis quoted participants describing "the spirit of the first Earth Day" as "magical and catalytical," "a charmed event," and "a joyous occasion."

The impact of climate change is dire and calls for urgent action on a global scale. Governments must be involved in order to shift economies from fossil fuels and prevent the destruction of rain forests. We need prominent leaders in positions of power to act, swiftly and decisively.

We all need to do our part. On Earth Day, my sons and

I collected trash that had been discarded in the grass along the main road through our neighborhood. With her Earth necklace bouncing happily against her chest, my daughter later helped her older brother water cucumber seeds he had planted in a small pot. We talked about how we helped the environment. My daughter smiled. "This is also a lot of fun!"

As my friend and mentor Brian Doyle once wrote, "You must trust that you being the best possible you matters." That's the spirit we need every day.

*Andrew Taylor-Troutman is the pastor of Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church. His newly-published book is a collection of his columns for the Chatham News + Record titled "Hope Matters: Churchless Sermons."*

## Some things temporary, others something else

In the study at my house, one wall is made up of built-in bookcases reaching from floor to ceiling.

There are lots of great things on them, things that mean so very much to me.

For instance, there are notes and pictures from my children at various stages of their lives — and of mine. There are many great books ... and the Great Book. Some of those books are from my time at seminary; others are great works of fiction and history; some belonged to my mama.

There's a metal horse that used to be golden in color. My daddy got him for me when I was 5 years old. It used to sit on the mantle of his home; now it sits in mine. There's my mama's pocketbook, just like it was the day she handed it to me when she went into the nursing home where she'd spend her last five years.

There are pictures of my wife and children; I'm in some of them. There are notes from friends and family, some saying "thank you" for a time we spent together when times were tough for them. There's a box of letters from my better half when I was trying to convince her to become my better half.

And there are lots of other things. Truth be told I'm not really sure what's on the bottom shelves, especially at the back because there's stuff piled on the floor in front of them. And one day I'm going to get around to cleaning out the place so I can see just what is in there.

At least, that's what I say.

But I think you get the picture.

And I'll bet you've got a similar room or places in several rooms where special things of yours live.

Sometimes I think that one day those things will be here and I won't. And that doesn't really bother me because I won't know it. Other folks, I guess, will go through those things. They may keep some of them and they may toss others. They may look at some and wonder or even say, "Why in the world did he keep this?"

But if I lost those things or had them taken away before that day, it would be a different story. I would know it and I wouldn't like it.

And I think that's how the folks who have lived through tornadoes and similar storms must feel afterwards.

Think back to Sanford a few years ago. So many folks lost all they had — except their lives and the lives of their loved ones. There were the tears and the shock of it all but then the gradual, sometimes instant, recognition it could have been worse.

But still they've lost the pictures of their children.

And they've lost mama's pocketbook and they've lost special things. And life does — and must — go on.

Through the years I've had occasion to be around numerous families at the time of a death. And I've come to notice that such times can and usually do bring out either the best or the worst in folks.

Tragedy can do the same. The tornadoes produced countless stories of heroes and helpers but we also saw looters and losers.

Two things strike me immediately about all this.

One is a renewed understanding of a line I often find myself using at gravesides when it is time to commit a body to its final resting place until the time the old spiritual refers to as "that great getting up morning." I'm always awestruck by the sights and sounds of life all around at that moment — the sounds of nature and commerce, the sight of other living beings. Yet I know, can sense, we all stand at the edge of eternity.

And I remember that line out of the New Testament that tells us "the things which are seen are temporary; the things which are not seen are eternal."

My pictures, mama's pocketbook, the horse from my daddy ... they're all temporary. So are the houses that were destroyed and the contents that were flung from them. That tells me if we try to make a life only on what we can see, we're basing our lives only on a temporary state of affairs.

That doesn't mean we can't and shouldn't have some stuff, but it does mean we shouldn't make it our do all, end all.

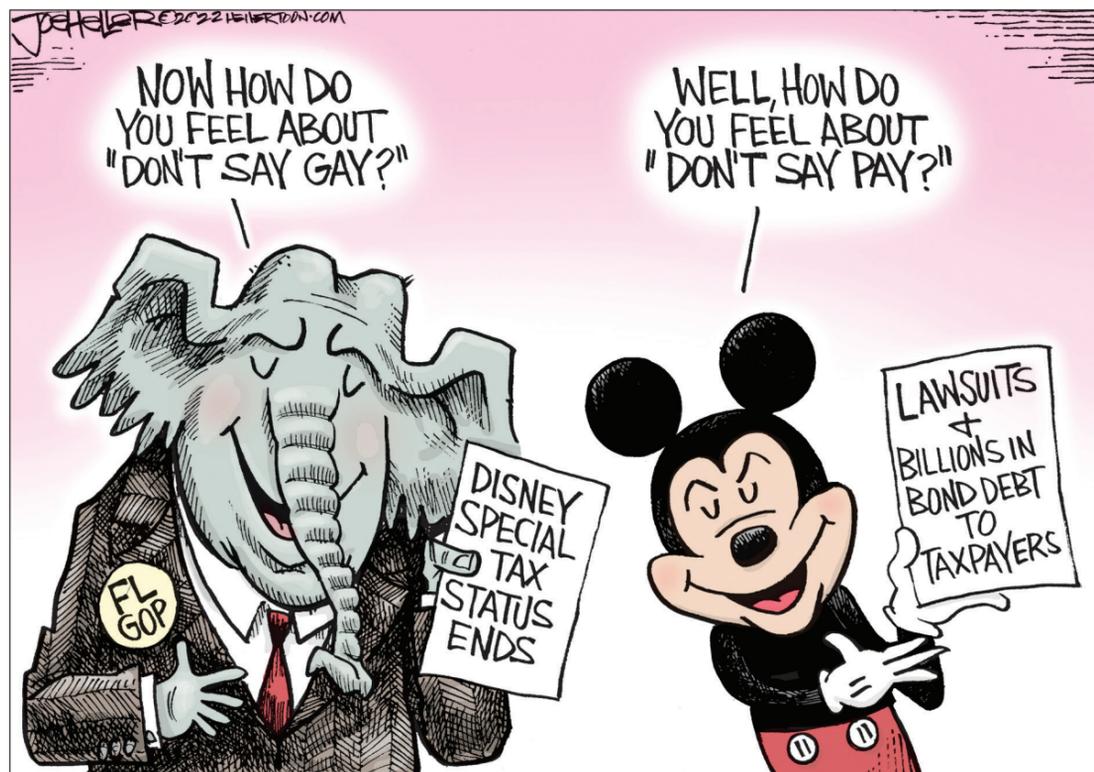
And the second thing is don't ask or wonder if you can or should help our neighbors.

Be like Nike ... just do it.

*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.*



**BOB WACHS**  
Movin' Around



## How well has North Carolina dealt with COVID-19?

Even though COVID-19 continues with its variants, medical experts are hopeful the virus is becoming less deadly and disrupting. In other words, we are learning to live with it.

As a result, it should not be surprising there are an increasing number of studies being released about how we coped with COVID-19, and what we can learn if we confront another pandemic. One way to accomplish this is to compare the outcomes of states during COVID-19 on a number of important measures.

One recent study was authored by three economists and released by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). The NBER is not a national agency. It is a non-partisan, non-profit research organization founded in 1920. It is one of the most prestigious economic "think-tanks" in the country. Hence, when the NBER releases a study, I pay attention.

Although there were many policies, programs and funding that came from the federal government to address the pandemic, our federal system allowed the 50 states and Washington, D.C., to customize some of their own policies, including masking, shutdowns, the operation of schools and the availability of vaccines. Therefore, there were 51 (50 states plus Washington, D.C.) different localities for the authors to compare for their outcomes in dealing with COVID-19.

The authors focused on three categories of results: the economy, education and deaths. For the economy, the authors used two measures: the total months of unemployment per worker in the state from April 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic through the end of 2021, and the depth of the recession caused by

the pandemic.

The pandemic's impact on education was measured by the percentage of public education in each state that took place in-person at schools rather than remotely. This measure was used because many experts and parents have argued that remote learning for children during COVID-19 was not as beneficial for students' educational outcomes as in-person learning.

For deaths, the death rate per capita during the previous two COVID-19 years was used, but only after adjusting the numbers for age and for health factors, such as the prevalence of diabetes and obesity in the state.

So, what did the study find, particularly for North Carolina? On the two economic measures, North Carolina ranked 17th on the unemployment measure and 19th for the depth of the COVID-19 recession, where a higher ranking means a better performance. Translated, the results mean that among the 51 states plus Washington, D.C., North Carolina had the 17th lowest total number of unemployment months per worker and the 19th mildest COVID-19 recession. Montana had the best performance on unemployment and South Dakota had the least severe recession. At the other end of the spectrum, New Jersey had the worst performance on unemployment and Connecticut had the deepest recession.

North Carolina's ranking on in-person teaching of students was not as impressive. The state ranked 34th, meaning 33 other states had a higher percentage of students receiving in-person instruction during the pandemic. Wyoming had the highest percentage of in-person instruction, whereas Washington, D.C. had the lowest percentage.

North Carolina's best ranking was on age and medical-adjusted COVID-19-related deaths per capita, where the state ranked 7th, meaning only six states had

lower adjusted COVID-19 deaths per capita. The best performing state on deaths was Hawaii, while the worst performing state was Arizona.

The authors also combined the individual rankings for each measure into a single overall ranking. North Carolina's overall ranking was 13th, meaning the state had the 13th best performance during the pandemic among the 50 states and Washington, D.C., using all the metrics developed by the authors. Utah ranked first on the combined ranking, and New Jersey came in last.

With 51 localities, North Carolina's placement of number 13 puts the state in the top 25%. Among North Carolina's immediate neighbors, only South Carolina placed higher at number 12. Georgia ranked 19th, Tennessee was at the 24th position and Virginia placed 36th.

As the economy moves forward, rankings of how states performed during the pandemic may become very important. The rankings could become a major factor in the location decisions of both businesses and households. It will take years — possibly even decades — for the memories of the COVID-19 pandemic to recede. Households and businesses will be motivated to locate in states that coped well during the pandemic compared to other states. The study published by the NBER strongly suggests North Carolina is in the "coping-well" category.

Economists agree the future economy will go through major changes in what businesses do, how people work, and how and where people live. Being in a state that has navigated the pandemic better than most other states should give that state an advantage in dealing with these changes. Is North Carolina such a state? You decide.

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

# VIEWPOINTS

## Freedom is a tool for progress

I'm a conservative without a conversion story. Plenty of others have such a tale — they read a certain book, had a certain teacher, or somehow became disenchanted with their previous, left-leaning views.

If the conversion happened as adults, after first being politically active as a progressive, socialist, or communist, they were called neoconservatives. One of the most prominent, Irving Kristol, famously defined a neoconservative as “a liberal who has been mugged by reality” and a neoliberal as “a liberal who got mugged by reality but has not pressed charges.”

I only got mugged once, while working as a magazine reporter in Washington, and I was already a conservative. It was an attempted mugging, actually, because I happened

to be carrying a synthesizer in a heavy case, it proved to be a handy weapon to swing, and the would-be mugger was stoned out of his mind.

But Kristol wasn't really talking about crime as a political issue, of course, although the rise of criminality and social disorder during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s was a factor that propelled some Americans into the modern conservative movement. What bound the disparate elements of that movement together was the existence of critically important and inescapable realities — such as what the free-market economist Thomas Sowell later described as the “constrained vision” of human nature, as distinguishable from the “unconstrained vision” of would-be social engineers.

Both here in North Carolina and around the country, the modern conservative movement is an alliance of what used to be called traditionalism and what used to be called liberalism. Traditionalists believed there are fundamen-

tal truths and virtues, either revealed by God or confirmed by millennia of human history, that ought to guide human action.

Classical liberals didn't necessarily disagree with that premise, actually. But they elevated the principle of freedom to the top of the list — the right of individuals to make decisions for themselves above the power of the state to take their property and control their lives.

Traditionalists valued freedom, as well, but observed that individuals aren't born as human atoms who later, voluntarily, form human molecules. We are born into families and communities, and thus into a thick and complex web of social obligations. Many traditionalists, then, defined freedom in communitarian terms, as “ordered liberty.” Classical liberals emphasized the right of the individual to make decisions, even if the results dismayed their neighbors or injured themselves.

When cultural critics, liber-

tarians, and anti-communists forged the modern conservative movement in America during the 20th century, they were reacting to the threatening rise of populism, progressivism, and socialism. It was a case of longtime rivals, traditionalists and classical liberals, forming first an alliance of mutual need and then, through fits and starts, forging a more systematic integration of their ideas.

The result wasn't a catechism. It was and remains messy and incomplete. There are areas of disagreement and differences in emphasis. But the various strands of modern conservatism have enough in common to work together — and what they have in common, for the most part, is a belief that governmental power should be minimized so that freedom can be maximized.

Why? Because it is in the nature of humans to thrive, in the long run, when they are free to make their own decisions, rather than being compelled to comply with some central plan.

The empirical evidence for this proposition is massive and constantly growing.

For example, a peer-reviewed study by North Dakota State University economist Jeremy Jackson employed the Frasier Institute's Economic Freedom of North America Index and a set of survey data on life satisfaction. All other things being equal, states with lower taxes, smaller budgets, and fewer regulations had a higher share of happy residents than did those with expansive, expensive governments.

My conservative colleagues and I here in North Carolina fight for freedom not as an abstraction but as a practical tool for promoting opportunity, progress, happiness, and virtue. And we welcome converts to the cause.

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



**JOHN HOOD**  
John Locke Foundation



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

Then some people want to know what North Carolina-related books and authors would have been featured if the program had continued.

Here are some of the programs I would have recommended for inclusion.

“The Last First Kiss,” by Walter Bennett. A widowed retired lawyer reconnects with his high school girl friend in a hurricane on the Outer Banks.

“The Beauty of Dusk” by Frank Bruni. The New York Times columnist and new North Carolina resident deals with his possible blindness.

“Fire and Stone: The Making of the University of North Carolina under Presidents Edward Kidder Graham and Harry Woodburn Chase” by Howard Covington.

“Midnight Lock” by Jeffery Deaver, the bestselling thriller author of the Lincoln Rhyme series who lives in North Carolina.

“Balcony Reserved for White Spectators” by the late Walter Dellinger. Although Dellinger died before he completed this book of his extraordinary memories, we can hope his family and friends will find a way to finish it.

“Saving the Wild South: The Fight for Native Plants on the Brink of Extinction” by Georgeann Eubanks.

“The Recovery Agent” by Janet Evanovich. This bestselling author who lives in North Carolina begins a new series that the publisher asserts “blends wild adventure, hugely appealing characters, and pitch-perfect humor.”

“A Good Neighborhood” by Therese Anne Fowler. A story of race and family set in Raleigh.

“The Last Battleground: The Civil War Comes to North Carolina” by Philip Gerard.

“The Other Dr. Gilmer: Two Men, A Murder, and an Unlikely Fight for Justice” by Benjamin Gilmer. A caring doctor is also a killer.

“UNC A to Z: What Every Tar Heel Needs to Know about the First State University” by Nicholas Graham and Cecelia Moore.

“The Unwilling” by John Hart. Set in North Carolina, a fifth bestseller by Hart, who grew up in Salisbury.

“Mountain Folk” by John Hood. A political columnist's

fanciful look at the times of the American Revolution.

“To Drink from the Well: The Struggle for Racial Equality at the Nation's Oldest Public University” by Geeta N. Kapur. A Black UNC-Chapel Hill graduate re-writes the history of the university's admission denials.

“Frank Porter Graham: Southern Liberal, Citizen of the World” by William Link.

“The Mays of Alamanns' Creek: A Family Odyssey” by John May. A family history beginning hundreds of thousand years ago.

“Hell of a Book” by Jason Mott, who won the 2021 National Book Award.

“The Faces of Poverty in North Carolina: Stories from Our Invisible Citizens” by Gene Nichol.

“Sea Level Rise: A Slow Tsunami on America's Shores” by Orrin and Keith Pilkey.

“A Small Circle” by William Price. A privately published book of family memories by Reynolds Price's brother William.

“Andy Griffith's Manteo: His Real Mayberry” by John Railey. Griffith's life story told from his beloved Manteo.

“In the Valley” by Ron Rash. Short stories by a master of the craft and a sequel to Rash's best-selling “Serena.”

“Searching for Amylu Danzer” by John Rosenthal. Famed photographer Rosenthal's memoir of a lost friendship still haunting after more than 50 years.

“How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America” by Clint Smith. This #1 New York Times bestseller by a Davidson graduate who visited places where slavery is more than a simple memory.

“The Return” by Nicholas Sparks.

“Paul's Hill: Homage to Whiteman” by Shelby Stephenson. Narrative poetry by a former state poet-laureate.

“French Braid” by Anne Tyler. Another best seller set in Baltimore by an author who grew up in North Carolina

“Hanging Tree Guitars” by Freeman Vines. Photographs and memories of Vine and his guitars.

“A Consequential Life: David Lowry Swain, Nineteenth-Century North Carolina, and Their University” by Willis Whichard, expected to be released later this year.

Bookwatch may be gone, but North Carolina-related books and authors continue to thrive.

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

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

## Getting politicians to listen to us

Sure as Christmas falls on December 25th you can



**TOM CAMPBELL**  
N.C. Spin

listen to and follow the will of the people.

Call me a Doubting Thomas, but I question who they are listening to and serving. I strongly suspect they are dancing to the tune of big-dollar donors, including political action committees, “dark money” independent expenditure groups and special interests. And after winning election, their loyalties and their ears mostly hear the drumbeat of their party's caucus.

Those suspicions were confirmed recently when Seth Effron, longtime newspaper reporter and editorialist for Capitol Broadcasting's WRAL, did a deep dive into polling they had just conducted. He found several examples where legislators clearly aren't listening to or following desires of the majority of voters.

Our legislature, notably the leaders and majority party members, turn a deaf ear to the need to greatly increase funding for education. They even initiated a lawsuit against a judge's ruling demanding dramatic funding increases for K-12 education, calling the ruling a “circus.” But such a high-handed reaction runs contrary to public opinion. Further investigation reveals nearly two-thirds of the almost 2,000 surveyed said our schools are underfunded. That included 59% of Republicans and 56% of Trump voters. Across party, race and geographic lines a substantial plurality believe we are failing our constitutional mandate to provide

a “sound basic education” for our children. And a large plurality, even 61% of conservatives, say our state underpays our teachers.

And while this example singles out legislators — and deservedly so — they aren't the only elected officials who aren't listening. Increasingly it appears politicians are going to do what they want to do and be damned what the voters want!

So, what can we do when politicians aren't listening? The obvious answer is to vote them out of office, but that's not easy, especially with gerrymandered districts and big spenders continuing to throw money into politicians' election coffers. Defeating an incumbent, especially one who has been in office many years, can be done but it requires work.

Allow me to suggest several points in a successful strategy. First, build the case, using hard facts. This is no place for partisan politics, name calling or hyperbole. List clearly and concisely the data. Let's take education funding issue as an example. North Carolina ranks 47th in the nation in per student funding and 33rd in teacher pay. Last year's scores (granted they were impacted by the pandemic) revealed 53% of students in grades 3 through 8 were rated “not proficient” in grade-level reading skills. Only 45% of our students passed state exams, compared to almost 60% in 2019. And 60% is still a failing grade! And in that pre-COVID year of 2019, more than 50% failed math 1, math 3, biology and/or English exams. One in six students failed to be promoted from the pivotal 9th grade, a predictor of future high school graduation. After this report card you might reasonably think there would be an all-hands-on deck stampeded to find solutions. You would be wrong.

Next step, show individual records of votes for or against increased funding or support for public education, including proposals made to

respond to the data. If there is none, say so.

I remember well in another city some years back there was widespread concern about the direction of the city council in our town. A group, naming themselves “the committee of 100,” organized, recruited top quality candidates, then raised the money to wage an effective campaign. Volunteers went door-to-door talking to voters, calling friends, putting up posters and yard signs, then staged a big get out the vote effort for the candidates they endorsed. Every one of the committee-backed candidates was swept into office, ousting some long-time, established candidates.

Conclusion: good organization, superior candidates and well-funded grass roots efforts still work.

Primary elections will be May 17, just weeks away, but there is still time to impact outcomes. Since candidates are already settled, the big task now is to get out the vote. In typical off-year elections fewer than 15% of our state's registered voters actually vote. Call 10 people you know and tell them how important it is to cast their ballots this year, then, on election day, follow up to ask if they voted or need a ride to the polls.

Government works best when more people participate. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see 20% or more voting on May 17? If enough people do so, and especially if some surprising outcomes result, you can count on the fact that politicians will get the message that their real bosses are you and me. And maybe they will start listening.

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

### What's on your mind?

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

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

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

To submit a letter: Mail it to the News + Record at P.O. Box 290, Siler City, N.C. 27344; or email to [bhorne3@chathamnr.com](mailto:bhorne3@chathamnr.com); or drop by our office at 303 West Raleigh Street in Siler City.

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## TWO LIFELONG RESIDENTS, ONE NEWCOMER

## Three candidates seeking Siler City's mayoral seat

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Siler City residents will cast ballots for mayor in May's election for the first time since John Grimes died in office in 2020.

Siler City's municipal elections were delayed after the town had to redraw its voting maps following the 2020 census. The elections were delayed further when the gerrymandering suits brought election filing to a halt in December.

Three candidates seek the seat: lifelong residents Thomas "Chip" Price III and Donald Matthews, and Siler City newcomer Nick Gallardo.

**Chip Price:** Price has served on the board of commissioners for about 10 years as one of two commissioners-at-large. He announced his intention to file for mayor in December. His commissioner-at-large seat is unexpired, so if he were to not be elected, Price would continue his tenure as a town commissioner.

"(I want) to continue the vision and work already started by the town board and staff,"

Price said.

Price said he wants to address a wide range of issues in Siler City, such as upgrading and repairing aging infrastructure, providing more affordable and "conventional" housing options, increasing the average household income for the area and bringing more manufacturing jobs to the town.

"I have a very deep understanding of what the residents of Siler City prefer and expect," Price said. "My relationship with a vast cross section of people allows me to interact with people and find out what their issues and concerns are."

He believes it's the duty of local government to "provide fire protection, police protection, water and sewer services as well as trash removal," while trying to keep it as cost effective as possible for Siler City tax payers.

"The town should also strive to ensure that citizens are treated fairly and equally," he said. "While there is always room for improvement, the town is currently fulfilling its mission with the resources available."

It is the mayor's duty to be a champion for their residents, Price said. With his 10 years of serving on the board of commissioners and working with citizens during that time, Price said he believes he is ready to take on the role of being Siler City's "cheerleader."

"The responsibilities of the mayor should first and foremost be to look out for the best interest of all the town's citizens," Price said. "The mayor should also be a cheerleader for the town and promote growth so all citizens can have an opportunity to prosper. With the very diverse population Siler City has, the mayor should always be looking for constructive ways to include all citizens in the conversation."

**Donald Matthews:** Matthews, like Price, is a lifelong resident of Siler City. He serves as an associate pastor at First Missionary Baptist Church in Siler City and has worked to recognize historic Black-owned businesses along Birch Avenue.

Matthews ran for a commissioner seat 18 years ago, but he said he wanted to run for mayor out of the love he has

for his hometown.

"I have watched my hometown lose many of its former employers — Boling Chair, Glendale (and) Collins & Aikman just to name a few," Matthews said. "Our young people leave and go to college and have nothing to return to for employment. Our youth do not have any place to have fun ... no entertainment at all. Our water stinks sometimes — we just need change if we are to survive."

The three goals Matthews wants to accomplish if he is voted into office include being open, honest and truthful, improving Siler City infrastructure and recruiting businesses to provide better paying jobs for residents.

He also said he wants to help improve citizens' morale, as he claims some people feel not heard by previous Siler City administrations.

"I hear it often, 'They are not going to do anything, so why attend city council meetings?'" he said. "That is the biggest challenge — getting to believe the citizens that we can, and we will."

Matthews said the role commissioners and the mayor must play to ensure the best for residents is to make the decisions "of the people, by the people, for the people." As mayor, he said he would always make sure to work on behalf of Siler City's citizens and not to pursue his own agenda.

"A good mayor knows it is about the citizens you represent," Matthews said. "You are always thinking how we can make it better and sharing those ideas with the people for feedback ... I will put in the work by working with others to make Siler City better for all its citizens."

**Nick Gallardo:** Gallardo is a new Siler City resident, and if elected, he would become the youngest and first Hispanic mayor in Siler City and North Carolina history at 23 years old.

"Representation matters in a town where the majority is made up of minorities, but yet we still suffer as if we were in the minority," he said. "The town as a whole has suffered

See **MAYOR**, page A7

## 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

## Chip Price

## Candidate Biographical Information

**Name:** Thomas K (Chip) Price

**Office you are running for:** Mayor

**Current Home Address:** 301 S Dogwood Ave.

**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** 919-930-4931

**Best daytime number:** 919-930-4931

**E-mail:** chippiceformayor@gmail.com

**Date/place of birth:** 12-17-1955 at Chatham Hospital

**Current occupation:** Semi-retired

**Campaign website/social media:** Facebook site - Chip Price for Mayor

**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** Sons: Hampton Price, Griffin Price, Grandson: Brody Price

**Party affiliation (if applicable):** Conservative

**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** Siler City Commissioner at Large, 10 years

**Campaign manager (if applicable):** Campaign treasurer (if applicable):

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

**Why are you seeking this office?:** To continue the vision and work already started by the town board and staff.

**What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the office you seek, and in 100 words or less, why do you believe you're qualified to fill that role?:** The responsibilities of the mayor should first and foremost be to look out for the best interest of all the town's citizens. The mayor should also be a

cheerleader for the town and promote growth so all citizens can have an opportunity to prosper. With the very diverse population Siler City has, the Mayor should always be looking for constructive ways to include all citizens in the conversation.

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected.:** More and better paying jobs, more housing both conventional and affordable, and continue the revitalization of the downtown commercial district.

**What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now and how would you address them?:** Increasing the average yearly household income, work to attract additional manufacturing jobs to our area, replace aging infrastructure. look for

and apply for all available grant funding to keep tax rates as low as possible.

**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 basic role of municipal government is to provide fire protection, police protection, water and sewer services as well as trash removal. The town should also strive to ensure that citizens are treated fairly and equally. These things should be accomplished in the most cost efficient manner to keep our tax rate as low as possible. While there is always room for improvement, the town is currently fulfilling its mission with the resources available.

**What differentiates you from the other candidates?:** I am a lifelong

resident of Siler City. My work background is in manufacturing and retail services. I have been on the town board for 10 plus years and currently serve as mayor Pro-tem. I have a very deep understanding of what the residents of Siler City prefer and expect. My relationship with a vast cross section of people allows me to interact with people and find out what their issues and concerns are.

## Biographical Facts

**Political/government hero:** Ronald Reagan

**Book most recently read:** Bible

**Favorite film:** A League of Their Own

**Hobbies:** Raising cattle

**Church/civic involvement:** Member, Sunday School teacher and Choir member at Rocky River Baptist Church

**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Keep your words soft in case you have to eat them

**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** To provide a place for my family to put down roots and know they have a place to return to

**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Too many to have to pick one

**Education:** Graduated Jordan Matthews High School; BS Degree in Industrial Technology from Western Carolina University

**Work History:** 23 years manufacturing experience - Boling Chair Company, Siler City

14 years managerial experience - Southern States Cooperative, Siler City

4 years logistic and technical experience - Atlantic Power Solutions, Bonlee

## FORUM

Continued from page A1

ticket," Gallardo for mayor and the other three for commission seats.

"We all want to unify Siler City," Gallardo said. "Everybody's vote matters, everybody's opinion matters because everybody's dollars go into the city."

Gallardo shared the stage with mayoral candidate Donald Matthews, a life-long Siler City resident. The two shared a similar message — Siler City is in desperate need of a change in leadership.

The candidates, however, come from very different backgrounds. Matthews has served the community as an associate pastor at First Missionary Baptist Church and worked to recognize Birch Avenue's historical Black-owned businesses. Matthews said in order to create the change Siler City needs, the board and mayor need to be patient and solve one issue at a time.

"We have spent approximately the last, as Nick said, 30 to 35 years doing pretty much the same thing looking for a different outcome, and nothing has happened," Matthews said. "What has happened in that 30 to 35 years, there are things that are so messed up, that it is going to take a one step at a time approach."

Gallardo is new to Siler City. His voter history shows he previously was registered to vote in Wake County, and he registered at his Siler City address on Feb. 23, one day before candidate filing resumed after a delay related to redistricting lawsuits.

The 23-year-old candidate made a series of ambitious promises to his constituents on Sunday evening — he, along with the three other candidates on the "unity ticket," signed a pledge to create 1,000 jobs in Siler City paying salaries of at least \$40,000 a year in his first fiscal year in office.

"I have a very good relationship with both my parents, and they told me that the only thing you have in this world is your word," Gallardo said. "My word to you is we will offer these 1,000 high paying jobs or I will resign."

Siler City Dist. 1 Commissioner candidate Sam Williams said he has already talked to Duke University Hospital — where he works as a manager — about bringing clinics to Siler City as a part of the four newcomers' platform of access to quality health care.

Williams, also new to Siler City, voted in Wake County's elections in 2020. He registered to vote at his Siler City address on Jan. 16, 2022.

"When I first moved here to Siler City, the first thing, I was having conversations with people, and the people (were) saying that they have to drive to Chapel Hill to Durham to Mebane to get adequate health care," Williams said. "I'm already in conversations with Duke University to get two urgent cares here — one's going to be in our low-income area, and one's going to be in our city's center."

Williams also promised Duke would also provide several specialty clinics, including endocrine specialists, a lab, an allergy specialist, a rheumatologist and more.

Other candidates empha-

sized the need for affordable housing, including newcomer Jared Picot. Jared is a graduate of the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business school and is running for the Dist. 5 commissioner seat against incumbent Lewis Fadely and Rayetta Fox.

Fadely was not present at Sunday's forum.

"I love people that care about the community, want to change things and want to get involved — it's exactly why I'm running," Jared said.

Jared focused his remarks on affordable housing, which he said has become an issue in Siler City and across Chatham County. He said local government should do everything in its power to ensure Siler City residents are able to find less expensive rental options, as well as work to prevent residents from leaving town because of a lack of affordable housing.

"What are we going to do when people who are already struggling to pay \$1,000 for rent (when) their rent is going to be increased by 30% within the year, they'll be paying \$1,300 on average, and for that, people won't be able to live here anymore, they'll be pushed out," Jared said. "I'm running with Dean Jr., Nick and Sam because we all have a special ability to get things solved in this town, to not let anyone fall behind."

Each of candidates spoke about the issue of drug overdoses and deaths in Siler City. In a News + Record series about the overdose epidemic in Chatham County, Siler City Police Chief Mike Wagner said the overdose calls in Siler City in 2021 nearly doubled, with four of those calls resulting in

death.

Dean Picot II said he understood what it is like to be in the throes of addiction. He revealed his journey recovering from substance abuse, sharing his story with the forum audience.

"I know what it's like to be out in the depths of addiction," he said. "I can see how much this city is hurting, and I promised God that if I ever got out of that, I would help others."

Dean Picot — a substance abuse counselor and peer support specialist — got emotional during his time on the podium. He claimed while people in Siler City continue to suffer due to drugs and high crime rates, he said those in leadership have not done enough to help their citizens.

"These people are doing you guys dirty," he said. "And it's just going to keep getting worse and worse until you vote them out and vote for the unity ticket."

He's looking to unseat is Commissioner Bray, who has served in the commissioner-at-large seat since 2009. She said she felt the new candidates were sharing misconstrued information, which could ultimately misinform residents of Siler City.

"I'm very passionate about Siler City," Bray said. "I know the truth about what goes on because I'm in every meeting and I'd like to see who has been at every meeting to see what goes on."

Bray was the target of heckling during the forum on Sunday from Jordan, who made comments from the audience about Bray and her fellow board members, saying they

not done enough to protect Siler City residents.

The News + Record contacted Bray after the event to address the allegations made by Jordan and some of the four candidates on the unity ticket, as well as comments from each of the candidates indicating they wanted a change in the leadership in Siler City — some going as far as to say town officials were harming residents through inaction.

"That's a baseless claim based on opinion rather than facts," Bray said in a message to the News + Record. "The last 12 years, I have served my constituents to the best of my ability based on the needs of the people and not my own."

Bray said before the forum that she did not know much about the four candidates on the "unity ticket" because she said they are new to the area.

However, she warned those who continue to make allegations with "baseless" information are leading the public in the wrong direction. From saying different population numbers than from the 2020 Census to claiming the board is corrupted, Bray said the misinformation could lead the public astray from what she calls the truth.

"A prime example (of misinformation) — the Census showed that 7,702 people live in Siler City, which 7,887 were reported in 2010 Census," she said. "If those making reckless claims attended meetings on a regular basis, they would have a better understanding of the needs of Siler City."

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

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

# Donald Matthews

**Candidate Biographical Information**

**Name:** Donald Matthews  
**Office you are running for:** Mayor  
**Current Home Address:** 909 12th st Siler City NC  
**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** (336) 653-4129  
**Best daytime number:** same as above  
**E-mail:** donaldmatthews526@gmail.com  
**Cell phone:** (336) 653-4129  
**Date/place of birth:** 04/21/1958 - Guilford County  
**Current occupation:** Retired  
**Campaign website/social media:** N/A  
**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** Janice Matthews (wife), Carrie Horton (Daughter), Kelly Alston (son) five grandchildren  
**Party affiliation (if applicable):** Democratic  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** I ran for Siler City Commissioners 18 years ago.  
**Campaign manager (if applicable):** N/A  
**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** N/A

feedback. What makes me qualified? I will put in the work by working with others to make Siler City better for all its citizens.

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

1. Be open, honest and truthful.
2. Improve our infrastructure
3. Recruit Businesses (Better paying jobs) and more diverse opportunities for our youth.

**What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now and how would you address them?:** Getting to believe the citizens that we can, and we will. I hear it often (“they are not going to do anything, so why attend city council meetings?”), so that is the biggest challenge.

**What is your overall view of the role of municipal government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?:** I must quote Abraham Lincoln, “of the people, by the people, for the people.” Every decision must be about the people.

**What differentiates you from the other candidates?:** I do not know them well enough to say. But this one thing I know, all people have value because my God did not make any mess.

**Biographical Facts**

**Political/government hero:** W.E.B. Du Bois  
**Favorite book:** The Best of Simple by Langston Hughes  
**Book most recently read:** Bible  
**Favorite film:** Shane  
**Hobbies:** Reading and working in my yard  
**Church/civic involvement:** First Missionary Baptist Church  
**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Be who you are, because you cannot fake it forever  
**Strongest childhood ambition:** To be a pilot  
**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Knowing who I am and the value of others.  
**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Visiting the seven wonders of the world.

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

**Why are you seeking this office?:** I have watched my hometown lose many of its former employers (Boling Chair, Glendale, Collins & Aikman just to name a few. Our young people leave and go to college and have nothing to return to for employment. Our youth do not have any place to have fun, no entertainment at all. Our water stinks sometimes, we just need change if we are to survive. The main reason is I care about what happens to 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?:** The job of Mayor varies, he or she must realize that it is not about them. A good Mayor knows it is about the citizens you represent. You are always thinking how we can make it better and sharing those ideas with the people for

2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

# Nick Gallardo

**Candidate Biographical Information**

**Name:** Nick Gallardo  
**Office you are running for:** Mayor of Siler City  
**Current Home Address:**  
**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** 919 377 9665  
**Best daytime number:** 919 377 9665  
**E-mail:** gallardo4silercity@gmail.com  
**Cell phone:** 919 377 9665  
**Date/place of birth:** Austin, Texas on 01/22/1999  
**Current occupation:** Director of Client Services  
**Campaign website/social media:** gallardo4silercity.com  
**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** I have no children and am single  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** N/A  
**Campaign manager (if applicable):** Self  
**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** Self

tackling the drug crisis plaguing our community and families and lastly, ensuring that our quality of water and services to the community are improved.

**What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now and how would you address them?:** Our biggest challenge: we are living in 2022, but it still feels like — for a lot of people — we are still living in the 50s and 60s. We are being drug through national media for the oppression that is still present. If there is work to be done through home warranties or insurance, the fact that hard working small business owners in Siler City don't get those contracts and are outsourced is an example of how certain groups of people are being held back. As mayor, I intend to insure and work diligently to lead Siler City to where everyone has the ability to flourish economically, mentally and emotionally. On state and international levels, I have learned the skills to negotiate major deals with big companies that are transferable to a role of a mayor leading this city. It is those partnerships and skills that will help bring in jobs, reduce the crime rate and tackle preserving our environment and historical landmarks while still growing as a town.

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

**Why are you seeking this office?:** Representation matters in a town where the majority is made up of minorities, but yet we still suffer as if we were in the minority. We get taken advantage of where our businesses get overlooked for consultation for economic growth. We live in fear of a police force that we should have control over, fear of putting food on the table and being targeted and our families being separated. The town as a whole has suffered under the reign of a board that does not represent the diversity that is Siler City. The wants and needs of the minority and who they represent don't ever align with the true representation of Siler City — from jobs to healthcare and education. I'm running because I have the connections to bring about real and good change for the oppressed.

**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 the duties of mayor are to be a champion of the under-resourced, the overlooked and the community as a whole. Whereas I don't have an actual vote on the board — unless a tie comes up — my ear will always be available to the citizens so my voice will echo the chambers of city hall. To help uplift every citizen no matter their nationality and to bring every need to the table, whether it is serious as in a lack of clean water access or excessive noise that impedes your right to peace and enjoyment of your domicile. I'm qualified to fill this role because of the experience I have gained in the world through networking and making connections that would be valuable to help unify this town and the onslaught of development that is going to happen. I've educated myself on how to help provide homeowners and renters and the citizens of Siler with affordable housing and more homes, as well as high paying jobs. I want to be held accountable to the promise of bringing 1000 new jobs in the next year that pay no less than \$40,000 a year. Through my world travels, I have connections at the Governor's Mansion and being an advocate for my community on a state and international level, the partnerships I can bring will protect the citizens of Siler City.

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected.:** I would hope to lead this town through what I call 'trust through transparency.' The three goals I believe to be obtainable would be bringing in more high paying, quality jobs for Siler City residents,

**What's your overall view of the role of municipal government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?:** My understanding of the role is to serve and protect the people. Has it done that? No, it has not done that through not properly starting the resources to ensure everyone has the proper access to healthcare, quality jobs and has failed to put the needs of our children and their futures first. What needs to change is our approach to development while protecting the heritage that is Siler City and our environment. What needs to change is the people that hold office and looking out for the people they know as opposed to being out in the community. This is a job you serve all of the people.

**What differentiates you from the other candidates?:** My temperament and my skill set differentiate me from my opponents. I have respect for my opponents, but in this season of growth and hardships, we need a leader that can hold a steady hand without being easily rattled. We need a leader with experience in negotiating the deals that are needed to ensure that our community gets opportunities to grow and prosper; to enter into a new season of safety and joy.

**Biographical Facts**

**Political/government hero:** I don't really have a political hero — I don't idolize politicians. My hero is my sister, Miranda, who has down syndrome and manages to make her way in a world that is often cruel. She is my inspiration for joy.  
**Favorite book:** The Life and Times of Frida Kahlo  
**Book most recently read:** An African American and Latinx History by Paul Ortiz  
**Favorite film:** The Passion of the Christ  
**Hobbies:** Traveling and spending time with family  
**Church/civic involvement:** St. Michael's  
**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Community first  
**Strongest childhood ambition:** Shine a light on discrimination and to advocate for the down syndrome community  
**Most significant life goal you've accomplished:** Helping build community in the 3rd world  
**Goal you haven't accomplished yet:** Establishing a place where a community can thrive and my sister can be an impact in.

## MAYOR

Continued from page A6

under the reign of a board that does not represent the diversity that is Siler City.”

He is running on a “unity ticket” with three other Siler City newcomers seeking office on the board of commissioners — brothers Dean Picot II Jared Picot, and Sam Williams. Each of the members of the ticket have pledged to bring 1,000 jobs paying salaries of at least \$40,000 within their first fiscal year in office.

Gallardo's campaign has also zeroed in on improving town-operated facilities, addressing drug problems in Siler

City and bringing more high-paying jobs and industries to the area. However, he said he wants to establish “trust through transparency” with citizens and ensure they always know what is going on at town hall. “My understanding of the duties of mayor is to be a champion of the under-resourced, the overlooked and the community as a whole,” Gallardo said. “Whereas I don't have an actual vote on the board, unless (in) a tie, my ear will always be available to the citizens so my voice will echo (in) the chambers of city hall.”

Gallardo may be a new face in town, but he said since moving to Siler City, he has seen a need

for a change in leadership. He said he is ready to take on the challenges of the mayor's office and to “serve all of the people.”

“(Municipal government) has not done (its job) through not properly stewarding the resources to ensure everyone has the proper access to health care, quality jobs and has failed to put the needs of our children and their futures first,” Gallardo said. “What needs to change is the people that hold office and look out for the people they know as opposed to being out in the community.”

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



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# Incumbent Fadely challenged by two political newcomers

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — Incumbent Commissioner Lewis Fadely is seeking reelection to Siler City’s Dist. 5 commissioner seat, facing challenges from newcomers Rayetta Fox and Jared Picot for the seat he’s held for nearly a decade.

Siler City’s municipal elections were delayed due to the postponed results from the 2020 census, which required the town to redraw their district maps. The election was then postponed again when North Carolina Democrats brought forth a gerrymandering lawsuit which brought candidate filing to a halt.

**Lewis Fadely:** Fadely is an attorney in Siler City and a veteran commissioner. “As a 25-year practicing attorney, and as Dist. 5 Commissioner for the past nine years, my entire professional career has been based on serving and meeting the needs of others,” he said. “To be a successful municipal servant, you must put the collective needs of the citizens ahead of your own needs.”

If Fadely were to win his bid for reelection, he said he wants to continue to carry out Siler City’s mission and vision by “improving infrastructure,

increasing availability of affordable housing and driving economic development.”

He said in order to accomplish those three goals, the town board needs to focus on addressing issues such as improving water and sewage, developing diverse representation, creating safe communities and educating the young people in town.

“In the past nine years that I have been on the board, Siler City has been focused on continuing to achieve its mission and vision statements by balancing its budget, improving our public works, police, fire and recreation departments, providing opportunities for creation of affordable housing, modifying our Uniform Development Ordinance to meet the evolving and changing needs of the town,” Fadely said.

His experience in municipal government separates Fadely from his opponents, he said, and his record as a commissioner makes him the better candidate.

“In Siler City, we have defined how the service of our municipal government and elected officials should be directed by developing and adhering to the guiding principles in our mission and vision statements,” Fadely said. “But we cannot make the mistake of sitting back on our laurels

— we must remain humble, thankful and continue to work hard to fulfill our mission and vision statements.”

**Rayetta Fox:** Fox is a life-long Siler City resident who’s worked at Jordan-Matthews High School for over 21 years. She didn’t respond to the questionnaire sent by the News + Record or multiple requests for interviews, but she did attend the Siler City candidate forum at First Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday. She said there she was seeking office to help bring activities for Siler City’s young people to do after school or in their free time.

“Our teens don’t have anywhere to go,” she said. “When they get out of school, they go home, they get in trouble — we need something for teens.”

Fox also talked about Siler City’s need for affordable housing in Siler City, and said if elected, she would help make Siler City a viable community.

“If I get in, I’m going to do a whole lot of changes,” she said, “because we need a lot of change here in Siler City.”

“You want the young adults to do something besides hang out on the street?” Fox asked the forum audience on Sunday. “Well, fix up a building or something for them to go to, something where they can teach kids that’s coming up so

they’ll know the ropes.”

Fox said she’d like to see Siler City once again become the “amazing town” she remembers growing up in, and in turn, help to draw people back to the home they once knew.

“I know how it (Siler City) has been from the time I was little, to the time that I grew up,” Fox said. “This city used to be the best place you wanted to come and live, and now everybody is going out of town because nothing wants to come here ... we need to do something for our kids, or we are going to lose everything.”

**Jared Picot:** Picot is a new resident of Siler City and a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill’s Kenan-Flagler Business School. He said he decided to pursue a commissioner seat shortly after moving here and hearing his new neighbors complain about problems within the town. He’s running on a “unity” ticket with three other candidates for commissioner and mayor — his brother Dean Picot II and Sam Williams for commissioner and Nick Gallardo for mayor.

“I’m running to improve their lives through adding high-pay, high-quality jobs and improving the homes and affordable housing access to this community,” Picot said.

One of Picot’s main concerns

is the possibility that economic development and certain residential developments will ultimately increase the cost of rent and houses on the market, forcing families who have lived in town for years to move.

He said he wants to prevent that from happening by partnering with developers to ensure affordable housing is a part of their development plans.

“The development that’s going to come to Siler City and making sure everyone doesn’t get priced out of their homes,” Picot said.

Picot said constituents feel neglected by the current and previous town administrations. He said if elected, he’d listen to residents and work on everyone’s behalf, not just a select few.

“My understanding of municipal government is that it needs to provide resources and protect our God-given rights of liberty and the pursuit of happiness — it has not done this,” Picot said. “We need a government that is for all and not for a select few that live on the outskirts of town. We need a government that looks out for everyone no matter their station in life.”

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

## 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

# Jared Picot

### Candidate Biographical Information

**Name:** Jared Picot  
**Office you are running for:** Siler City District 5 Commissioner  
**Current Home Address:**  
**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** 919-551-4436  
**Best daytime number:** 919-551-4436  
**E-mail:** picot4silercity@gmail.com  
**Cell phone:** 919-551-4436  
**Date/place of birth:** Greenville, NC 05/03/1994  
**Current occupation:** Creative Director at Picot Mag  
**Campaign website/social media:** picot4silercity.com  
**Family (names & ages, as of Election Day, of immediate family members):** I don’t have any kids and I’m single.  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** N/A  
**Campaign manager (if applicable):** Self  
**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** Self

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

**Why are you seeking this office?:** I’m running because leaders lead without fail, leaders take the back seat while those they serve sit in front. For over a decade the people of my district have suffered while others make backroom deals. I’m running to break up the clicks that have decided the lives of the masses. I’m running to improve their lives through adding high pay high quality jobs and improving the homes and affordable housing access to this community.

**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?:** Be a listening ear to the constituents I represent to make sure they are heard and their needs are met and that their ability to prosper is not hindered. I think I’m uniquely qualified to hold this position because of my ability to be creative in real life situations. I learned this trait while studying at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School and employed those skills in developing a multinational media company. I would like to use these connections I’ve acquired to bring a new era for Siler City of growth and increased income and close the income gap that plagues this community.

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable and attainable you would have if elected.:**  
Improving access to affordable housing  
Improving access to resources

so that citizens can acquire a high paying job

Ensuring that internet is reachable and stable for all of the residents in Siler City

**What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now and how would you address them?:** The development that’s going to come to Siler City and making sure everyone doesn’t get priced out of their homes. It’s important to make sure that they can compete and grow within the city they call home as change comes. Through major partnerships and collaborations with multiple developers and corporate entities, we can work towards development with the citizens’ needs in mind. As a town we can also work to provide current homeowners grants to remain in their homes to not be affected by change. Utilizing the partnerships we have and our budget, we can ensure that Siler City has reliable internet access for everyone.

**What’s your overall view of the role of municipal government? Is it fulfilling its mission at present? If not, what needs to change?:** My understanding of municipal government is that it needs to provide resources and protect our God given rights of liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It has not done this. We need a government that is for all and not for a select few that live on the outskirts of town. We need a government that looks out for everyone no matter their station in life.

**What differentiates you from the other candidates?:** A fresh perspective is needed at this critical time for this city as we are on the cusp of developing but much like Durham and Holly springs we have seen that this development comes at a cost. This often times means the uprooting of families, and whole communities. I have the skill set and have formed the needed partnerships to ensure development happens with the thought of citizens growing as well and not being left behind.

### Biographical Facts

**Political/government hero:** Abraham Lincoln  
**Favorite book:** Mother Teresa, CEO  
**Book most recently read:** This Life I Live  
**Favorite film:** HBO’s Our Towns  
**Hobbies:** Running, Reading, I enjoy being outside as much as possible.  
**Church/civic involvement:** New Hope Church  
**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** For The People  
**Strongest childhood ambition:** To help others  
**Most significant life goal you’ve accomplished:** Growing a business  
**Goal you haven’t accomplished yet:** Becoming an elected advocate for the Town of Siler City

## 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

# Lewis Fadely

### Candidate Biographical Information

**Name:** Lewis Fadely  
**Office you are running for:** District 5 Town Commissioner  
**Current Home Address:** 220 South Third Ave.  
**Home telephone and/or Work Telephone:** (919)-663-2471 (work)  
**Best daytime number:** (919)-663-2471  
**E-mail:** fadelylaw@me.com  
**Date/place of birth:** 01/20/1970  
**Current occupation:** Attorney  
**Campaign website/social media:** None  
**Party affiliation (if applicable):** Democrat  
**Current and previous elected offices held or sought & terms of service:** District 5 Town Commissioner for the past 9 years  
**Campaign manager (if applicable):** Shirley Villatoro  
**Campaign treasurer (if applicable):** Shirley Villatoro

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

**Why are you seeking this office?:** Because I love Siler City and want to see it prosper.

**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?:** As an elected official, you are supposed to lead the town by serving the people. To be a successful municipal servant, you must put the collective needs of the citizens ahead of your own needs. I believe that I am the best candidate for District 5 Town Commissioner because as a 25-year practicing attorney, and as District 5 Commissioner for the past nine years, my entire professional career has been based on serving and meeting the needs of others.

**Give us three goals that are specific, measurable, and attainable you would have if elected. We read our mission and vision statement at the beginning of each meeting.:** Our mission statement is, “To advance a framework for our success through balanced governance, dynamic partnerships, and an engaged community.” Our vision statement is, “Siler City is a safe, prosperous, and vibrant community

where diversity, innovation and education drive success in a globally competitive society.” I believe that three specific goals for Siler City should be tied back to that Vision and Mission — improving infrastructure, increasing availability of affordable housing, and driving economic development.

**What are the biggest challenges in Siler City right now and how would you address them?:** I think that biggest challenges that we are facing are:

- 1) The continuing need for improvements in water and sewage. If our town cannot meet the growing need for water and sewage, then we will not be able to meet the growing need for housing and we will not be able to develop economically. If we cannot develop economically, then our citizens will have to drive to other cities to find suitable wages to support their families. Therefore, we must continue to seek ways to improve our infrastructure thorough a balanced, fiscally responsible budget that sets aside money each fiscal year dedicated to achieving our capital improvements plan.
- 2) The duty to continue to educate our youth. Education is a driving force behind economic development. Employers want an educated work force. Sometimes, this means a traditional educational tract that culminates with a four-year college degree. Other times this means learning a valued trade or skill. Therefore, we must continue to work with our educational partners and community leaders to ensure our collective futures by educating the minds of tomorrow to meet the needs of our community.
- 3) Developing diverse representation. Siler City is fortunate to have a diverse population. It is one Siler City’s strengths. Our representation needs to reflect our diversity so that no group gets left behind. We will succeed or fail together. Let’s make it a success.
- 4) Developing safe communities. People will not live or work where they do not feel safe and protected. Employers will not locate in a town that cannot protect its investment. Therefore, we must continue to strive for improvements in our police and fire departments through innovation, expansion and hiring that reflects

our community.

**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 overall role of municipal government is to meet the needs of its citizens through dedicated service. In Siler City, we have defined how the service of our municipal government and elected officials should be directed by developing and adhering to the guiding principles in our mission and vision statements. In the past nine years that I have been on the board, Siler City has been focused on continuing to achieve its mission and vision statements by balancing its budget, improving our public works, police, fire and recreation departments, providing opportunities for creation of affordable housing, modifying our Uniform Development Ordinance to meet the evolving and changing needs of the town, partnering with our non-profit community leaders and organizations, developing a down-town master plan, a parks and recreation master plan, and a capital improvement plan, and attracting industry back to this town. We have worked hard and achieved much over the past nine years through our collective efforts as a community. But we cannot make the mistake of sitting back on our laurels. We must remain humble, thankful, and continue to work hard to fulfill our mission and vision statements.

**What differentiates you from the other candidates?:** Experience and achieving results in municipal government.

### Biographical Facts

**Book most recently read:** Bible  
**Church/civic involvement:** Gideon, volunteer swim coach with Jordan Matthews High School, former board member for Chatham Charter School.  
**Personal motto or one-line philosophy:** Do unto other as you would have them do unto you.  
**Strongest childhood ambition:** Win an Olympic Gold medal (did not happen)  
**Most significant life goal you’ve accomplished:** Married Kimberly Annette Tillman  
**Goal you haven’t accomplished yet:** All of my children graduating college and finding employment.

# FARM

Continued from page A1

put into these plants was on display; ripe and luscious berries were everywhere, and families delighted at picking choice berries and loading up buckets. Each of the farm's plants produces about a gallon of berries per year, and the entire field needs to be picked every three days before it begins to rot.

"My grandfather always taught me if you don't sell it, you're going to smell it," Beal said. "So, we need to keep picking once these berries bloom."

Allison Poremba's family has been coming to Kildee Farm for more than a decade for these berries. On Saturday, she brought her daughter Berkely for the first time. "The berries from the grocery store just don't taste the same," Poremba said. "We use the berries to make my grandfa-

ther's famous strawberry pudding and for frozen preserves."

Poremba said hand-picking berries with her daughter makes the taste of her family's pudding so much sweeter.

Others at the farm, like Magaly Rodriguez, echoed the love of the farm as a family activity.

"Just being out in the sun with my family and getting my fresh produce," Rodriguez said. "There's really nothing like it. It's also so good for our mental health. We come here every year."

## OTHER PLACES TO FIND STRAWBERRIES

Here's a list of local growers and regional members of the North Carolina Strawberry Association. Check with the location for hours of operation, availability.

**Chatham Oaks Farm**  
www.chathamoaksfarm.com  
573 DeWitt Smith Rd.,  
Pittsboro  
931-265-2530

**Phillips Farms of Chatham**  
1282 Hanks Chapel Rd.,  
Pittsboro  
919-542-9974

**DJ's Berry Patch**  
www.DJsBerryPatch.com  
1223 Salem Church Rd.,  
Apex, NC,  
919-600-4020

**Gary Thomas Farms**  
443 Thomas Rd., Sanford  
919-258-3262

**Gross Farms**  
www.grossfarms.com  
1606 Pickett Rd., Sanford  
919-498-6727

**Sawyer Farms**  
6346 Beulah Church Rd.,  
Liberty  
336-685-9645

**I've seen people come here as little kids to pick berries, and now those kids are bringing their kids to come and pick. It doesn't get better than that.**

**MICHAEL BEAL, Kildee Farms**

Rodriguez said she had been bringing her children to Kildee since they were 3 years old; every year, each picks two boxes of fresh strawberries from the fields.

Beal said the connections people have with the farm are part of the reason he keeps planting the berries year after year.

"I do all this because I love the people," he said. "I've seen people come here as little kids to pick berries, and now those kids are bringing their kids to come and pick. It

doesn't get better than that."

There is a familial atmosphere around the farm. Beal's mother, Marie, runs the stand where pre-picked berries are sold by the gallon, and she also gives people buckets to pick their own. Meanwhile, Beal's daughter, Ashley, and family volunteers wash out used buckets and give them to families.

Kildee Farm has always been a family operation.

"When it's in your blood you don't get rid



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Customers at Kildee Farm pick strawberries at the start of strawberry season there Saturday. It's located in Ramseur.**



Staff photo by Simon Barbre

**Late April marks the beginning of strawberry season for Kildee Farm in Ramseur. Growing the berries is a technical process, and 'people don't realize how much science and care it takes,' said owner Michael Beal.**

of it," he said. "It's about living up to our slogan: growing memories one berry at a time."

Beal is also on the board of directors for the North Carolina Strawberry Association, which works to promote strawberry production and marketing and aims to

be a voice for strawberry growers at the state and national level.

Beal said being part of the association made him a point person for new growers looking to start their own crop.

"People will call me up and think they can just throw a strawberry in

the ground, throw some dirt and water over it — but it's not that simple," he said. "I always tell people to start planning 10 months to a year in advance because these suckers take some planning."

By the time strawberry season is over, Beal estimates he's responsible for more than half a million strawberry plants across the state. He helps growers with fumigation work, planting and land maintenance. And while he occasionally gets frustrated with ignorance of newcomers to the world of strawberries, Beal said he is happy more farmers are coming on board.

"The important thing is getting fresh produce to the people," Beal said. "This isn't just about me or just the farm up the road. All the farmers are in this together to produce the best berries for the people of this state."

Kildee Farm is open to the public seven days a week for picking while supplies last. Be sure to call the farm at 919-742-5102 prior to arrival for field conditions and availability. For more information about the North Carolina Strawberry Association and to find other strawberry growers near you visit ncstrawberry.com.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at brappaport@chathamnr.com and @b\_rappaport.

# 2022 DISTRICT JOB FAIR

**MAY 7, 2022**  
9AM - 12PM

**CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER**  
2550 Buckingham Road  
Burlington, NC 27217



TO REGISTER:

<https://forms.gle/mikcz2e2RyqFJR9e8>



**We are hiring for ALL positions!**

Meet with school and district representatives and learn about career opportunities with our district.

- ★ Certified and Classified
- ★ Early hiring contracts will be offered to eligible candidates

**VISIT:**

[www.abss.k12.nc.us](http://www.abss.k12.nc.us) to access the *Alamance-Burlington School System* employment application and to view a list of current job openings.

**LICENSURE INFORMATION:**

[www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org)  
NC Department of Public Instruction



**ALAMANCE-BURLINGTON SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
Human Capital Management  
1712 Vaughn Road  
Burlington, NC 27217

# KILDEE FARM

# STRAWBERRIES

**CALL FOR FIELD CONDITIONS**

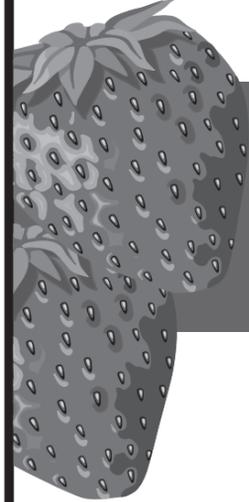
**HOURS:**

**Mon. - Fri. 9am - 6pm**  
**Sat. 9am - Until • Sun. 2pm - 6pm**

**Hours are subject to change.**  
**Call Farm for availability.**

**936 Kildee Church Rd. • (919) 742-5102**

(Off Hwy 64 between Ramseur and Siler City, Watch for Signs)



# OBITUARIES

## SARA MARIE (PAGE) WILLIAMS



Sara Marie (Page) Williams, 42, of Snow Camp, passed away at her home on Thursday April 14, 2022. Sarah was born on May 25, 1979, in Rangely, Colorado. She lived with her parents in Blue Mountain, Colorado, and attended school in Dinosaur, Colorado, where she met her lifelong friends Mari Horn and Kendra Burger. Sarah's family moved to Dinosaur where they lived until she graduated. She lived for many years in Wyoming, Salt Lake City, Dallas, Texas, Broken

Arrow, Oklahoma, (where she met and married her husband Dale) and Grand Junction, Colorado, before moving to North Carolina. She worked as a receptionist at Clapp Tractor in Siler City. Sarah loved the outdoors and spent many enjoyable trips camping in state and national forests, and hiking in nature. She was an avid advocate for anti-littering efforts and she and her husband, Dale, always spent time clearing trash from lakes, rivers and forests that they visited. Sarah loved animals and always had her fur babies around to care for. She also loved to plant things and care for flowers and had an amazing green thumb. She collected and grew many plants and trees on her property in Snow Camp.

The great love of her life was her daughter, Zoey, who lived with her in their home in Snow Camp. They went on many adventures together and loved to visit Colorado and Myrtle Beach together.

Sarah was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond Dale Williams, daughter Ariana Williams, stepdaughter Tiana Williams, mother-in-law Sylvia Williams, and stepfather Michael Christoff.

She is survived by daughter Zoey Williams of Snow Camp; mother, Wendy Christoff of Dinosaur; sister, Michaela Chamberlain of Dinosaur; step-sister, Julie Davis-Diaz of Rhode Island; sister-in-law, Tracy Pakornsawat (Rakfa) of Siler City, and sister-in-law Veda Williams of Carrboro; along with many friends and family.

A memorial service was held on Friday, April 22, 2022, at Smith and Buckner Funeral Home in Siler City.

Online condolences may be made at [smithbucknerfh.com](http://smithbucknerfh.com).

## WILLIAM LARRY PACE



March 1, 1944 - April 23, 2022  
William Larry Pace, 78, of Concord, N.C., passed away Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Larry was born March 1, 1944 in Rockingham County, N.C., to the late William Alga Pace and the late Annie Mae Pace. He was also preceded in death by a granddaughter, Sarah Hope Pace.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Mary Joyce Pace of Concord; son, Alan Pace and wife Cathy; son,

Darrell Pace and wife Wendy; son, Keith Pace and wife Jennifer; son, Josh Robinson and wife Christa; grandchildren, Sam, Hillary, Claire, Reid, Kayla, Emily, Chandler, Jensen, Kynzie and Carter; great grandson, Luke; sister, Sylvia Lowe and husband James; as well as several nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 2:45 pm, Saturday, April 30, 2022, at New Hope Worship Center, 452 Brookwood Ave., Concord, N.C. 28025. The funeral service will follow at 3 p.m. at New Hope Worship Center, officiated by Rev. Dale Jenkins. Burial will take place at Carolina Cemetery Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Way of the Cross Prison Ministry at 5131 Tracewood Court, Charlotte, N.C. 28215 or to Hospice.

Hartsell Funeral Home of Concord is serving the Pace family.

Memories and condolences may be shared at [www.hartsellfh.com](http://www.hartsellfh.com)

## VERNON RUSSELL OLDHAM



Vernon Russell Oldham passed away on April 23, 2022, at Genesis HealthCare. He was born on March 23, 1944, in Moore County, the son of Henry and Bessie Oldham. He was a member of Cool Springs United Methodist Church, graduated from High Falls High School and retired from MasterCraft/Collins and Aikman after 40 years of service. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers Harvey and Walter Oldham and sister Wilsie

Dalton.

Survivors include his spouse of 58 years, Janice Wicker Oldham; daughter, Laurie Smith and husband John of Kernersville; grandson, Russ Smith of Los Angeles; brothers, Tommie Oldham and wife Faye of Robbins, and Charlie Oldham of Bear Creek; sister-in-law, Chris Oldham of Bear Creek; and brother-in-law Jim Dalton of Blackstone, Virginia; along with many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at Cool Springs United Methodist Church Cemetery, 2027 Cool Springs Rd., Carthage, N.C., with Rev. William Cashion officiating.

The family wishes to express their appreciation to Genesis for the loving care and many kindnesses extended their way.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Cool Springs UMC Church.

Smith & Buckner Funeral Home is assisting the Oldham family.

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

## JOHN EDWARD WILLIAMS

John Edward Williams, 49, of Sanford, passed away Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

A funeral service was held Sunday, April 24, 2022, at 2 p.m. at Cameron Hill Presbyterian Church with Matthew Place officiating.

He was born in Moore County on July 22, 1972, to Linda Bauquess Williams and the late Robert Williams. He worked as a supervisor at Pac Fab in the past.

In addition to his mother, John is survived by his daughter Brooke Kiger of Cameron; sister, Christy Hawkinson of Kaufman, Texas; and one grandson.

## MAGGIE LEE RICHMOND NEWBY

Maggie Lee Richmond Newby, 94, of Sanford, passed away at her residence.

Services are provided by Knotts Funeral Home.

## DEMETRIUS LEE HARRINGTON

Demetrius Lee Harrington, 38, of Sanford passed away on Sunday, April 24, 2022, at Central Carolina Hospital.

Services entrusted to Knotts Funeral Home.

## ELIZABETH 'LIESA' FRANK

Elizabeth "Liesa" Frank, 65, died in Sanford, April 23, 2022.

Liesa was born September 4, 1956, in Mainz, Germany, and was adopted by Rhuben Frank and Luise Pracht Frank in March 1957.

There will be no public arrangements. Her remains will be returned to her native Germany.

Survivors include a daughter, Bianka Rhodes Stumpf, two grandchildren, and her brother, Raymond Frank.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to the Temple Theatre, or the Central Carolina Community College Foundation's Dreamkeepers Fund.

Arrangements are by Bridges-Cameron Funeral Home.

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

## WANDA JEAN MAYERS

Wanda Jean Mayers, 71, of Chesapeake, Virginia, passed away on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at Chesapeake Regional Hospital.

A graveside service was held at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022, at Pilgrim's Rest Church in Olivia with burial following in the church cemetery.

## ROGER GRAY GORDON

Roger Gray Gordon, 87, of Bear Creek, passed away Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at the Siler City Center.

The memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Joyce-Brady Chapel with Rev. Phillip Nelson presiding.

Roger was born in Surry County on June 18, 1934, to Lula Mae Shinault Gordon and Uless Grant Gordon. A member of White Cross Baptist Church, he was a truck driver for most of his working years. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara, a son Gary, two brothers, Ray and Jimmy Gordon and two sisters, Lala Brown and Lena Gordon.

He is survived by his children, Bobby Gordon, William Gordon and Phyllis Gordon Clark, all of Bear Creek; sister, Nancy Noe of Bear Creek; brothers, Willie Gordon and Monroe Gordon, both of Bear Creek and Roy Gordon of Siler City; six grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

Condolences may be offered online at [www.joycebrady-chapel.com](http://www.joycebrady-chapel.com).

## SARAH JANE COTTEN

Sarah Jane Cotten, 90, of Pittsboro, passed away on Friday, April 15, 2022, at Rex Hospital in Raleigh.

The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, April 22, 2022, at Knotts Funeral Home, with burial following at Chatham Memorial Park.

## WILLIAM EDWARD SWANN

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

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Blandonia Presbyterian Church with burial following in Dorsett-McLean Cemetery.

## MARY JANE MORRISON FOX

Mary Jane Morrison Fox, 72, of Sanford, passed away on April 20, 2022, at her home.

Funeral service was held at 2 p.m., Monday, April 25, 2022, at Blandonia Presbyterian Church, with burial following at McQueen Chapel U.M.C.

# 'On the precipice of giant things': Chatham officials optimistic about county's development

BY BEN RAPPAPORT  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — Speakers at Tuesday's Chamber of Commerce Development Briefing touted recent economic development announcements and growth as evidence Chatham County is headed in the right direction. The networking event, held at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center, drew 250 people and featured five keynote speakers who discussed a range of issues including proposed development plans and the state of economic development in their respective areas.

Karen Howard, chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, said she was proud of the way Chatham County has grown in the past decade. She said, however, growth has put new issues like broadband access in the spotlight.

"Broadband access is one of top complaints from citizens across the county," Howard said. "The pandemic showed us how important broadband access really was. We know there is a lot of work that needs to be

done in that space and that continues to be our top legislative goal."

Howard said there was a positive outlook for increased broadband access because of new state funds devoted to providing solutions, including the GREAT Grant Program to grow technology access in rural counties across the state — including Chatham.

Speaking about Siler City, Mayor Pro Tem Thomas "Chip" Price III said the real estate boom in town is a positive.

"We have been very fortunate and blessed for our growth and industrial partners," Price said. "There is an energy and buzz in town. Previously, the only buzz around here was a bee flying around."

Price said future upgrades for the area included a \$2 million investment in Siler City's wastewater treatment plant, maintenance upgrades for the airport and rerouting 3rd Street to improve access to downtown.

"We aren't putting all our eggs in one basket," Price said. "All the problems we have now are good problems to have. They show we are

continuing to grow and that we have the necessary facilities to keep growing."

Price said upgrades to the wastewater plant are roughly halfway completed and will be finalized by the end of 2023.

The new upgrades in Siler City and the return of events like the Spring Chicken Festival in town after the pandemic show positive trends for the city. The town also has 3,118 proposed dwelling units and more than 90 acres of commercial development, according to Price.

"We are on the precipice of giant things happening in Siler City," Price said. "There's a long way to go, but there's a lot of exciting projects coming."

Pittsboro Town Manager Chris Kennedy said there are more than 27,000 dwelling units on the books and ready to be built there, primarily related to Chatham Park.

"It's a nerve-racking time in many ways but we are working with our partners around us," Kennedy said. "We are working to solve the riddles that have perplexed us for so long."

Kennedy said improve-

ments to Pittsboro's sewer line and water quality are key pieces to those solutions.

The other major development discussed at the briefing was the VinFast automotive manufacturing plant, the largest economic development project in the state. It has been valued at more than \$4 billion and is estimated to bring in 7,500 jobs in its first phase, and an additional 12,000 jobs related to that development. Michael Smith, president of the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation, said the selection

of Chatham County was a sign of all the growth this region expects to see.

"Our site is within an hour of 22 counties in North Carolina," Smith said. "When you think about the ability to help out families, this is really dramatic. People will be coming here for these good jobs."

Smith said with the influx of jobs, housing projects and improve-

ments, there's no limit on the level of economic development coming to Chatham County.

Greg Stafford, the developer of SOCO in Pittsboro — a new and refurbished section of downtown that will feature restaurants and more — also spoke.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnc.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnc.com) and [@b\\_rappaport](https://twitter.com/b_rappaport).

## County Mulch Sale

Solid Waste & Recycling Division  
28 County Services Road, Pittsboro

### SATURDAY MORNINGS

7:30 am to 12:00 noon  
\$5 per scoop (~1 cubic yard)  
\$10 per scoop for large trailers and dump trucks (~3 cubic yards)

We load. You haul. Don't forget a tarp!  
All loads of mulch must be secure.

Sales continue every Saturday, while supplies last.  
Estimated to continue through the middle of May.



For more information:  
(919) 542-5516  
[www.chathamcountync.gov/recycle](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/recycle)

## FISH DAY!

It's Time To Stock Your Pond!

DELIVERY WILL BE:

Saturday, May 7

• Carthage 1:15-2:00 @ Carthage Farm Supply  
• Sanford 3:00-3:45 @ Carolina Town & Country

Wednesday, May 11

• Graham 11:30-12:15 @ Graham Feed  
• Chapel Hill 3:15-4:00 @ Piedmont Feed

Thursday, May 12

• Pittsboro 8:00-8:45 @ Pittsboro Feed  
• Siler City 9:15-10:00 @ Southern States  
• Asheboro 10:45-11:30 @ Southern States

"LIKE" us on Facebook!

## FISH WAGON

To Place an Order Call  
Toll Free 1-800-643-8439  
[www.fishwagon.com](http://www.fishwagon.com)



# VOTE '22



Early voting starts Thursday, April 28  
 Primary election: May 17  
 General election: November 8

**MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS (ON MAY BALLOT)**  
 Siler City's contested races will be decided during the May primary.



CONTESTED SEATS: Siler City Mayor, Siler City Town Board District 1, Siler City Town Board District 5, Siler City Town Board - At Large, & Cary Town Council - At Large; ballot also includes District Attorney

**CHATHAM ELECTIONS (ON NOVEMBER BALLOT)**  
 Chatham's races include Board of Education and Board of Commissioners.



CONTESTED SEATS: Commissioner Districts 3, 4 and 5; Sheriff; Clerk of Superior Court; Board of Education Districts 3, 4 and 5.

**STATE LEGISLATURE (ON MAY BALLOT)**  
 CONTESTED PRIMARIES: N.C. Senate, N.C. House. Seats will be decided in November.



**NOTE:** the N.C. House Dist. 54 race features a Republican primary between candidates Craig Kinsey and Walter Petty.

**OTHER RACES IN 2022**  
 There are several other seats open this election cycle, including some federal positions.



**OTHER CONTESTED SEATS:** U.S. Senator, Congress, N.C. Supreme Court, District Attorney, various judgeships

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

- April 28:** Early voting begins for the primary elections and for Siler City and Cary's municipal races
- May 10:** Absentee ballot request deadline
- May 14:** Early voting ends at 3 p.m.
- May 17:** Primary Election Day

\* for polling information, go to: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/elections/2021-election-information-notice>



Chatham News + Record

# Tick season is upon us: Here's how you can lower your risk of tick bites and tick-borne illnesses in Chatham County

From the Chatham County Public Health Department

While ticks are active throughout the entire year, they are most active from April to September. Hence, tick season in Chatham County is upon us.

As a reminder: Ticks are parasites that feed on warm- and cold-blooded hosts through bites. Ticks can feed on mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians, and illnesses from those bites can be consequential if not treated early.

It's likely that Chatham County residents are well aware of ticks and what they can do. In 2020, Chatham County had among the highest rates of diagnoses of ehrlichiosis and Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis, two of the most common tick-borne illnesses (TBI), in North Carolina. Chatham has particularly large areas of tick habitat, primarily brushy areas with high grass and vegetation.

Many Chatham County residents will soon begin, or are already, spending more time outside with weather warming up. The county is graced with many wonderful parks where residents can hike, camp, and enjoy nature. Unfortunately, it also means ticks are out and about too.

"Depending upon the weather, ticks can be active year-round in North Carolina," said Anne Lowry, Chatham County Environmental Health Director. "However, ticks are typically more



## ALL ABOUT TICKS

- Ticks are parasites that feed on warm- and cold-blooded hosts through bites.
- Can feed on mammals (like humans and dogs), birds, reptiles, and amphibians.
- Diseases from tick bites can lead to chronic illnesses and even death if not treated early.
- Chatham County has among the highest rates of diagnoses of two tick-borne illnesses (ehrlichiosis and Spotted Fever Group Rickettsiosis) in North Carolina.

Zachary Horner

active during the warmer months."

Pittsboro resident Dr. Marcia Herman-Giddens is a member of the Chatham County Board of Health and a co-founder of the Tick-Borne Infections Council of North Carolina (TIC-NC). She has decades of experience in public health, primarily in child health and maltreatment, but also in the field of tick-borne illnesses. She warns that most tick-borne illnesses can make people "sick and miserable," and some like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever can turn fatal.

"Ticks affect everyone's ability to enjoy the outdoors," said Dr. Herman-Giddens. "The saddest thing to me is that children can't just go outside and play in the woods anymore. Even yards may harbor ticks. It's not safe. Around here, tick season is all year long."

Dr. Herman-Giddens points to the number of deer in the county as one of the primary reasons for Chatham's high rates of TBIs. She says the two most frequent ticks found in Chatham, the lone star tick and black-legged tick, need large mammals to feed on for reproduction. As such, ticks have made their home in the county.

"Studies have found that if there were far fewer deer," she said, "the tick populations may dramatically decline."

The most well-known TBI, arguably, is Lyme disease, which Dr. Herman-Giddens says can "make people chronically-ill, even bed-ridden, especially without early treatment." Ehrlichiosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and anaplasmosis, which are not related to Lyme disease, do not cause chronic problems but can cause "organ failure and coma along with occasional fatalities if not promptly treated."

Ticks can also cause two other conditions: tick paralysis and red-meat allergy, also known as "alpha gal." The latter can lead to mild-to-life-threatening anaphylactic shock and, Dr. Herman-Giddens says, the ongoing allergy may "significantly alter people's lives, depending on how sensitive they are."

However, she emphasizes, that doesn't mean Chatham County residents should just hole up inside and never spend time outside. There are things Chatham residents and all county visitors can do to keep themselves safe and protected, including

## TICK-AVOIDANCE TIPS

**Before you go out:**

- Consider where you're going. Will the area you're visiting be grassy, brushy, or wooded?
- Use EPA-registered insect repellents. Follow product instructions.
- If you are going to an area with a high likelihood for ticks, wear long pants, socks, and boots to protect your skin.

**While you are out:**

- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and piles of leaves.
- Walk in the center of trails.
- Keep any children or pets near you and away from areas with high likelihood of tick presence.

**When you come home:**

- Check your clothing for ticks. Tumble drying your clothes for 10 minutes on high heat can kill ticks on dry clothing.
- Examine your gear and pets. Ticks can cling onto those things and then attach to a person later.
- Check your entire body for ticks. That includes under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind your knees, in and around your hair, between your legs, and around your waist.
- Do all of the same for any children you brought with you.

**What to do if you're bitten:**

- Be aware that a person can contract a tick-borne infection without being aware of a tick bite.
- Remove the tick immediately with sharp-pointed tweezers.
- Keep the tick in case you develop symptoms.

Do so by placing the tick on a note card or piece of paper and tape it down firmly. Write down the date of the bite and where it occurred on your body.

- Monitor your symptoms for 30 days. If you begin to experience symptoms, seek medical treatment immediately, taking the tick with you.

treating their clothing with permethrin spray, using insect repellents, and knowing how to properly remove a tick. While spending time outdoors, people should walk only on wide, clear paths and know which areas are safest from ticks.

A key step is making sure you check all over your body after you spend time outside, even if you've dressed for the occasion. Dr. Herman-Giddens recommends showering after being outdoors.

"Sometimes people never see them," Dr. Herman-Giddens said. "They feed and drop off and people didn't even know they had a tick bite."

The Chatham County Environmental Health Division offers residents a tick kit free of charge from its office in downtown Pittsboro designed for folks who are spending time outside and may run into ticks.

"The tick kits offer information about various tick born illnesses, what to do if someone finds an attached tick, and how to remove the tick, and includes tweezers with magnifying glass for more precision when removing ticks," Lowry said. "The faster a tick is removed, the less likely it is to transmit illness. It is extremely important to check your body for ticks when returning from

outdoors."

If you are bitten by a tick, remove it immediately with sharp-pointed tweezers. Dr. Herman-Giddens recommends keeping the tick just in case you develop symptoms and need to show a medical professional. The best way to do this is to tape it down firmly to a piece of paper or note card and write down the date of the bite and where the bite occurred on the body. Those bitten should monitor themselves for symptoms for 30 days.

"Any suspicion of tick-borne disease should be treated immediately," Dr. Herman-Giddens said. "It usually takes 10 days to two weeks for a blood test to turn positive if the person did get infected as the tests are based on the body developing antibodies."

TIC-NC's website has information about various kinds of ticks, preventing illness, and different TBIs, and can be found at [www.tic-nc.org](http://www.tic-nc.org). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also has helpful information on ticks and related topics at [www.cdc.gov/ticks](http://www.cdc.gov/ticks). The Chatham County Environmental Health Division also maintains a webpage with tick information, which can be found at [www.chathamcountync.gov/environmental-health](http://www.chathamcountync.gov/environmental-health).



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# At Pittsboro's community theater, children and adults shine on stage

An approaching summer means live performances at Pittsboro Youth Theater, a vibrant, professional-level community theater organization which teaches theater arts to and produces family plays for, with and by area children and adults.

**Harris**

**Witter**



Pittsboro Youth Theater's Parker Harris directs the cast during a rehearsal of 'Young Aladdin.'



Courtesy of Pittsboro Youth Theater

Lena Sbati tries on her Mad Hatter costume during an 'Alice in Wonderland' rehearsal in a prior Pittsboro Youth Theater performance.

Artistic Director Tammy Matthews and Technical Director Craig Witter founded the youth theater in 2012. Since then, more than 150 local children have participated in casts of 25 plays, 60+ performances, with audiences totaling more than 3,000. In 2017 Matthews and Witter founded the Center for the Arts and Sweet Bee Theater, the only public theater in Pittsboro.

This week, we speak with Witter and PYT's new marketing director, Parker Harris, about the upcoming summer plans for the organization.

**Pittsboro Youth Theater is in the middle of three sets of spring season shows. Let's start with "The Outsiders." What's the age group involved in the cast, and what can you tell us about the shows?**

"The Outsiders" features one of our most experienced casts, ages 10-18. It's a high energy stage version of the widely-loved and increasingly-banned book of the same name by S.E. Hinton.

The show is rated PG because of gang violence and death on stage. A teenage narrator tells the story of two adolescent groups at odds in a small town. Tensions escalate on stage between the Soc's (Socials) and the downtrodden Greasers. Many touching moments show that everyone, even tough kids, experience the beauty of life.

There will be a total of six performances of "The Outsiders" live on stage in Sweet Bee Theater Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1st. More information and tickets to "The Outsiders" are at [www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com](http://www.PittsboroYouthTheater.com).

**You'll feature two different sets of performances for "Disney's Aladdin Jr" musical. Why two different casts, and what are the challenges in dealing with and instructing so many performers?**

When we picked this season's shows, we couldn't resist

bringing Agrabah (a fictional Arabic country) in all its glory to our stage in Pittsboro. The fun, colorful, and upbeat musical Aladdin, one of Disney's finest, is pushing the envelope in Sweet Bee Theater.

For us to do the grand story justice, we needed to go whole hog on sets; Sweet Bee Theater will be decked out with a real flying carpet in a starlit desert sky, fantastic costumes, Genies, magic lamps, a palace, marketplace and treasure-filled Cave of Secrets.

Doing Aladdin with both age groups just made sense. In addition to the sets, the show has the technical depth to push our older cast in all aspects of theater: music, dance, and acting. At the same time, our youngest musical cast members get a fine introduction to real musical theater with a Disney story they all know and love.

Two different casts mean two different sets of costumes, different choreography, different blocking, etc. It has been a little difficult to keep up with the various moving pieces and how they vary across each show but that's nothing that our team and our outstanding casts can't handle. It's a stretch for all of us but that's nothing new at Pittsboro Youth Theater.

There will be 10 great performances of Disney's Aladdin Jr. on Saturdays and Sundays in Sweet Bee Theater from May 14 to 22.

More information and tickets to "Aladdin Jr." are available at our website.

**Live performances in the age of COVID — what's your plan there?**

We are delighted to be back performing inside Sweet Bee

Theater again.

For most of 2020 we did almost all our rehearsals and performances online. Then in 2021, we all started to be more knowledgeable and comfortable living with COVID. PYT started rehearsing outside and having performances outside on the Green in Southern Village and at Forest Theater at UNC-Chapel Hill.

We've been back rehearsing and performing in Sweet Bee Theater in the Center for the Arts Pittsboro full-time since January. The facility has improved its ventilation systems and cleaning protocols. As the risk of COVID has eased with Omicron, and we've all become more familiar with how and when to protect ourselves, we've discontinued our vaccination requirement and made masks optional for cast members and staff.

During shows with a good number of guests in the theater, audience members are required to wear masks, but cast members on stage have the option to remove their masks for greater expression and to improve the quality of their voices.

**What's in store for those interested in your summer camps?**

Theater Summer Camp at Pittsboro Youth Theater is an awesome experience. It gets more popular every year. This summer we have nine weeks of programming June through mid-August. All our theater summer camps are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays except holidays.

Every summer camp ends with campers performing a live show on stage in Sweet Bee Theater. One-week camps have

a showcase for friends and family on Friday afternoons. Our intensive, multi-week musical camps have fully-produced stage musicals that are open to the public weekends after their camps.

One-week theater summer camps for 6-12 year olds include "Alice In Wonderland," "Cinderella" and "Treasure Island." We've also got a one-week Acting/Improv camp for ages 8-14. Our final 2022 summer camp offerings are musical intensives: the 2-week "Annie Kids" for ages 6-12, and 3-week "Matilda Jr." for ages 10-18 both with multiple public performances in Sweet Bee Theater in Pittsboro.

Theater summer camps are filling up fast. We've already added a second "Annie Kids" musical camp cast. "Annie Kids" and other camps with lots of campers will be divided and rehearse half the time at the nearby Kiwanis clubhouse.

Every year we beef up our professional staff of theater and music directors with a few mature, trust-worthy veteran actors of Pittsboro Youth Theater plays. This year, to staff our additional facility at Kiwanis, we're recruiting college-age camp counselors to help our existing summer crew.

Register for Pittsboro Youth Theater's summer camps by visiting our website.

**Your operation also includes the Pittsboro Center for the Arts, which focuses on music lessons. What's new there?**

The Music School in the Center for Arts Pittsboro has added two new professional music teachers. Almost all of

our music lessons are in-person on-campus now. We still provide online music lessons for those who prefer them.

We're currently teaching private in-person lessons in piano, guitar, bass guitar, mandolin, ukulele and singing voice.

Our Center for the Arts Pittsboro campus is now completely focused on performance arts. COVID killed our coffee shop. Although paintings, sculptures and glass works by local artists are still on display, our art gallery is now open limited hours, mostly during theater activities and by appointment.

**Is there anything else people should know about Pittsboro Youth Theater?**

Most recently, we created an Elite Ensemble which is our most prestigious program for highly-committed and talented cast members. PYT's Elite Ensemble provides advanced training in theater's "Big 3" (singing, dancing and acting) and competes yearly at the Junior Theater Festival (JTF) in Atlanta.

We are super excited about returning to JTF Atlanta in January 2023 and look forward to again representing Pittsboro on youth musical theater's largest international stage!

Our Elite JTF Ensemble formed and has been rehearsing weekly since March. Every rehearsal includes higher-level instruction by a professional dancer/choreographer, advanced acting skills training, and theater signing voice instruction.

Auditions for additional Elite Ensemble members is by appointment only. Please contact us to schedule an audition.

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# Congressman Hudson visits Chatham on campaign trail

**BY TAYLOR HEEDEN**  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — U.S. Representative Richard Hudson Jr. came to Pittsboro last Wednesday while campaigning to be reelected for his sixth term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hudson — a registered Republican representing the 8th district — is seeking North Carolina’s 9th congressional district seat after the 2020 census required the state to redraw its electoral districts and maps. Four of the counties Hudson represents moved into the 9th district, which now includes Chatham.

Hudson said he and his family are planning to move to Moore County because his home in Concord is outside of the 9th district.

“We don’t legally have to live in a district, but I think it’s important to be in the communities you’re in,” he said.

Hudson has spent almost 10 years in Washington and in that time has co-authored over 60 bills, most of which were bipartisan efforts.

“I identify a problem I want to solve back home and then I go find a Democrat that will work with me on the front end,” he said. “Even last year, as partisan as things were in Washington, I’ve gotten 11 bills out of the House (of Representatives), and President Biden signed four of them.”

Bipartisanship is crucial to passing laws, he said. He cited an example of this collaboration when he worked with Congressman Bobby Rush, the chairperson of the energy subcommittee for Hudson’s Energy and Commerce committee.

Hudson said he and Rush come from very different backgrounds; Rush co-found-



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

**S&T’s Soda Shoppe co-owner T.J. Oldham gives a tour of the historic restaurant to Congressman Richard Hudson Jr. during Hudson’s campaign visit in Pittsboro.**

ed the Illinois chapter of the Black Panther party in the 1960s, and Hudson hails from a military family in North Carolina.

Despite their disagreements on certain policy issues, Hudson said he and Rush are working together to help answer questions regarding the future of energy and commerce in the United States.

“He and I could not be more different in philosophy and background ... but he and I care about each other, respect each other,” Hudson said.

“We’ve been working on a workforce development bill for three Congresses now trying to look at what are the job skills we’re going to need in the 21st century in the energy sector ... so that’s an issue where I may disagree with (him on) everything else, but we agree on that.”

Hudson’s priorities for a

sixth term are lowering the inflation rate, curtailing gas prices and being a voice for Ft. Bragg’s military personnel.

He also wants to tackle a new problem: pandemic preparedness. Hudson says he’s working to reauthorize the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act, also known as the PAHPA Act.

“I am the lead Republican on this issue of national stockpile and pandemic preparedness,” he said. “It’s the perfect time for us Republicans and Democrats to come together and look at what did we get right this last pandemic, what did we get wrong, and what do we need to improve going forward to prepare for the next pandemic.”

Water quality has also become an important issue for some Chatham voters, and Hudson said he was approached at a campaign



Staff photo by Taylor Heeden

**Congressman Richard Hudson Jr. stands at the counter of S&T’s Soda Shoppe in downtown Pittsboro.**

event at the Pittsboro Rotary Club regarding 1,4-Dioxane contamination in the Haw River. Hudson said he has a record of voting to support the communities affected by contaminated water as one of four Republicans in the House of Representatives to vote in favor of a bill establishing regulations on PFAS, also known as “forever” chemicals.

“I started working on it because we have an issue in Cumberland County on the Cape Fear River,” he said. “I’ve not been afraid to fight for clean water for people, so I’m going to look into this same issue, and you can count on me to lead the fight.”

Hudson said to create change and pass laws, congressional representatives must be willing to compromise and work “across the aisle” to accomplish what

voters want.

He said he wants to be Chatham’s congressional champion, and he said he would make sure to talk to voters from all walks of life, regardless of political affiliation.

“When I decide how to vote, I vote based on my principles and the information in front of me and what I think is in the best interest of people in my district, and I believe I need to be transparent about that,” he said. “I’m also willing to compromise my preferences and work across the aisle and get things done for people in my community. I’ve got a record of doing that now for nine years, and I’d be honored to have the opportunity to do that for Chatham County.”

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

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# Study Commission members feel ‘stymied’ in exploring potential solutions to wastewater issues in northeast Chatham

BY KEITH T. BARBER  
News + Record Correspondent

In November 2021, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners created the Northeast Chatham Wastewater Study Commission — a 12-member group of citizens — to study future growth and wastewater treatment options in the northeastern part of the county. On Monday night, the frustration level of several study group members boiled over in comments directed at Chatham County Manager Dan LaMontagne.

Regarding potential solutions presented by the study group during its March 23 meeting, commission member Jim Flood shared his exasperation with county officials.

“We just feel like we’re being stymied in our efforts to understand more about these options — that’s all we’re asking for,” Flood said.

The wastewater options discussed by the study commission at last month’s meeting ranged from keeping the current privately-owned decentralized wastewater system that utilizes package plants to the construction of a regional wastewater system for northeast Chatham County — which would include replacing existing package wastewater systems and aging septic systems — and the formation of a public authority to manage the system.

Monday’s meeting, held at the Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro, represented the study group’s first in-person meeting. The three previous meetings were held remotely via Zoom.

The original list created by the study group had seven potential solutions. A revised list, presented Monday, lists nine possible wastewater solutions for northeast Chatham County.

Study commission members also presented a number of requests for highly technical information to LaMontagne during the March 23 meeting, but the county manager balked at the request, stating it would not be possible to ascertain the answers to group members’ questions without the county hiring a consulting firm.

Commission member Liz Rolison addressed the information roadblock issue during Monday’s meeting.

“The reason this is coming to a head is the ability to get the additional information to complete this evaluation,” Rolison said. “So if we have a workable set of rules that we can operate within to get that additional information then adding more time and waiting and holding off on doing a final report is fine.”

“We know we’re missing some information — that, I think, is the pivotal issue,” she added.

During the March 23 meeting, LaMontagne admonished study commission members not to speak to officials in other counties or municipalities as representatives of Chatham County in researching potential wastewater solutions. In addition, Lindsay Ray, clerk to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, advised the group to exercise caution with regard to face-to-face meetings as well as email correspondence due to state statutes regarding open meetings of public bodies and public record laws.

On Monday night, Rolison emphasized that no member of the committee had any desire to act as a representative of the county. Rolison also explained that group members have had individual one-on-one discussions but have been careful not to meet in small groups due to North Carolina’s open meetings law.

She recommended the study group present an interim report to county commissioners at the board’s May 16 meeting with the hope of facilitating a dialogue about how the study group could best fulfill its stated mission.

Flood said he has proposed study

commission inviting experts to help enlighten and educate group members on the pros and cons of the nine potential solutions, with all meetings being public in nature to ensure they were in compliance with state statutes.

“You’ve got a huge amount of experience and talent and people with networks and expertise here,” Flood said. “Let us help.”

On Monday night, Perry James, co-chairperson of the study commission, cited a communication breakdown between the citizen group and county officials as another area of concern.

“There’s still a feeling, I believe, that we’re not sure whether we’re putting things out there just to get chewed up or whether there’s a desire — because we’re just not hearing it from either the board or from management as far as, ‘We realize there is a problem and we want informed people to help us decide on what are some good options,’” James said.

LaMontagne said he was also concerned about a communication breakdown between the group and county officials.

“You say you’ve had a lot of discussion and y’all have talked a lot,” LaMontagne said. “I haven’t heard any of that. There’s been very little of that in the meeting. I work for the board and what I’m hearing is a lot of stuff happening that I don’t know that everybody’s hearing, because I haven’t heard and I’ve been at every meeting.”

Rolison said trust was critical to any successful partnership and that the general perception is Chatham County isn’t really interested in a regional solution to its current wastewater challenges.

“That perception is out there, and I think I as a commission member would not feel like I have done my homework if I got all my information through Chatham County and didn’t get it from — directly from some sources,” Rolison said. “I would feel like I haven’t challenged the status quo — to challenge assumptions that have already been shared among the Chatham County staff — if I didn’t talk to some of the direct sources or investigate some of those things for myself.”

Ultimately, the study commission voted unanimously to deliver a status report to commissioners during the board’s May 16 work session in the hopes of finding a path forward.

The final portion of the meeting was dedicated to brainstorming ideas with regard to specific information requests of county officials. Study commission members requested information from LaMontagne and county officials on a range of topics including:

- The size and capacity of the county’s existing wastewater infrastructure
- Service area maps with indications of where a new system could possibly connect into existing infrastructure
- A master plan or “vision” for the work of the study commission

A number of study commission members’ framed their requests as questions, specifically:

- Could Orange Water and Sewer Authority [OWASA] be part a long-term solution to address the wastewater needs in the northeastern Chatham County?
- Would OWASA reconsider expanding the boundary of its current service agreement?

- How do other municipalities approach failing wastewater systems?
- Who would be responsible for buy-out of existing wastewater systems?

During its previous meetings, the 12-member study group adopted a resolution that characterized the county’s current strategy for managing wastewater in the northeast corner of the county as “not sustainable long-term,” and articulated the study commission’s ultimate goal of reviewing all possible wastewater treatment options through the prism of smart growth principles.



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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Pittsboro records low numbers of 1,4-Dioxane after April 5 discharge

PITTSBORO — Concentrations of a likely human carcinogen, 1,4-Dioxane, in Pittsboro’s water were found to be almost non-detect after a spill on April 5.

Greensboro city officials notified Pittsboro staff about a discharge of the chemical compound 1,4-Dioxane earlier this month.

According to the town’s public information officer, Colby Sawyer, the levels of 1,4-Dioxane have started to dwindle to non-detect levels after the initial contamination. Samples from the Haw River and Pittsboro’s water treatment facility have shown concentrations of less than one microgram per liter on April 18 and April 20.

“The numbers listed above indicate limited contamination thus far with the event,” Sawyer said. “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.”

Sawyer said the town continues to pull samples from the Haw River and Pittsboro’s treated water to monitor the concentrations of the chemical.

### CCC to host FAFSA Day

SANFORD — The Central Carolina Community College Financial Aid office will host a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 29, at the CCCC Academic Assistance Center (Marchant Hall), Lee Main Campus, 1105 Kelly Dr., Sanford.

The event is free and open to the public. Participants should use 2020 tax information to fill out the 2022-2023 FAFSA.

Request an appointment by emailing [findaid@ccc.edu](mailto:findaid@ccc.edu).

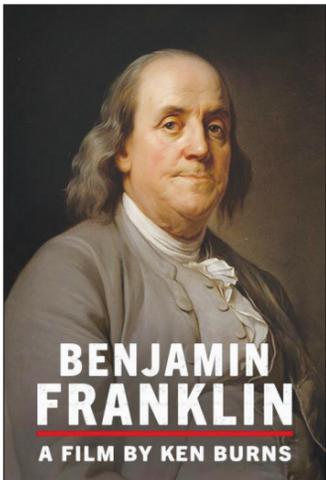
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—CN+R staff reports

PBS'S 'BEN FRANKLIN'

# Documentary on a brilliant Founding Father lacks a more perfect credit line — China

BY BUCK RYAN & LEI JIAO  
News + Record Correspondents



Courtesy of PBS  
The two-part, four-hour 'Ben Franklin' documentary can be viewed, in English and Spanish, on the pbs.org website along with instructional materials for schoolteachers.

*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 buzz around Ken Burns' latest PBS documentary, "Ben Franklin."*

"Sorry, Lei, but I must broach a touchy subject."  
"What's that, Buck?"  
"China's theft of America's intellectual property."  
"Whoa, Buck! Let's not forget a certain Founding Father who benefited from a lot of China's intellectual property."  
"Who's that, Lei?"  
"Ben Franklin."  
"LOL, you're kidding! I just watched Ken Burns' 'Ben Franklin' documentary — both parts, all four hours — and I don't remember anything about China."  
"Typical."  
"So did you watch it?"  
"Yes, Buck, and I loved it. Franklin was truly an American original. A gift to the world. It's a very interesting and inspirational documentary."  
"But you just didn't see any China in it?"  
"Oh, Buck, China was there plenty."  
"Where?"  
"In the ways Franklin put to work many of our ancestor's inventions — the kite to conduct his lightning experiment, the movable type and printing press to build his young career, the compass used on his eight treks across the Atlantic, the paper on which to write the Declaration of Independence, and the gunpowder to fight his revolution."  
"Oh, Lei, you're too much. You forgot to mention the tea

11. Tranquility, 12. Chastity and 13. Humility."  
"Well, Buck, you don't have to be a Confucius scholar to connect those values to the contents of Confucius' moral philosophy."  
"Call a cop! Franklin robbed him blind!"  
"Buck, I didn't say that. But you should read Todd Andriak's book, 'Reporting the Revolutionary War,' where he finds that plagiarism in Franklin's time was as common as taxation without representation."  
"So, Lei, was Confucius China's Ben Franklin?"  
"No, Buck. Honestly, it's a real challenge to traverse the dynasties to find one person who mirrors all of Franklin's accomplishments."  
"I know."  
"He was a printer, newspaper publisher, writer with literary genius, scientist, inventor, government official, diplomat, revolutionary, library and university founder, mega-flirt with French women, father of an estranged son who was born out of wedlock ..."  
"Now stop right there, Lei Jiao!"  
"Sorry, Buck, but as Winston Churchill observed, 'Great and good are seldom the same man.'  
"I guess."  
"Ken Burns rides the waves of Franklin as a man of contradictions, documenting his brilliant victories, human foibles and humiliating defeats. It's quite a story."  
"Lei, something funny occurred to me when I was watching."  
"What's that, Buck?"  
"Henry Clay."  
"Clay was no humorist, Buck."  
"LOL. I know, Lei. The documentary connects the lineage of Ben Franklin, Mark Twain and Will Rogers in that regard."  
"Were you thinking of Clay

because you live in his hometown of Lexington, Kentucky?"  
"Maybe so, Lei."  
"Buck, you once told me that Lexington was founded in 1775 by patriots inspired by The Shot Heard 'Round the World in Lexington, Massachusetts."  
"Good memory, Lei!"  
"But why Clay?"  
"I was thinking about how Henry Clay tried desperately as 'The Great Compromiser' to keep the Civil War from happening, just like Franklin tried desperately to avert the American Revolutionary War."  
"Funny, Buck, but if I learned one thing from the Franklin documentary it was the U.S. had two great civil wars."  
"Huh?"  
"Well, Buck, father against son, brother against brother, fought both from 1775 to 1783 and 1861 to 1865."  
"You're so right, Lei. Wasn't that a sad story about how Ben and his son, William, built up their British fortunes, then took different sides in the revolution — son loyalist to the crown versus father patriot."  
"And they never reconciled, Buck. That part made me sad. Also the fact that Ben was not there for his wife's death and funeral. I don't think William forgave his father for that."  
"I'm sure Ben was smarting from his son's letter informing him of the death, not to mention his son's henchmen hanging a patriot and William's snitching to the British authorities about Ben's secret trip to Canada."  
"Oh the treachery!"  
"Lei, the documentary ends with yet another touchy subject — slavery. Of course, it's a red thread that runs through Franklin's life, as he was a slave holder, then late in life, an abolitionist."  
"Well, Buck, you know China has had its own troubled history with slavery, trying to stamp

it out over the centuries. Do you know the last year China tried officially to ban slavery?"  
"No."  
"1949."  
"What?"  
"Yes, Buck, after a civil war in China, like in America."  
"Lei, you mean when we ratified the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery at the end of our Civil War in 1865, right?"  
"Right. For us it came with the proclamation of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Our Founding Fathers had a big mess to clean up."  
"Like what?"  
"As a historian noted, hundreds of thousands of opium addicts were forced to go cold turkey, both child labor and slave labor were abolished, factories were put under central control, land was taken from landlords and redistributed among peasants, and on and on."  
"So I guess slavery was a lot bigger deal for us than for you in China, right?"  
"Right you are, Buck. And it still is a touchy subject."  
  
*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, "Will Smith's slap was heard all the way to China, where the actor is loved and ... humor is, well, different":*  
  
<https://www.chathamnewsrecord.com/stories/will-smiths-slap-was-heard-all-the-way-to-china,13012>

# VOTE



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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Kayley Taber

# HOTEL

Continued from page A1

will offer more than 200,000 square feet of shops, restaurants and housing to accompany the new hotel once its construction is completed in the fall of next year.

Mosaic developer Kirk Bradley said bringing a Hampton Inn property to the county was about living up to a long-term vision of Chatham as a place for people to live, work and play.

“Having a hotel really makes a community,” Bradley said. “It’s one of those essential elements and it’s hard to imagine an urban place like Pittsboro and Chatham not having a hotel. But now that it’s here it will really be a difference maker.”

Gold-painted shovels hit the ceremonial dirt pile Thursday morning at the site of the new Hampton Inn & Suites at 324 Freedom Parkway. The event featured developers, local business leaders and Pittsboro and Chatham officials who played a role in making the project into a reality.

Rep. Robert Reives II (D-Dist. 54), one of the speakers at the event, spoke about Chatham Park’s journey from vision to today, and how for so long selling the idea of Chatham’s growth wasn’t easy.

“It’s exciting because this wasn’t an easy bet 17 years ago,” Reives said. “A lot of the people here now had a vision, a belief and a commitment to get us where we are today.”

The Pittsboro Hampton Inn is being developed by the Malcolm Bryant Corporation, a Kentucky-based real estate developer. This is the company’s fourth hotel property and first in North Carolina; it also plans a second near PNC



Staff photo by Bill Horner III

**Project developers and local officials ‘turn the dirt’ at Thursday’s groundbreaking ceremony.**

Arena in Raleigh.

Hotelier and founder Malcolm Bryant said he decided on Pittsboro because of the people he met throughout the development process of an ongoing project in Raleigh and the community he saw blossoming in Chatham County.

“Relationships become more important than the infrastructure and buildings,” Bryant told the News + Record. “At some point, it’s not about economics. I truly believe they’re trying to make people’s lives better.”

Bryant said Pittsboro felt like the perfect fit for his company because of its similarity to his home in Owensboro, Kentucky — another semi-rural town with potential for urbanization.

“Pittsboro feels like us,” Bryant said. “We get it, and its an honor to be in Chatham County with all that our history brings, and I think we have an opportunity to make 1 plus 1 equal 3.”

Bryant said despite

running an international hotel brand, he hopes to bring a familial atmosphere to the Hampton Inn by focusing on long-term employment and utilizing advice from the Pittsboro-Siler City Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“When we decide to do something like this, we are all in,” Bryant said. “Our children work for us; we don’t sell our hotels and I believe that style is in the minority these days.”

The groundbreaking in Chatham Park comes amid other development announcements throughout the county, including the \$4 billion VinFast manufacturing plant at Triangle Innovation Point near Moncure announced March 29 and FedEx’s 338,000-sq.-ft. distribution center near New Hill, which will open early next year.

Karen Howard, the chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, said she believes the area’s

growth — which includes the Chatham Park project, which is expected to boost Pittsboro’s population by at least 50,000 people in the next two decades — shows Pittsboro is poised to become an epicenter of excitement.

“We wanted to support some of the development that was already happening downtown,” Howard said. “Chatham has been begging for a quality, overnight staying option. Luckily, a confluence of events including developments and political will made this site a viable option for developers to come make a difference here and really help grow the area.”

Howard said she believed having a reputable brand like Hampton Inn for people to spend the night contributes to make Pittsboro an attractive place for families to visit

and explore.

Overnight options for Chatham County visitors currently include motels, bed and breakfasts and other short-term rental options like Airbnb or VRBO. One of the developers of Chatham Park, Tim Smith, said Thursday he believed all these options were important for growing the local economy, but a formal hotel provides conference spaces and other amenities for businesses as well.

“This thing is going to be full on day one,” Smith said. “Giving the opportunity for people to stay here in a hotel is going to start drawing more people from Chapel Hill, Sanford, Apex, etc.”

Smith’s development partner, Bubba Rawls, said the hotel also aids the local tax base by providing options for

people to get to other local venues they couldn’t otherwise visit.

“It’s the gift that keeps on giving in many ways,” Rawls said.

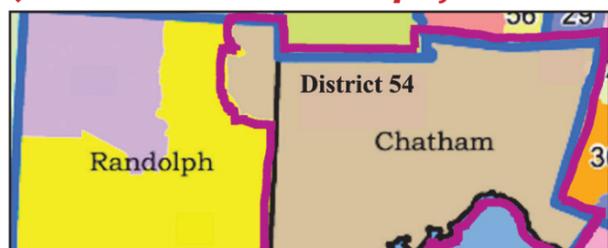
The hotel will feature an entertainment bar, conference rooms and outdoor terraces. Bryant said a unique feature of the Hampton Inn is that it will incorporate local art through an artist-in-residence program.

“We want to push people out into the community,” Bryant said. “People will visit this hotel before they visit anywhere else in the county and want to be the introduction to it.”

Bryant said if construction goes according to plan, the Pittsboro Hampton Inn should be opened by fall of 2023.

Reporter Ben Rappaport can be reached at [brappaport@chathamnr.com](mailto:brappaport@chathamnr.com).

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



### Conservative Opinion by Craig Kinsey: Experience? or Service?

Is government experience important? If experience is unwise, outcomes can be harmful. For example, President Biden and others at all government levels possesses vast experience, yet Biden unwisely cancelled the keystone pipeline, disincentivized domestic oil production, begs foreign countries for oil, and now drains the strategic oil reserves. Yet, despite his vast experience, gasoline prices remain too high.

Inexperience doesn't predict underperformance. Volodymyr Zelenskyy was formerly an entertainer. Now he is the inexperienced President of Ukraine in a desperate struggle against Russia. He is inexperienced, yet he has risen as the “de facto” leader of the free world while skillfully maneuvering Ukraine against tyranny. Why? Because if you select good people, experience becomes irrelevant. The solution for NC government: We should fill the NC State House with good people, just like Mr. Zelensky and America’s founders. They were all inexperienced. They sacrificed careers and money to service citizens. Similarly, I Craig Kinsey, for over a year, have demonstrated service by traveling and listening. I offer committed service, service focused on citizens, service for Chatham & Randolph.

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



CHATHAM PARK

# PADDLE THE DAY AWAY

New Swim & Pickleball Amenity Opening This May



Chatham Park’s newest recreational amenity, Paddles Swim & Pickleball, is set to open this Memorial Day Weekend. Located in Vineyards, adjacent to Knight Farm Community Park, Paddles memberships are open to all Chatham Park residents and to the public.



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JORDAN-MATTHEWS 7, SEAFORTH 0

# Rejuvenated Jets topple Hawks to clinch conference title behind lock-down defense, Landa's hat trick

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

SILER CITY — With time ticking down late in the second half, Caitlin Erman's path to the goal looked wide open.

As her feet swiftly guided the ball down the right side of the pitch, the speedy Seaforth freshman readied herself for a one-on-one with the Jordan-Matthews goalkeeper — a striker's dream.

But seemingly out of nowhere, Erman frantically fired off a shot as Jets defender Michelle Parroquin Vallejo came into view, giving her a gentle bump and disrupting the shot's trajectory.

It missed the net entirely. Wide left.

By then, Erman and her

teammates had grown accustomed to Parroquin Vallejo's defensive prowess — they'd been beaten down by it for nearly 72 minutes.

Parroquin Vallejo was one of many Jets with a stellar performance in Jordan-Matthews' 7-0 shutout win over Mid-Carolina 1A/2A conference foe Seaforth (7-4, 3-3 in conference) last Monday, the same game that saw Jets junior Maricarmen Landa let loose with a hat trick in the first half.

The win gave Jordan-Matthews an 8-0 record in the Mid-Carolina this season, clinching the conference title for the first time in over a decade.

"That was the best that they've played all year," Josh Harris, the Jets' head women's

soccer coach, said after the win. "And our defense just locks it down back there. ... Michelle was the best player on the field tonight."

Erman is the heart and soul of an up-and-coming Hawks team in its inaugural season. She leads the team in both goals-per-game (2.2) and assists-per-game (0.6), scoring 22 goals and dishing out 6 assists in 10 games.

On Monday, however, she had zeroes across the board as the duo of Parroquin Vallejo and junior Maggie Thornton made a point to lock her down, frustrate her and completely throw her off her game.

It didn't matter how, when or how many times Erman got the

See **JETS**, page B2



Staff photo by James Kiefer

Seaforth freshman Caitlin Erman (2) drives down the pitch as Jordan-Matthews junior Maggie Thornton tracks her the entire way in the Hawks' 7-0 loss to the Jets last Monday. Erman, the Hawks' leading goal-scorer this season, was held to no goals and no assists in the shut-out loss.

WOODS CHARTER 5, ENO RIVER 0

# Wolves' youth, Noronha's iron foot provide secret sauce for unbeaten start

BY DAN E. WAY  
News + Record Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL — Leyla Noronha is one part tiny dancer and one part Thumbelina with a thunderfoot.

The Woods Charter soccer player heads downfield like a ballerina in a clogger competition, switching effortlessly from swift and dazzling footwork that baffles defenders to precision power shots that stun them.

The diminutive sophomore unleashed the twin qualities with complementary zeal for a hat trick against Eno River to help preserve the Wolves' unbeaten winning streak in a 5-0 victory last Thursday. The Wolves are sitting atop the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference at 10-0-2 (6-0 in conference) heading down the season stretch towards conference and state playoff tournaments.

Noronha leads the team in goals (23), shots (78) and points (52). She is fiery and focused on the field, soft-spoken and measured when being interviewed about her most recent hat trick.

"It always feels really nice, but I keep waiting for more games where that is going to happen," Noronha said, before explaining in simple terms how she summons those booming kicks. "I practice. I've been playing for a long time."

She also plays club ball with North Carolina Football Club (NCFC) Elite, one of the best and largest youth soccer organizations in North Carolina. Her two older brothers played soccer at Woods Charter, and have pushed her with soccer homeschooling from an early age.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Woods Charter sophomore Leyla Noronha (8) looks to score the ball in the Wolves' 9-0 shut-out victory over the Chatham Charter Knights last Monday. Noronha, the team's top goal-scorer, secured a hat trick in the win.

Noronha was quick to share the laurels for her success against the Bobcats.

"I think just the dynamic movement of everybody, having everybody around me, my two mids with me and my wingers. I know if I mess up they're there," Noronha said.

So far it's been a dream season for a 15-year-old, who plays on a young team with just two seniors. She views their youthful composition as cause for continued optimism, not as a drawback.

"That's good for the years to come. I think we have a lot of potential and we can get pretty far in the state tournament, which I'm very excited about," Noronha said. "I think we're all really confident about it, and we're all still growing with each other ... so it's very bright."

Longtime Woods Charter head coach Graeme Stewart



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

Woods Charter junior Chloe Richard (17) and Chatham Charter freshman Lauren Jones (13) jockey for the ball during the Wolves' 9-0 win over the Knights last Monday.

recognizes what Noronha brings to the game.

"She's feisty. ... She uses her body well, she's got speed and we're working on some things for her. She doesn't know how good she can be yet,"

Stewart said. "She's got that game-changing ability and she believes in herself."

Noronha also reminds him of one of his former star players, Isabel Pearce. She set the state record for goals with

226 and was a four-time North Central Athletic Conference Player of the Year. Pearce played soccer for UNC-Greensboro, and now is one of Stewart's assistant coaches.

Stewart sees similarities between Pearce and Noronha at this stage of their development. He believes Pearce can be invaluable in pushing her young understudy to a higher level of play because she is so familiar with that journey.

Stewart laughed slightly when asked for the secret sauce to the Wolves' success. Woods Charter is far from a one-trick pony, he assured. For example, junior midfielders Lucy Miller and Chloe Richard bring discipline to the middle. "They feed off of each other," he said, and each has 10 goals on the year.

"We just work hard. The girls believe in each other. We've got a good balance," Stewart said. "We do have a lot of experience in there even though they're young."

Stewart said the coaching staff emphasizes the mental side of the game, and how being confident and staying positive is crucial. Players pushing each other and working hard is a mainstay of the program. Imposing those attributes, and being what he called "appropriately aggressive," elevates their odds of success.

Nor is it all about scoring. The Wolves' defense is potent. They have outscored opponents 68-7 this season. Senior starting goalkeeper Jana Matthews and backup junior Maddie Sparrow have combined for nine shutouts.

Stewart emphasizes playing both sides of the ball, from front to back, and produces

See **WOODS**, page B4

## Why my 22nd birthday is special

By the time you read this, I will have turned 22 years old. Some might ask, am I feeling like Taylor Swift?

No, not particularly. I feel stuck in this weird limbo between teenager and adult as I get set to graduate in roughly three weeks. But for the first time in three years, I'm really excited for my birthday.

Two years ago, we were one month into a global pandemic and the most exciting part of my day for about two

months was a stroll around the neighborhood block listening to music and FaceTiming my friends. Last year felt somewhat more normal. I ordered pizza with my friends and we sat around watching basketball.

I'm not much of a big birthday person, at least for myself. I love celebrating my friends' birthdays, but when the attention is on me, I feel uncomfortable. As a kid, I had sleepovers with my friends instead of parties and rarely asked for specific gifts from my family. A simple night watching sports was perfect for me.

This week though, two of my old college friends from out of state are flying

in for the weekend. One friend, Kevin Cook, a guy I lived with for the past two years, graduated a year early and I haven't seen him since last July. Another, Michael Fitzpatrick, is flying in from Chicago. After we lived in the dorms together freshman year, he transferred to his dream school of Northwestern. I've kept in touch with both of them throughout the years. Even when we were living in different places during the height of the pandemic, we FaceTimed almost every day.

But I used my birthday as an excuse for us to get together one last time before we all will have graduated. And I'm just appreciative that they care enough

about me to be here on my birthday.

I'll pick both of them up at the airport on Wednesday and then I'm not sure what's going to happen next.

There's not much on the agenda for the week. We might play trivia on Wednesday night and maybe we'll have a small gathering on Saturday night. None of that really matters to me. We could sit on the couch watching NBA on TNT for five days like we did all of freshman year and that would be OK.

I'm just happy this week is an excuse to get the boys back together.

Max Baker can be reached at max@chathamnr.com and @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, we've got a full slate of action as all of Chatham's schools are back from spring break — a sad thing for students, but an amazing thing for student-athletes (and fans). We've also got both the dual-team and individual men's tennis postseasons starting this week, with Chatham Charter, Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews, Northwood and Seaforth all taking part in the action. Here's this week's schedule and last week's results.

**THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday, April 27**

Track & Field: Chatham Central, Jordan-Matthews, Seaforth at Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference Championship (hosted by Cummings), 1 p.m.  
Soccer: Chatham Charter women at River Mill, 4 p.m.  
Tennis: (15) Northwood men at (2) Croatan (1st round of 3A Dual-Team State Championships), 3:30 p.m.  
Tennis: (14) Jordan-Matthews men at (3) Washington (1st round of 2A Dual-Team State Championships), 4 p.m.  
Tennis: (5) Seaforth men vs. (12) Raleigh Charter (1st round of 2A Dual-Team State Championships), 4 p.m.  
Tennis: (13) Chatham Charter men at (4) North Moore (1st round of 1A Dual-Team State Championships), 4:30 p.m.  
Tennis: (12) Chatham Central at (5) Bear Grass Charter (1st round of 1A Dual-Team State Championships), time TBA  
Lacrosse: Northwood women at East Chapel Hill, 5 p.m.

Baseball: Seaforth vs. Southeast Raleigh, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women vs. Providence Grove, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Northwood women vs. Person, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Seaforth women vs. Bartlett Yancey, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Chatham Central at North Moore, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Northwood at Voyager Academy, 6 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Seaforth men at Vance Charter, 6:30 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Central at Eastern Randolph, 7 p.m.  
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews at Southwestern Randolph, 7 p.m.  
Baseball: Northwood vs. Carrboro, 7 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Northwood men at Orange, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, April 28**

Softball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings, 5 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Charter at Greystone, 6 p.m.  
Baseball: Seaforth at Harnett Central, 6 p.m.  
Lacrosse: Seaforth men at Williams, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Jordan-Matthews women at Lee County, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Woods Charter women vs. Seaforth, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Chatham Central vs. North Moore, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Cummings, 6 p.m.  
Softball: Northwood vs. Person, 6 p.m.

**Friday, April 29**

Tennis: Chatham Central, Chatham Charter at NCHSAA 1A East Regionals (at Herman Park in Goldsboro), 1 p.m.  
Tennis: Jordan-Matthews, Seaforth at NCHSAA 2A Mid East Regionals (at Flaherty Park in Wake Forest), 1 p.m.

Tennis: Northwood at NCHSAA 3A Mid East Regionals (at Burlington Tennis Center), 1 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Charter at River Mill, 4 p.m.  
Track & Field: Northwood at Weddington, 4 p.m.  
Baseball: Jordan-Matthews vs. Morehead, 6 p.m.  
Soccer: Northwood women at Eastern Alamance, 6 p.m.  
Baseball: Chatham Central vs. Asheboro, 7 p.m.  
Baseball: Northwood at Western Alamance, 7 p.m.  
Softball: Northwood at Western Alamance, 7 p.m.

**Saturday, April 30**

No events scheduled.

**LAST WEEK**

**Monday, April 18**

All events canceled/postponed.

**Tuesday, April 19**

Baseball: The Northwood men defeated the Midway Raiders, 4-3, in the Bulldog Invitational hosted at Terry Sanford. Leading the Chargers in the win were junior Luke Smith (1-for-2, HR, 2 RBI), junior Zach Barnes (1-for-2, 2B, RBI; 5.0 IP, 6 H, ER, 3 K) and junior Seth Davis (1-for-2, R, RBI).  
Baseball: The Northwood men downed the South View Tigers, 6-1, in the final game of the Bulldog Invitational, hosted by Terry Sanford. Leading the Chargers in the win were senior Walker Johnson (1-for-3, 2 RBI), junior Nate Ortiz (1-for-2, R, RBI) and junior Salvador Delgado (4.0 IP, 7 H, ER, BB, 3 K).

**Wednesday, April 20**

Soccer: The Chatham

Charter women crushed the Triangle Math & Science Tigers, 6-1, to improve to 3-5-1 on the season. Scoring all 6 goals for the Knights was sophomore Alina Borchmann.  
Baseball: The Chatham Central men clobbered the Montgomery Central Timberwolves, 11-0, in the team's first game of the CCHS Spring Break Tournament. Leading the Bears in the win were freshman Matt Murchison (2-for-2, 2B, 3 R, 2 RBI), sophomore Joaquin Gordon (1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI) and sophomore Anthony Lopossay (5.0 IP, 2 H, 0 ER, 5 K; 1-for-2, R, RBI).

Baseball: The Chatham Central men lost in a close game to the Union Pines Vikings, 6-4, in the team's second game of the CCHS Spring Break Tournament. Leading the Bears in the loss were freshman Matt Murchison (2-for-3, R, BB), sophomore Joaquin Gordon (2-for-2, R, BB) and sophomore Wesley Clewis (3.0 IP, 4 H, 2 ER, 3 BB, 2 K; 1-for-3, R).

Softball: The Chatham Charter women clobbered the Southern Wake Academy Lions, 15-0, at home.

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men fell to the Bethany Wolves, 5-3, at home.

**Thursday, April 21**

Baseball: The Chatham Central men fell to the Ragsdale Tigers, 3-2, in the third-place game of the CCHS Easter Invitational. Leading the Bears on the night were junior Hasten T. Paige (2-for-4, R, RBI) and freshman Zane Overman (4.2 IP, 5 H, 3 ER, 3 BB, 3 K). With the loss, the Bears moved to 9-8 on the season.

Baseball: The Chatham Charter men defeated the

Southern Wake Academy Lions, 10-6, on the road to improve to 9-3 on the season. Leading the Knights on the evening were sophomore Aidan Allred (1-for-3, HR, 2 R, 4 RBI), junior Cameron Turner (4-for-4, RBI), senior Landon Hussey (2-for-3, R, RBI) and freshman Zach Cartrette (5.0 IP, 3 H, 2 ER, 2 BB, 8 K; 1-for-4, RBI).

Softball: The Chatham Charter women blew out the Southern Wake Academy Lions for the second night in a row, 20-0, to improve to 8-7 on the season.

Soccer: The Woods Charter women shut out the Eno River Bobcats, 5-0, to stay unbeaten on the season at 9-0-2. Scoring for the Wolves in the win were sophomore Leyla Noronha (3 goals), sophomore Cate Czyzewski (1 goal, 1 assist) and junior Chloe Richard (1 goal, 1 assist).

**Friday, April 22**

Track & Field: The Northwood Chargers competed in the 2022 Mount Tabor Mile & Throwing Thunder, hosted by Mt. Tabor, where the Chargers senior Caroline Murrell (15th, 5:05.34) ran the fastest women's mile in school history. Other notable performances for Northwood came from junior Christian Glick (44th, boys 1-mile run, 4:34.83), senior Colin Henry (90th, boys 1-mile run, 4:49.22) and senior Emma Serrano (64th, girls 1-mile run, 5:47.10).

**Saturday, April 23**

No events scheduled.

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

## JETS

Continued from page B1

ball from her teammates, nor did it matter how quick she moved, how skilled she was or how open she appeared. She never stood a chance.

"There were a couple of times when I was like, 'OK, I've got this,'" Parroquin Vallejo said when asked about what she felt when Erman had the ball and was coming her way.

While Parroquin Vallejo acted as if she were a safety on a football field — immediately flocking to any Hawk that dared make it to the Jets' last line of defense — Thornton was akin to a pesky, defensive-minded point guard, often staring Erman straight in the face as she stood her ground near midfield.

"Maggie's a versatile player, we can pretty much use her anywhere, but she dominates on defense," Guadalupe Perez, the Jets' assistant coach, said of one of her defensive centerpieces. "We put her back there in the first game and she shut (Erman) down the first time we played them, so we put her back there again. ... She gets to (Erman) every time."

It was the Jets' stifling defense that forced the Hawks into their first shut-out loss in program history, having scored at least two goals in every game this season prior to Monday.

But J-M wasn't the only team with a heavy-handed defensive performance.

Despite the 7 goals allowed on the evening, one of Seaforth's strengths was, in fact, its defense.

For most of the first half — and the game as a whole — the Hawks disrupted the Jets' most prolific goal-scorer this season: freshman Jessica Parroquin Vallejo.

Seaforth double-teamed Jessica Parroquin Vallejo from the get-go, making it increasingly more difficult to not only create space to fire off her shots, but dribble the ball for even a



Staff photo by James Kiefer

**Jordan-Matthews junior Maricarmen Landa (4) dribbles the ball down the pitch during the Jets' 7-0 win over the Seaforth Hawks last Monday. Landa scored a hat trick in the win, with all of her goals coming in the first half.**

few feet without having it swatted away.

And the team's strategy worked. Sort of.

Jessica Parroquin Vallejo grew frustrated as the game's first half went on, missing shots she could've hit had she just had a bit more time or space, losing possession more than usual and even whiffing on potential crossing passes across the penalty area that would have turned into point-blank goals by her teammates.

However, while the Hawks became so focused on shutting down Jessica Parroquin Vallejo, they forgot to take a certain someone into account: Landa.

The last time the Jets and Hawks faced one another — a 5-3 win for Jordan-Matthews on March 30 — Landa was out with an injured right quad, which kept her sidelined for a couple of weeks until she made her return on Monday.

Therefore, Seaforth may not have been aware that she poses just as much of a threat around the net as Jessica Parroquin Vallejo.

So she made them pay. Shooting with her left leg — her non-dominant leg — Landa was the only player on either side to score a goal in the game's first 40 minutes, doing so three times as

her footwork and finesse made it nearly impossible for Hawks defenders to keep up.

In the contest's 12th minute, Jets freshman Citlaly Aguillon found Landa near the top of the penalty area, where she promptly whacked a slow-rolling shot right by Hawks keeper Cali Hooks, who dove for the ball to no avail as it slid past her into the right corner of the net for the game's first goal.

About 12 minutes later, in the 24th minute, Landa crushed another from the left side of the net on an assist from sophomore Janeyra Guerrero Jaimes, putting the Jets ahead, 2-0.

Then, in the 38th minute, as the game neared its midway point, Landa smashed a hard-hit ball from outside of the penalty area, which collided with Hooks' outstretched fingers, but its momentum carried it forward as it fell into the net.

"I was kind of nervous because I'm not usually a lefty," Landa said with a smile after the win, having put on a dominant showing using her left foot. "I just came back from an injury and I was out for like two weeks, so I had a lot of adrenaline. I'm really excited and happy to be back."

To start the game, Seaforth's defenders

continuously met J-M's ballhandlers at the point of attack, stabbing at the ball in an attempt to knock it free. It's a strategy that can be successful in short bursts, but it didn't take long for the Hawks to wear themselves out, paving the way for Landa to beat them with her speed.

"I would let them get tired, then just play around them," Landa said, referring to her ability to dribble around her opponents and find her open teammates, turning into a pair of assists on top of her 3 goals on the evening.

"At the end of the day, we just weren't patient with our defending. We kept stabbing. And with their good dribblers, you're just shooting yourself in the foot when you stab," Giovanni Viana, the Hawks' experienced head coach, said following the loss. "A majority of the kids have never played soccer before, so it's just a matter of teaching them and developing them."

In the second half, the Jets kept their feet on the gas, scoring less than a minute after the halftime break on a beautiful pass from Landa. She maneuvered around two Seaforth defenders on the baseline before lobbing over a crossing pass to sophomore Hannia Mar-

tinez Quiroz, who headed the ball directly into the net to give her squad a 4-0 lead with more than 39 minutes to play.

Jessica Parroquin Vallejo finally got the goal she'd been waiting for in the game's 58th minute when she found an opportunity inside of the penalty area and slotted it to the right side of the net to give the Jets a 5-0 lead. She'd score again on a penalty kick in the 71st minute after a Seaforth handball.

As much as this game was about the Jets earning the season sweep over the Hawks — and doing so in dominant fashion — it was also a showcase and a warning for just how dangerous a fully healthy Jets squad can be.

"Tonight was the first time we've gotten to look at everybody together, the best lineup we can put out there," Harris said. "They did a really good job of responding to what we've been working on with our passing and our spacing and just getting opportunities."

Two of the Hawks' four losses this season have come against the Jets, with another coming early in the year against the still unbeaten Woods Charter Wolves (10-0-2).

For a team consisting entirely of underclassmen — and only seven athletes that have played soccer before this season — a potential

second-place conference finish, depending on the season's final two conference games, is a nice building block.

"When you're playing the toughest team in the conference right after spring break, it's not going to be the best ... but I told the girls, 'Just keep your head up. We're building, we're learning, don't be negative,'" Viana said. "Given we're a first-year school with 10 kids that have never really played soccer and to have as many wins and done the things we've done, I'm super proud."

With less than four minutes to play in Monday's game, a Hawks' handball led to a Jets free-kick from the deep left side of the pitch.

Michelle Parroquin Vallejo squared up and belted the ball toward the net.

It fell in, past the Seaforth keeper, for the Jets' 7th goal of the evening.

All Michelle Parroquin Vallejo could do was smile. And point to the crowd.

"My dad does this thing to motivate us," she explained. "He says that each time we score a goal, we win money. I just felt excited, so I'm always pointing out to my parents and my family."

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

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‘WE’VE GOTTEN BETTER’

# Bears achieve moral victory in 2-run loss to Union Pines — and that’s not a bad thing

BY VICTOR HENSLEY  
News + Record Staff

BEAR CREEK — For some coaches, moral victories are akin to Bigfoot and Nessie.

They simply don’t exist. But if your team is rich in underclassmen potential — every game providing much-needed experience for a group that lacks it — a loss can sometimes feel like a win, no matter how frustrating and winnable it might’ve been.

That’s the boat Brett Walden, the head coach of the Chatham Central baseball team, found himself in on April 20, when his Bears suffered a 6-4 defeat at the hands of the Union Pines Vikings as part of the CCHS Easter Invitational, a spring tournament hosted in Bear Creek.

“It was a little bit (exciting) at times (tonight),” Walden said with a slight smile after the loss. “I really like this group, I do. ... With what we’ve got, I think the next couple of years could be pretty good for us.”

The last time the Bears took the field against the Vikings, it was — and still is — their worst loss of the season.

On March 4, Union Pines waxed Chatham Central, 11-0, throwing a no-hitter in the process. It was the only shut-out loss this season for the Bears.

The 11-run defeat is only rivaled by the team’s loss to the Grace Christian Crusaders on March 28 (16-6, 10 runs) for the worst run differential in a losing effort this year for Chatham Central.

Last week’s contest — one that featured numerous chances for the Bears to take control — was a far cry from the second game of the season.

That’s why the Bears’ 2-run loss to the Vikings is just a tad easier to swallow.

“The biggest difference is that we’ve gotten better,” Walden said when asked about what changed since March 4.

“We’re having to play a lot of underclassmen, so when we went down there earlier in the



Staff photo by David Bradley

**Chatham Central senior Collin Lagenor (right) dives back to first base as Union Pines first baseman Chance Purvis (23) waits for the brush-off toss from the pitcher in the Bears’ 6-4 loss to the Vikings last Wednesday.**

year — they’re a pretty good team — I felt like we were a little overwhelmed. They were freshmen, in the second game of the year, against a team of that caliber and I just think we’ve gotten better.”

One of Walden’s five freshmen, Wesley Clewis, was on the mound to start the game against the Vikings, where he allowed two earned runs on four hits, striking out two batters in three innings pitched.

While Clewis was the pitcher of record, suffering a loss — the Vikings took a 2-0 lead in the second inning and never relinquished it — Walden praised him for keeping Union Pines’ run total down and giving the Bears a chance.

“He kept us in it,” Walden said of Clewis. “I think that (loss) puts him at 3-4 on the mound overall, but we’ve thrown him out there against good teams because we trust his ability to get people out.”

Clewis’ four losses have come against Asheboro and Union Pines, both 3A schools, along with North Moore —

one of the top teams in 1A — and Grace Christian, a two-loss team that plays in the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA).

Against the Vikings, he got himself into a couple of jams early on, but typically managed to get himself out of them.

In the top of the first inning, the Vikings had the bases loaded following two singles by senior Chance Purvis and senior Trevor Hilburn, along with a five-pitch walk of senior Griffin Booker.

But just when the Vikings had a chance to bust the game wide open, Clewis struck out senior Micah Monaghan to send the Bears back into the dugout.

The same thing happened in the top of the third, when an errant pitch from Clewis clipped Vikings junior Ben Finkelstein in the leg to load the bases with just one out.

Just as he did in the first, however, Clewis struck out the next batter, freshman Ryan

Wallace, in four pitches and forced senior Sam Winton into a fly-out to exit the inning unscathed.

It was a sign of maturity from such a young player, said Walden, with Clewis proving he can lock in during situations like those instead of folding under pressure.

It’s one reason why Walden appears stoked to have a young rotation in which he has full confidence: Clewis (3-4, 4.26 ERA), freshman Zane Overman (2-2, 4.05 ERA) and sophomore Anthony Lopossay (4-1, 0.61 ERA).

“Three-game weeks don’t even bother me because I’ve got three guys, and I’ve got enough other guys that can come in and throw,” Walden said. “And I’ve still got a few more years with those guys. I feel like we’re throwing them into the fire early and it’ll pay off.”

Lopossay threw earlier in the day on April 20, when the Bears clobbered the Montgomery Central Timberwolves, 11-0, where he allowed just two hits and struck out five batters in the five-inning affair.

“Anthony’s pitched really, really well,” Walden said with a sense of pride for one of his top underclassmen.

But where the Clewis succeeded in avoiding major blow-ups over the first couple of innings against the Vikings, the Bears struggled to capitalize on their own scoring opportunities.

In the bottom of the first inning, immediately after the Vikings had left the bases loaded, the Bears suffered the same fate after an error, hit-by-pitch and single by freshman Matthew Murchison loaded them up with just one out.

Union Pines senior starting pitcher Finley Spicer prevailed, however, getting Chatham Central junior Travis Crissman to hit a shallow fly ball that held up all three runners, which was followed by a swinging strikeout from Clewis that

ended the inning.

For both teams, the first inning was just the beginning of a long line of missed opportunities.

In total, there were a head-turning 26 runners left on base in the seven-inning contest (14 by the Vikings, 12 by the Bears) in what was a bend-don’t-break game for both teams’ hurlers.

The Bears left a runner stranded at third base in each of the first five innings while scoring just three runs in that same span.

“Sometimes, you’ve got to tip your hat to the other guy,” Walden said. “They made pitches when they had to and got out of it. And, of course, we got out of a couple of jams, too.”

The Vikings took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the second when Clewis hit Finkelstein to lead off the inning — one of seven total batters whacked by pitches on the night — and got back-to-back outs before walking Spicer. That gave the plate to Purvis, who sliced one of his four base hits on the night past third base, clearing the bases and scoring both runners.

The Bears retaliated in the bottom of the inning, when back-to-back singles from junior Hasten T. Paige and senior Collin Lagenor scored sophomore Joaquin Gordon — who’d walked earlier — to put Chatham Central within one run. But senior Nick Jourdan flew out to end the inning, leaving both Paige and Lagenor on base.

After a scoreless third, Union Pines bounced back to score three more runs over the fourth and fifth innings, capitalizing on two straight hit-by-pitches to lead off the fifth, followed by a successful bunt by Winton and a two-RBI single by Spicer to give the Vikings a 5-1 lead.

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

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# WOODS

Continued from page B1

what he terms “sticky defenders.” Forwards don’t like sticky defenders.

That strategy was on full display against Eno River. The Bobcats struggled throughout the night to advance the ball across midfield. Their best kicks might have been punts from senior goalkeeper Mikaela Hill, who blasted the ball several times from in front of goal to near the Wolves’ net.

The Bobcats sputtered transitioning forward. When they were able to penetrate and set up potential scoring opportunities, the Woods Charter defense would collapse immediately, cutting off the angles.

“That’s not by accident. We work on that,” Stewart said. The offense has several looks, but regardless of what shape they’re taking, they can retrench to defense to hunt down the ball at any moment, controlling time and space.

Noronha started the scoring early in the first half when she booted the ball in from right to left.

“My first goal felt really good. I just slotted it into the side net. It slightly hit the post and you could just hear it, the clink sound,” Noronha said. “The other ones I just put some power on them.”

The Wolves’ unrelenting pressure only picked up from there. Sophomore Taylor Young kicked the ball to the upper right, but it struck the crossbar, bounced in front of the net and Hill pounced on the ball before it could roll in. Noronha took a shot on goal but it hit the right upright.

Noronha later zapped the ball straight on, and it was too hot for Hill to handle. The ball ripped



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Woods Charter sophomore Taylor Young (16) sprints toward the ball during the Wolves’ 9-0 win over the Chatham Charter Knights last Monday.**

through the waiting goalie’s hands and between her legs on its way to the back of the net.

After Miller’s penalty kick on a handball call was snagged by Hill, Richard scored on a nifty shot to the lowest spot of the right corner. The

perfectly placed ball just eluded a diving Hill’s outstretched fingertips for a 3-0 lead at the half.

The second half picked up where the first half left off. Noronha had a shot on goal that appeared to be a score but a handball penalty nulli-

fied the play. Richard was awarded a penalty kick but Hill stifled the shot. Then Noronha rifled a shot that bounded hard off of Hill just in front of the net for a save.

“I hit it and the goalie

made a really nice save. Unfortunately, she didn’t get her hands on it, and it hit my shin and just popped in,” Noronha said, chalking the goal up to luck and preparation.

“You’ve got to take advan-

tage of all those second balls you get, and you’ve just got to attack it.”

Following Noronha’s hat trick, sophomore midfielder Cate Czynewski found the back of the net with a long kick from near the right sideline, impressing her coach.

“That was good. We hadn’t worked on that. That was her,” Stewart said.

Woods Charter never took the foot off the gas pedal despite the 5-0 lead. Noronha had two more shots on goal, but Hill caught one and deflected another on a diving stop.

The Wolves earned another win on Monday over the Chatham Charter Knights (3-6-1), 9-0, to improve to 10-0-2 on the year. They have two games scheduled for this week, including a clash with the Seaforth Hawks (7-4) on Thursday.



Staff photo by Peyton Sickles

**Woods Charter sophomore Chloe Haswell (9) dribbles toward the net during the Wolves’ 9-0 shut-out win over the Chatham Charter Knights last Monday.**

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- Manager of multiple bands (Yes, she has 4 jobs! Working is her hobby.)
- She serves on nonprofit boards including the Small Museum of Folk Art & Chatham Education Foundation; Chair of the Pittsboro Rotary Fundraising Committee.
- Avid motorcyclist

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PITTSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Board holds first public hearing about budget for fiscal year 2022-23

BY TAYLOR HEEDEN  
News + Record Staff

PITTSBORO — The board of commissioners held its first in-person regular meeting since 2020 on Monday evening, holding the first of two public hearings regarding the next fiscal year's budget.

Town Manager Chris Kennedy presented the nearly \$9.2 million budget — up from last year's nearly \$7.3 million budget — to the commissioners and explained how the budget breaks down for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The proposed budget would increase the tax rate to 0.44 per \$100 of valuation from last year's 0.4333 per \$100 valuation. This hike in the tax rate will generate over \$52,000 in revenue for the town, according to the budget report.

The general fund expenditures have been allocated across the town's 13 departments, ranging from the Pittsboro Police Department to Parks and Recreation.

Proposed budgets for fiscal 2022-23 are:

- Governing Board: \$179,857
- Administration: \$717,312
- Legal: \$71,500
- Engineering: \$544,462
- Planning: \$850,375
- Police: \$2,049,484
- Fire: \$1,141,468
- Public Works: \$736,325
- Public Buildings & Grounds: \$100,640
- Sanitation: \$509,044
- Debt Service: \$124,233
- Recreation: \$741,567
- Downtown: \$85,000
- Transfer to Capital Projects: \$1,335,353

Kennedy said it took the hard work of several entities to balance the funds for the coming fiscal year.

"Like any budget, there's a lot of work that goes into this, not only our team in town and staff, but also from the board of commissioners and certainly our citizens, residents and stakeholder groups," Kennedy said.

Commissioners had the chance to ask questions about the budget and request ad-

justments if they felt it was necessary.

Mayor Pro Tem Pamela Baldwin said she had an issue with a proposal for the town to purchase more vehicles for some of the departments, including for Parks and Recreation.

"At this time, I don't think I want to see us purchasing that many vehicles, especially at the Parks," Baldwin said.

Parks and Recreation also requested the addition of two positions — a recreation coordinator and a parks maintenance superintendent — to increase the department's capacity to upkeep the parks and activities. Parks and Recreation currently has one full-time employee and one part-time employee.

Baldwin said she was also opposed to allocating the funds for those positions at this time.

"With the parks right now, that one individual and the half-person (part-time employee) should be able to take care of that," she said. "Because in

the past, we only had one person to take care of the parks and before he left; he was sufficiently taking care of that."

Kennedy said he would rather purchase vehicles for Parks and Recreation employees because he said it was helpful in keeping good employees working for the town.

"It's not my preference (to not purchase vehicles) because there's a lot of concerns with that," he said. "When you're trying to retain good staff, they don't want to drive their own cars, especially for town business."

Commissioner Kyle Shipp said he felt it was important to have vehicles for Parks and Recreation staff to be able to move equipment between parks and facilities. Shipp also supported the idea of hiring additional help for the department.

"For the size of our park lands, even what is requested for staff is low for the parks we have," he said. "We've also had to take out a lot of equipment

... we're proposing a lot of money for improvements this year because we did not do any for a while, and we get a lot of comments about the maintenance of the parks."

Kennedy added to Shipp's comments by saying some of the town's parks are in need of repairs and renovations, which would require an additional vehicle and possibly additional help.

"We have a fair amount of rotting features at parks," he said. "We are at 111 acres (of parks) now, and we have an MOU that's displayed that is a result of us being unable to maintain our parks."

A second public hearing on the proposed budget will take place during the commissioner's regular meeting on May 9. Members of the public can add their input during the public comment period in the hearing.

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

# Chatham County approves loan to affordable housing developer for 72 units

From Chatham County Government

PITTSBORO — The Chatham County Board of Commissioners approved a low-interest loan April 18 to affordable housing developer Wallick Communities for 72 units of income-restricted housing.

Wallick Communities, an Ohio-based affordable housing developer, was selected in 2019 through a county request for proposal (RFP) process, and in 2021 by the state housing finance agency to receive federal 9% low-income housing tax credits. Wallick plans to develop a 15.14-acre

portion of land behind Chatham Hospital for the Oak View at Siler City development. Oak View will include 72 units, 1-, 2-, and 3-bedrooms, serving households earning 60% of the Area Median Income and below.

The federal low-income housing tax credit or LIHTC program, is the

single largest developer of affordable housing in the country. In North Carolina, this program is administered by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. The process for housing credits is extremely competitive. Over 100 applications for tax credits and tax-exempt bonds were received in 2021, but only 35 were selected.

"It has been really exciting to work with county staff, town of Siler City, the Wallick development team, members of the affordable housing advisory committee, and Chatham County commissioners to bring these critically needed 72 units to our community," said Stephanie Watkins-Cruz, Chatham County's policy analyst.

The public support being provided to this project is contingent on the development's successful closing this summer and the provision of LIHTC compliant affordable units. Construction will begin in the coming months after closing, and all 72 units are required to be online by December 31, 2023.

"This is not something any one group can accomplish alone, and this is one of many successful models that we can participate in and support in order to address the affordable housing need in Chatham County," Watkins-Cruz said.

Affordable Housing is generally defined as housing in which the occupant(s) are paying no more than 30 percent

of their gross income for housing costs (rent or mortgage), including utilities (Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD). The most recent gap analysis shows that 2,325 affordable rental units are needed in Chatham County (2021 AHAC Annual Update) an increase from 1,995 units in 2018.

For more information about the specifics of this project, affordable housing data, policies, and programs in Chatham County, individuals may contact Stephanie Watkins-Cruz at [stephaniew.cruz@chatham-countync.gov](mailto:stephaniew.cruz@chatham-countync.gov) or Erika Brown, Housing Program Manager with Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) at [ebrown@tjco.org](mailto:ebrown@tjco.org).

## When Facing Illness, Take Control Of Finances

In light of the coronavirus pandemic, virtually all of us have considered health-related issues. But for people facing a serious, chronic illness, such as Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, diabetes or cancer, health concerns are an everyday matter. If you're fortunate, you may never be afflicted with such maladies, but the future is unpredictable. Of course, going through these health challenges bring physical and emotional concerns — but also financial ones. How can you prepare for them?

Essentially, you'll need to consider four key areas: investments, insurance, legal arrangements and taxes. Let's take a quick look at each of them:

**Investments** — You'll likely need to draw on your investments for at least some of the expenses associated with your illness. So, within your portfolio, you may want to establish a special fund devoted entirely to these costs, whether they be health care, modifications to your home, transportation and so on. A financial professional can help you choose investments for this fund, as well as make recommendations for your overall investment strategy, including techniques for boosting your income, such as adding investments that can provide an income stream that kicks in when you think your costs will rise.

**Insurance** — Depending on your health status, you may be able to collect Medicare earlier than the traditional starting point at age 65. Even so, you'll likely need to supplement it with additional coverage. But you may also want to look beyond health insurance. For example, you might be able to purchase a "chronic illness rider" that allows you to tap into life insurance benefits while you're still alive. Or you might consider adding a "long-term care rider" to a life insurance policy; this rider offers financial benefits if you ever require

daily care that you can't provide for yourself. And some foundations, states and drug companies offer programs that can help pay for some costs that your insurance won't cover.

**Legal arrangements** — If you haven't already done so, you may want to establish the legal documents most appropriate for your situation, such as a durable power of attorney for finances, which gives someone the authority to manage your financial affairs if you become temporarily incapacitated, possibly due to flare-ups of your chronic disease. Once you've recovered, you regain control of your financial decisions. You might also want to consider a health care proxy, which appoints an individual to make medical decisions for you if you can't. In creating or revising these documents, you'll need to consult with your legal professional.

**Taxes** — You might qualify for Social Security disability payments, which, like other Social Security benefits, are taxable, so you'll need to be aware of what you might owe. But you might also be eligible for some tax breaks related to your condition. If you still itemize tax deductions, you may be able to deduct some medical expenses, as well as certain home improvements, such as wheelchair ramps, bathtub grab bars, motorized stairlifts and so on. Your tax advisor may have suggestions appropriate for your situation.

Dealing with a chronic illness is never easy. But by considering how your illness will affect all aspects of your life, getting the help you need, and taking the right steps, you may be able to reduce the financial stress on you and your loved ones.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Courtesy of the Chatham Council on Aging

## They didn't forget to write

Ellen Earixson, a 1st-grade teacher at Perry W. Harrison Elementary, drops off pen pal letters to the Eastern Chatham Senior Center in Pittsboro. The letters, composed by 1st-grade students, will be received by seniors at both Chatham County Council on Aging centers.

edwardjones.com Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# Co-existing with Black Bears in North Carolina

## What you need to know to be BearWise

From the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

RALEIGH — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is already seeing a spike in black bear reports this spring. This comes as no surprise since the state's bear population has grown over the past 50 years and the residential footprint has grown. People are moving closer into bear habitat and creating increased opportunities for bears to approach their property, specifically by leaving out food sources.

Colleen Olfenbuttel, the Wildlife Commission's black bear and furbearer biologist, offers some advice about how to co-exist with black bears. She points to BearWise, a national educational program the Wildlife Commission employs that was developed by bear biologists.

"Most bears that wander into a residential area will quickly retreat to their natural habitat, particularly if no food source is around," she said. "By following the six BearWise Basics the public can prevent potential conflicts and live responsibly with bears."

The six BearWise Basics are:



Courtesy of the N.C. Wildlife

### A black bear photographed in North Carolina.

#### • Never feed or approach a bear.

Intentionally feeding bears or allowing them to find anything that smells or tastes like food teaches bears to approach homes and people to look for more. Bears will defend themselves if a person gets too close, so don't risk your safety and theirs.

#### • Secure food, garbage and recycling

Food and food odors attract bears, so don't reward them with easily available food or garbage. Store bags of trash inside cans in a garage, shed or other secure area; or use garbage cans or trash containers with a secure latching system or that are bear resistant. Place trash outside as late as possible

on the morning of trash pick-up — not the night before.

#### • Remove bird feeders when bears are active

Birdseed, other grains and hummingbird feeders have high calorie content making them very attractive to bears. Removing feeders is the best way to avoid creating conflicts with bears.

#### • Never leave pet food outdoors

Feed pets indoors when possible. If you must feed pets outside, feed in single portions and remove food and bowls after feeding. Store pet food where bears can't see or smell it.

#### • Clean and store grills

Clean grills after each use and make sure that all grease, fat and food particles are removed, including drip trays. Store clean grills and smokers in a secure area, like a garage or shed.

#### • Alert neighbors to bear activity

If you see bears in the area or evidence of bear activity, tell your neighbors and share information about how to avoid bear conflicts. Bears have adapted to living near people; now it's up to us to adapt to

living near bears.

When asked about other tips, Olfenbuttel reiterated a few best practices.

"Attract birds and other pollinators rather than bears by removing bird feeders and using native plants, natural foods, shelter, water and safe nesting sites," she said. "Consider using a bear-resistant trash container, altering your current container to become bear-resistant, or securing your current trash container in building and putting it out the morning of pick-up. And lastly, talk to neighbors and consider becoming a recognized BearWise community or business. BearWise communities commit to co-existing responsibly with bears, securing all potential food sources and knowing when and how to report bear activity."

North Carolina's bear populations are concentrated in the Mountains and Coastal Plain, but the population is expanding into the Piedmont and sightings are increasingly common, usually in May, June and July. This is the time when young bears, called yearlings, are looking for a new home after being pushed away by the adult female as she begins breeding again.

"While these young bears, typically males, may appear to be wandering aimlessly around, they are not necessari-

ly lost," Olfenbuttel said. "Most are simply exploring their new surroundings and will move on, particularly if they are left alone and there is no food around."

In almost all cases, the Wildlife Commission advises that the best option is a hands-off approach, allowing the bear to leave on its own.

The Wildlife Commission does not trap and relocate bears. There are no remote places to move bears and relocation can be treacherous for the bear, as they are unfamiliar with the new place and the food resources, causing them to attempt the journey back to where they were captured, which they consider home. During that journey, they encounter lots of dangers, including crossing busy roads, often resulting in vehicle-bear collisions. However, relocation is not needed, as human activities and behavior are usually the cause of the problem and the best solution is to implement the BearWise Basics.

For more information about living responsibly with black bears visit BearWise.org. For questions regarding bears and other human-wildlife interactions, contact the Commission's N.C. Wildlife Helpline, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., at 866-318-2401 or email [HWI@ncwildlife.org](mailto:HWI@ncwildlife.org).

## NEWS BRIEF

### State championships set for the Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament

RALEIGH — The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission will host the 44th annual Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament state championship on April 30 at the John F. Lentz Hunter Education Complex in Ellerbe.

The competition is conducted on senior (high school) and junior (middle and elementary schools) divisional levels, with overall team and individual awards based on aggregate scores in all

events.

The Wildlife Commission conducted nine district competitions in March, which served as the qualifiers for the state competition, with more than 3,500 middle and high school students participating. This year saw 300 teams participating from 193 public and private schools, homeschool associations and 4-H clubs. District competition results are available on the agency's website.

Sixty teams (34 from the senior division, 26 from the junior division and 14 individuals) will compete at the

state level in rifle, shotgun and archery marksmanship, orienteering and a hunter responsibility exam.

The championship represents an opportunity for competitors who advanced from district events to showcase shooting and outdoor skills as well as knowledge learned through the Wildlife Commission's Hunter Education Program.

"It has been two years since our last in-person tournament due to the pandemic, and our coaches and participants has come out this past season ready to compete," said Caris-

sa Daniels, outreach manager for the Wildlife Commission. "Teams have spent hours practicing safe shooting sports and hunter education. We are all looking forward to seeing them shine at the state tournament."

While the competition is for students 18 years and younger, the Wildlife Commission offers free hunter education courses and advanced hunter education on a regular schedule for all ages. For more information, go to [ncwildlife.org/huntered](http://ncwildlife.org/huntered) or call 919-707-0031.

—CN+R staff reports



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# Chatham County 4-H announces 2021 achievement winners

From Chatham County 4-H

PITTSBORO — Every year 4-H youth set goals and make plans on how to reach those goals by the end of the calendar year. Under the guidance of their 4-H leader, the youth evaluate how well their goals and accomplishments were met. Youth may also set new goals throughout the year so that they can continue to grow and develop their skills and personality.

To be successful the youth's plan will require loyalty to their 4-H club, their county, state, nation, and world. Service to others is also very important. Creativity,

responsibility, and leadership is also required. The satisfaction that youth feel for a job well done will make it all worthwhile.

Here are Chatham County's 2021 Achievement Winners:

**4-H Project Record Book:** A 4-H Project Record Book is a cumulative piece of work which documents a 4-H member's skill development and learning experiences related to their chosen project area. Record books encourage members to set goals, establish strategies to meet those goals, and reflect on their ability to shift gears in the face of challenges and obstacles.

Gold Winner: Victoria Smith

(Animal Science, 16-18 Division); Silver Winner: Jacy Clark (Animal Science, 16-18 Division); Bronze Winner: Caleigh Gantt (Animal Science, 16-18 Division); Gold Winner: Samantha Durham (Animal Science, 13-15 Division); Gold Winner: Reyna Catalan (Communication Arts, 13-15 Division); Gold Winner: Miles Pica (Science and Technology, 8-10 Division).

**4-H Points of Success:** The Points of Success is an award program utilized by Chatham County 4-H to recognize 4-H members for all their extracurricular work during the past year, both within and outside of their 4-H club activities.

Gold Plus Top Winners: Victoria Smith - 1875 and Samantha Durham - 1695; Gold Winners: Jacy Clark - 1005 and Savannah Byrd - 935; Silver Winners: Hailey Zarate Cruz - 710, Briseydi Nava Zarate - 660, Jefferson Zarate - Cruz - 640, Vladimir Vargas Zarate - 630, Avery Wright - 620; Bronze Winners Reyna Nava - 580, Sarah Endicott - 570, Kenia Uribe - 540, Natalie Wright - 530, Elias Molina Bacho - 530, Andrea De Paz Ambrosio - 530, Caleigh Gantt - 515, Emir Vargas - 500, Joseph De Paz Ambrosio - 490, Giancarlo Lopez - 470, Rosemary Molina Bacho - 460, Nathaly Zarate Rivera - 460, Abigail Molina

Bacho - 420, Keylen Molina Bacho - 410, Alicia Nava Catalan - 390, Santos Vazquez Quiquix - 340.

**4-H Entertains / Showcase of Talent:** The 4-H Showcase of Talent Competition provides 4-H members with an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity through the performing arts and develop poise and self-confidence before a group of peers.

**STATE WINNER:** Hailey King (Singing Performance).

Congratulations to 4-H Graduating Seniors Stella Goolsby, Carl Walton, Victoria Smith, Kyra Worth, Samantha Andrews, Gage Lindley, Tristin Elkins, and Emily Stecher

# First responders and Chatham Ag Extension partner for training

From Chatham County Sheriff's Office

PITTSBORO — Members of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office joined fellow first responders, animal control officers, and emergency management professionals April 12 for an Animal Welfare and Officer Safety course provided by Chatham County's Cooperative Extension.

The potentially life-saving program is now coordinated by Kristina Britt, a North Carolina Ag Extension Agent who began serving in Chatham County in 2020. The course is designed with the intent to protect both lives and property by educating first responders on safe animal handling techniques. It also covers various animal-related laws and ordinances, tips for conducting

animal abuse or neglect investigations, resources available to first responders and livestock owners, and more.

The course, offered for the first time in 2019, is the brainchild of N.C. Cooperative Extension Specialized Agent Ashley Robbins and Chatham County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Sara Pack.

"Sara [Pack] and I recognized a gap in available training for law enforcement when it comes to safe and effective animal handling," said Robbins. "As farmers and animal lovers ourselves, it was important to us to create a joint training program that would benefit first responders as well as the agricultural communities we admire and serve."

The resulting course of instruction became the first of its kind in

the state, incorporating live horses, goats, pigs, sheep, and cattle for participants to observe and engage. Britt has since used her expertise to revamp and expand the program to provide students with more hands-on learning opportunities and resources based on student-generated feedback. To date, the program has welcomed participants from agencies in Chatham, Moore, Lee, Randolph, Mecklenburg, Caldwell, Forsyth, Orange and Durham counties.

Chatham County Sheriff Mike Roberson was the first sheriff to endorse the training, sending dozens of deputies to participate and learn from experts in the field. Roberson says some of the most serious injuries ever sustained by Chatham County

deputies were animal-inflicted, so the training is both necessary and appreciated.

"Any training we can provide first responders to keep them safe, or any additional tools or resources we can give them to improve positive outcomes, should be seriously considered," Roberson said. "This particular program is excellent and continues to improve every year. I believe all law enforcement can benefit from this training — not only the content, but the opportunity to form partnerships with those in the agriculture industry as well."

In addition to Robbins and Britt, program instructors this year included Randolph County Extension Agent Adam Lawing, large animal veterinarian Dr. Karen Jordan (member of the board of directors for the National Institute for Animal Agriculture [NIAA]; chairperson, producer member, and Southeast Area councilmember for Dairy Farmers of America [DFA]; chairperson of the National Milk Producers Federation [NMPF] Animal Health and Wellbeing Committee; former chairperson of the Technical Writing Group of the NMPF National Dairy FARM Program; former Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee representative for the American Veterinary Association; and co-owner and operator of Brush Creek Swiss Farms of Siler City), and Chatham County native and renowned horsemanship expert Jim Thomas (owner, instructor and President of Bar T Horse-

manship in Pittboro; selected annual competitor for the Bureau of Land Management and Mustang Heritage Foundation's Extreme Mustang Makeover; and past speaker at the Best Horse Practices Summit). Local farmers Tucker Withington (co-owner and operator of Lilly Den Farm in Goldston) and Cory Robbins (co-operator of Brush Creek Swiss Farms in Siler City) provided live animals for training demonstrations to allow students the opportunity to apply and practice their new skills.

Britt says her goal is to equip officers with the tools they need to make appropriate decisions in the field while also protecting farmers' assets. Both Britt and Robbins plan to offer more training in the future, potentially taking the training on the road to reach other counties and law enforcement agencies across the state.

"I personally enjoy the opportunity to network with law enforcement, hear their stories and concerns, and learn about different ordinances and policies outside of Chatham County," Britt said. "One common complaint I hear from different agencies is that there tends to be a high turnover rate among first responders who regularly deal with animals, like those in Animal Control roles. It's a high-stress job, but we hope this training helps ease some of that burden."

Pack says she enjoys hearing feedback from students who have completed the course, especially when they re-

port feeling more knowledgeable and confident in their ability to safely approach, manage, and move livestock.

"Some first responders who attend these classes admit they've never seen a cow or sheep up close, so they haven't had the opportunity to learn or practice ideal animal handling techniques," says Pack. "Learning something as simple as how or where to stand to gain better control of an animal, or factors to take into consideration when conducting an animal welfare investigation, may help prevent the injury or death of an officer or animal."

"We have a long-standing agricultural tradition in Chatham County, and our local farmers and ranchers deserve the highest quality of service we can provide... That means maintaining an open line of communication and participating in more training opportunities like this one," Roberson said. "We are grateful to Farm Bureau of Chatham County for their continued partnership — beyond this training, they have been steadfast supporters of the Barn to Badge initiative and our Animal Resource Center (ARC). We also owe thanks to the North Carolina Cattleman's Association and Southern States of Siler City for their sponsorship and support of education, local law enforcement, and the Chatham County agricultural community."

For more information or updates on future training sessions, contact Kristina Britt at kristina\_britt@ncsu.edu.



## Chatham COA Events & Announcements

May 2nd through May 6th

**Monday, May 2**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 9:00 AM (Golf - Siler City Country Club; Croquet - Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill) 🦋
- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC) 🦋
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🦋

**Tuesday, May 3**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 9:00 AM (Disc Golf - Central Carolina Community College Course, Pittsboro) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 2:00 PM (Swimming - Duke Center for Living at Fearington, Pittsboro) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 4:00 PM (Tennis - Women's Singles and Men's Doubles, Carolina Preserve, Cary) 🦋
- [Walking at CCCC with COA](#) at 12:30 PM (Meet at ECSC Parking Lot) 🦋

**Wednesday, May 4**

- [Strong and Fit w/Olivia](#) at 9:00 AM (at WCSC) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 9:30 AM (Cycling, Union Grove Church, Hillsborough) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 4:00 PM (Tennis - Men's Singles and Women's Doubles, Carolina Preserve, Cary) 🦋

**Thursday, May 5**

- [Body Conditioning w/Jackie](#) at 8:15 AM (at Forest Hall at Chatham Mills) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 9:00 AM (Men's Bocce - Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 4:00 PM (Tennis - Mixed Doubles, Carolina Preserve, Cary) 🦋
- [Geri-Fit w/Olivia](#) at 2:00 PM (Aerobic Room, WCSC) 🦋

**Friday, May 6**

- [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) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 1:00 PM (Bowling - Buffalo Lanes, Cary) 🦋
- [Chatham County Senior Games](#) at 2:00 PM (Table Tennis - Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill) 🦋
- [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/](https://chathamcouncilonaging.org/activities/calendars/)

- 🦋 **In-person - Pre-registration Required**
- 📶 **Programming Hosted On Zoom**
- 💰 **Fee Required for Participation**

# THE OUTSIDERS

live on stage 4/30-5/1






## The Chatham COA is Here for You!

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

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

## CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

On April 14, Amber Michelle McGehee, 28, of 218 Ralph Griffin Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for injury to personal property, assault with a deadly weapon and hit/run with failure to stop after property damage. She was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on May 4.

On April 14, Jose Dwayne Latin, 28, of 1712 Rock Creek Lane, Fayetteville, was arrested by SSgt. Anthony Norton for failing to report new address as a sex offender. He was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Cumberland County District Court in Fayetteville on May 11.

On April 14, Princess Graves

Scoggins, 53, of 3618 Tall Oaks Road, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Devin Smith for probation violation. She was issued a \$10,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Orange County District Court in Chapel Hill on May 3.

On April 15, Justin Craig Michelakis, 31, of 646 Great Ridge Parkway, Chapel Hill, was arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for Domestic Violence protective order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 27.

On April 16, Michelakis was also arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for Domestic Violence protective order violation. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District

Court in Pittsboro on April 27. On April 17, Michelakis was also arrested by Deputy Rami Amer for assault on a female and cyberstalking. He was placed on a 48-hour Domestic Violence hold and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 27.

On April 15, Edgar Emanuel Moreno Rodriguez, 26, of 206 Star Ranch Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Alamance County District Court in Graham on May 18.

On April 16, Andres Rangel, 26, of 3272 Siler City Glendon Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Brandal Harrington for failure to appear related to child support. He was issued a \$570 cash purge payment

and is scheduled to appear in Vance County District Court in Henderson on May 18.

On April 16, Mr. Rangel was also arrested by Deputy Harrington for failure to appear. He was issued a \$500 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Randolph County District Court in Asheboro on May 13.

On April 17, Dustin James Haycock, 44, of 5797 Siler City Snow Camp Road, Siler City, was arrested by Deputy Johnny Griffin for possession of methamphetamines and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was issued a written promise and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 25.

On April 18, Arnold Heath Moody, 48, of 5346 York Martin Road, Liberty, was arrested

by SSgt. Anthony Norton for Domestic Violence protection order violation. He was issued no bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court in Pittsboro on April 26.

On April 20, Rodney Kyle Lopossay, 29, of 415 Meronies Church Road, Bear Creek, was arrested by Deputy Dalton Oldham for failure to comply with judgement. He was issued a \$300 cash bond and is scheduled to appear in Chatham County District Court on May 3.

On April 20, Derrick Michael Allen, 43, of 110 North Goley Street, Durham, was arrested by Deputy Reggie Griffin for discharging a firearm within city limits. He was issued a \$1,000 secured bond and is scheduled to appear in Wake County Court in Raleigh on May 2.

## CENTRAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE HONORS

### DEAN'S LIST - FALL 2021 SEMESTER

The following students have been named to the Central Carolina Community College Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester. Students named to the Dean's List earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, both attempted and completed at least 12 semester hours, received no grade lower than a C, and received no incomplete grades.

Chatham County: Emily May Acker, Maximus Andreus Bascoe, Thailand Diane Baylor, Rachel Dee Bradley, Joshua Ryder Brand, Melanie Britt, Bry-

an Alexander Burns, Jayden Lamont Carnegie-Snipes, Lacie Renee Clark, Lacie Renee Clark, Parker Daniel Crowley, Grayson Brian Culberson, Emma Irion Dickerson, Tristin Blake Elkins, Jonae Loren Fochtman-Lange, Hannah Dawn Fogt, Isabella G Furze, Geovanni Tomas Garcia, Daniel Gonzalez, Sarah Hope Gullion, David Alexander Gunter, Melodie Paige Hamer, Teigan Jameson Hayhurst, David Gage Hockenberry, Christian Scott Holland, Clay Neal Johnson, Logan Nicholas Jordan, Solveig Beatrice Carol Lee, Brandon Christian McKoy, Alexis Briana McSwain, Camryn B Marshall, Betty Fran-

cisco Martin, Elmer Mateo-Estrada, Gabriella Nicole Milliken, Lizbet Cruz Monroy, Tamarr Sade Moore, Hailey Elizabeth Ostefeld, Angelina Grace Parker-Lewis, Madison Brooke Parks, Sarah Kester Petty, Rilee Lauren Rains, Alex Michael Rastenis, Caroline Nicole Reece, Linsey Nicole Rimmer, James Kent Robertson, Gabriela A Ruiz, Alexis Reagan Scruggs, Mikayla Lynn Smith, Chandler Kent Steele, Cameron S Stevenson, Lily Annadel Taylor, Alexis Rae Thomas, Lena Raven Thorne, Danielle Sarah Vaughan, Kenneth Bland Vickers, Dylan Tanner Wallen, Tierra Danelle Williams, Molly

Grace Wilson, Andrew Connor Yosh

### PRESIDENT'S LIST - FALL 2021 SEMESTER

The following students have been named to the Central Carolina Community College President's List for the Fall 2021 semester. Students named to the President's List received all A's in all classes, were registered for at least 12 semester hours, and received no incomplete grades.

Chatham County: Robert Michael Andrews, Samantha Leigh Andrews, Allyson Bare, Jose Benitez, Taylor Marie Brewer, Shelby MacKenzie Brinker, Jenna

Grace Brooks, Olivia Rose Cheek, Andraya Dream Church, Destiny Cheylin Coats, Jagger Levi Cole, Alexander Daniel Cook, Hser Nay Ntoo Day, Clayton Patrick Dillon, Jessica Faith Dodds, Harrison Gunter Fogleman, Erica Daniela Francisco-Vargas, Ella Louise Gaines, Madison Ruth Gaines, Ava Mae Gangemi, Abigail Tiffany George, Deontae Jordan Glover, Jared Lindsay Green, Clay Zane Griffin, Avery Grace Headen, Shelbi Lin Hilliard, Lindsey Rae Johnson, Virginia Dare Johnson, Madalyn Ann Justice, Soren Carter Kappelman, Caitlyn Frances Keith, Caleb James Kolb, Shannon Marie Lamm,

Sarah Elizabeth Lawter, Annika Aydlett McIver Lowe, Patrick Steven McCaw, Colin King McDaniel, Cassidi R Maness, Matthew Lennon Mashburn, Lillian Taylor Milholen, Chadwick Eugene Moore, Evelin Ortiz-Munoz, Dylan Hailey Phillips, Eliana G Phillips, Emily Grace Pierce, Adelia Rose Rickman, Jamie Lee Rubenstein, Margaret Patricia Safrit, Heidi Cathleen Schouten, Lindsay Anne Seitz, Ashlyn Grace Smith, Kayleigh Marian Smith, Juana Gomez Soriano, Graham Brian Stafford, Ashley Elizabeth Stanley, Emily Jean Stecher, Paige Elyse Underwood, Ella Grace Webster, Olivia Christian Wight



## 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

#### CCC 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



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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

I TELL YA, DAD, IT SEEMS THE OLDER I GET THE LESS I UNDERSTAND.

WOW, DOES THAT MEAN WHEN I'M YOUR AGE I'LL BE EVEN MORE BAFFLED?

NAH, WHEN YOU GET TO MY AGE YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH OTHER STUFF.

LIKE "WHAT TIME IS DINNER" AND "WHAT'S THE FORECAST TOMORROW?"

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

April Showers

May Flowers

Bud Gurbach

R.F.D. by Mike Marland

SORRY, WE'RE NOT OPEN FOR THE SEASON YET, MA'AM.

BUT FOR FIVE BUCKS I COULD LET YOU INTO THE GREENHOUSE TO PREVIEW THE COMING ATTRACTIONS.

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

IT'S TOUGH SITTING AROUND DOING NOTHING ALL DAY...

...YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE DONE!

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HEY, GOOD FOR YOU! IT'S REFRESHING TO SEE A CUSTOMER LIVING ON THEIR TERMS. FORGET CALORIES OR NUTRITIONAL FACTS.

GRIN and BEAR IT

"Now he gets lost going to the men's room."

## PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ran after
  - 8 — oil (trendy marijuana extract, for short)
  - 11 Old TV ET
  - 14 Feudal peons
  - 19 More ill-bred
  - 20 Loaf in a deli
  - 21 Palme — (Cannes award)
  - 22 "La Traviata," e.g.
  - 23 120-Across #1
  - 25 "Over here!"
  - 26 Sieved, as potatoes
  - 27 Folk rocker DiFranco
  - 28 Drink holders
  - 29 120-Across #2
  - 31 120-Across #3
  - 36 Suffix of enzymes
  - 37 Don effortlessly, as shoes
  - 38 Toxin-fighting, as shoes
  - 39 Functional unit of a kidney
  - 42 Wield a saber or foil
  - 45 Sky twinkler
  - 48 Stray calf
  - 49 120-Across #4
  - 55 Plead
  - 56 Cabinet chief: Abbr.
  - 57 Muse of poetry
  - 58 Mimosa tree, e.g.
  - 62 "Put — Happy Face"
  - 64 DiCaprio of "Titanic"
  - 70 120-Across #5
  - 75 More furtive
  - 76 Possess
  - 77 Gets the impression
  - 78 Core belief
  - 81 Light tan
  - 84 Groom's vow
  - 85 120-Across #6
  - 94 "Take —" ("Jot this note")
  - 95 Water spigots
  - 96 Extort money from
  - 97 Fit to reside in fluids
  - 100 Architect Saarinen
  - 103 Island near Bora Bora
  - 107 Rage
  - 108 120-Across #7
  - 113 120-Across #8
  - 116 Male sweetie
  - 117 Day, to Juanita
  - 118 Totally lost
  - 119 Bruins' Bobby
  - 120 What this puzzle literally provides eight times
  - 124 Wee
  - 125 Hitter's stat
  - 126 Single-named R&B singer
  - 127 Erase
  - 128 Some Canadian gas stations
  - 129 Tot's "piggy"
  - 130 Bible translation, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 131 Lobby sofas
  - 8 Burial vaults
  - 9 Poet Percy — Shelley
  - 10 — Moines, Iowa
  - 11 One-off, as a committee
  - 12 Lerner's songwriting partner
  - 13 Skillet
  - 14 ilk
  - 15 Grand-scale
  - 16 Give new energy to
  - 17 Region prohibiting slavery prior to the Civil War
  - 18 Made unhappy
  - 24 — Puf (facial sponge)
  - 29 Really hate
  - 30 Suffix with serpent
  - 32 Resist boldly
  - 33 Singer Lisa
  - 34 City in Sicily
  - 35 Once, once
  - 40 Word file alternative
  - 41 — polloi
  - 43 Syringe apts.
  - 44 Stretch (out)
  - 46 — Lingus (Irish carrier)
  - 47 Writer Dahl
  - 49 The Beatles' "— Work It Out"
  - 50 Tequila plant
  - 51 Sacred image
  - 52 Big Apple address abbr.
  - 53 Sch. near the Rio Grande
  - 54 Axes, e.g.
  - 55 Scrooge's outbursts
  - 59 U.S. spy org.
  - 60 Fluid in a pen
  - 61 Anxiousness
  - 63 In times past
  - 65 Scot's denial
  - 66 Novelist Rand
  - 67 Varnish stuff
  - 68 "Judge —" (Stallone film)
  - 69 — buco
  - 71 Artist Jan van der —
  - 72 "Nola" composer Felix
  - 73 Actor Wilson
  - 74 How much '90s music was recorded
  - 79 LAX info
  - 80 High-quality
  - 82 CSA soldier
  - 83 Web address
  - 85 Certify
  - 86 The "E" of UAE
  - 87 Overturns
  - 88 Singer Sumac
  - 89 Word before goblin
  - 90 Employed
  - 91 — bad example
  - 92 Split
  - 93 Ritalin treats it, for short
  - 98 Science writer Willy or ESPN anchor Bob
  - 99 Urge strongly
  - 101 Kind of steak
  - 102 Like some headsets
  - 104 Chemist's "I"
  - 105 Brief pang
  - 106 For a really long time
  - 109 Muscle car booster
  - 110 Macabre
  - 111 Interval
  - 112 Is really angry
  - 114 Lotto variant
  - 115 Deposits, as eggs
  - 120 License-issuing agcy.
  - 121 Palindromic file suffix
  - 122 Fitting
  - 123 Cashew, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19								20			21			22				
23							24				25			26				
27						28				29			30					
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107					108				109	110			111	112				
113			114	115								116					117	
118						119								121	122	123		
124										125								
128											129							

Solution for the puzzle in last week's edition.

I	N	A	P	T		A	H	E	M		W	H	I	M	S		C	H	A	S			
T	A	X	E	S		N	I	R	O		H	A	N	O	I		H	A	F	T			
E	P	I	R	E	T	A	T	E	B	U	I	L	D	I	N		O	T	R	O			
M	A	S	K		H	T	S		C	T	R	L				G	A	R	T	E			
					Y	E	A	H		D	A	N	L		H	A	S	I	D	I	S	M	
F	L	O			T	I	E	L	A	P	E	P	H	O	T	O	R	A	P	H	Y		
R	A	N	C	H	A	M	A	L		O	U	T	O	F	I	T							
A	R	T	H	A	W	A	H	I	N	T	O	N				N	E	A	R	S			
T	A	H	I	N	I			A	H	L	O	P	E	D		N	E	E					
C	E	L	L	A	M	A	R	R		T	R	E	V	I	O	N	E						
P	R	E	L	I	N	A	R	Y	I	N	V	E	T	I	A	T	I	O	N				
L	O	D		A	E	T	N	A		L	E	S	S	E	N		E	N	T				
E	F	G		P	R	E	S		J	L	O			C	O	S	T	A	S				
A	T	E	U	P				H	U	A	N	P	A	C	E	F	L	I	H	T			
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A	N	A	T	O	Y	A	N	D	P	H	Y	I	O	L	O	Y	G	E	S				
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T	E	L	E		H	O	U	R	S		D	E	A	L		N	O	M	S	G			

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4			6	1			2
		1		8		3	
	9		7				8
		3		6		7	
6	7				5		3
	8		3				9 1
		4		2			7
	5			9	7	4	
8			5				1

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

— ISLAND :  
ISLANDS OF  
IRELAND

S N K H D A X U R V P M J G E  
D A X V S Q L N A K I F E D N  
A X V T C Q O L M J H F R C I  
A Y W U D A E R I P I N O L L  
J H F D B N S Z X H N V M T W  
R Q N **S T P A T R I C K S** O O  
M T K I D I M L L I H A S H B  
F D A T F B B H E E G Z O E L  
Y W V E L F T B T P U R R Q U  
O N L K R A U I A H O E F D A  
C A Z X R G S P W R R C V U H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: — AND PEPPER

- |          |             |          |               |
|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| Achill   | Great       | Puffin   | Rough         |
| Bere     | Haulbowline | Rabbit   | St. Patrick's |
| Castle   | Inch        | Rathlin  | Valentia      |
| Copeland | Mid         | Rossmore |               |

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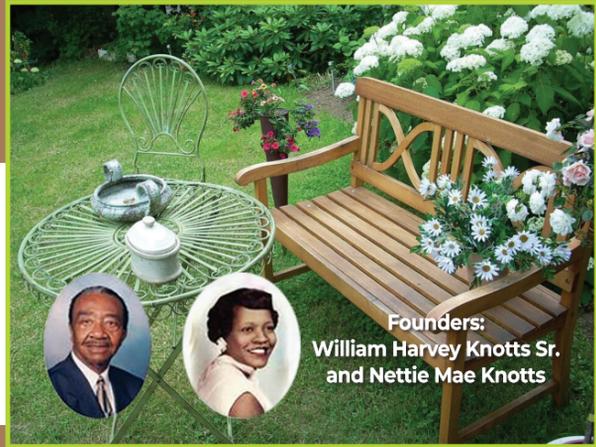
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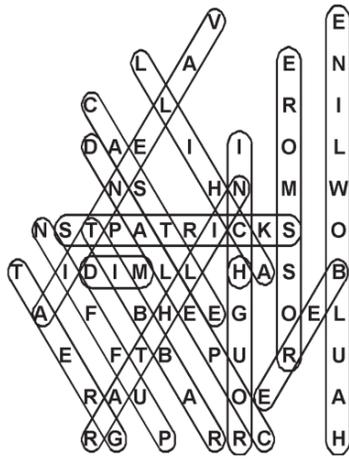
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— ISLAND : ISLANDS OF IRELAND



— Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

4	3	8	6	5	1	9	7	2
7	2	1	4	8	9	3	5	6
5	9	6	7	3	2	1	8	4
1	4	3	9	6	8	7	2	5
6	7	9	2	1	5	8	4	3
2	8	5	3	7	4	6	9	1
9	1	4	8	2	6	5	3	7
3	5	2	1	9	7	4	6	8
8	6	7	5	4	3	2	1	9

## Whooda thunk it?

I have to admit, Gentle Reader, that I don't have the time to cook like I used to. Some days, it's all I can do is chop some stuff and have a salad, maybe, if I'm lucky have a ripe avocado and unmoldy bread at the same time, avocado toast

**DEBBIE MATTHEWS**  
The Curious Cook

... ooh, maybe with toasted sesame seeds, a spritz of blood orange juice, a poached egg, and some pea shoots, or goat cheese (or something blue, a drizzle of strong honey and lots of black pepper, a poached egg, or one with chicken, frizzled onions, and you guessed it, a poached egg).  
But that's for next week when I share the secret to the best and most consistent way to poach an egg and that's so easy you'll think it's magic ... honest.  
But back to this week's dish. Some nights I cobble together a tub of something I've bought, and what I've got in the fridge. Some nights it's good, some nights I mindlessly eat it and it fills my empty stomach.  
But some nights ...

Once in a while you stumble upon something that is both a flavor lightbulb going off on your palate, but also, bonus, "Why didn't somebody think of this sooner, and why wasn't it already a thing?" good.  
One Sunday, I had walked around downtown and come home with a couple of items from a Mediterranean deli. First was Lebanese potato salad. Potato salad, Gentle Reader!  
The other was one of the greatest comfort foods of the Middle East: Lebanese rice. It's a starchy, carby mixture



**A dish featuring Lebanese rice.**

Courtesy of Debbie Matthews

of rice and little pieces of pasta; something one might enjoy in San Francisco ... as a treat, if you will.

A couple nights later I was looking for something quick and easy for dinner. I decided to just heat up the pasta rice with some butter. I had picked up some shoepeg corn on the way home to add to it (I was looking for pajama-level comfort food, I guess).  
Then I had a thought.

What if I added some sour cream? And I had some green onions in the veggy bin — kind of a riff on a baked potato.

But then ... I started thinking that the finished dish was beginning to get heavier and richer. If needed some type of acid in addition to the acid in the sour cream — something to brighten it up.  
I decided to use my go-to acid: lemon. But I wanted the

flavor a little more interesting, so I added Parmesan cheese and a dollop of Dijon mustard.

The result was a bowl of comfort food that actually manage to have real complexity of flavor, and something that would be delicious on any spring table.

All the comfort, and only 85% of the guilt.

Thanks for your time. Contact me at dm@bullcity.mom.

**Lebanese Rice**

\*Fideo is inch-long vermicelli. You can find it (very inexpensively) in most grocery stores under the brand name La Moderna. Or, you can break spaghetti into inch-long pieces.

- 2 cups long grain rice
- 1 cup fideo
- 4 cups water
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cracked black pepper

Set a large, heavy pot with a lid on medium and add 1 tablespoon of the butter to the pan. When it has melted and just starts to foam, add the fideo. Toast, stirring almost constantly, until browned.

Pour in the water and add remaining butter and rice. Bring to a boil, reduce to medium-low, and cover.

Cook for 15 minutes and check. When all the water has cooked off, remove from burner, leave covered and let it sit, undisturbed for 10-15 minutes.

**Why wasn't this a thing rice-ghetti**

Lebanese rice, freshly made and still hot, or reheated

- 1/4 cup butter
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- Juice of one large lemon
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan
- 1 cup thawed shoepeg corn
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions or snipped chives
- 1/2 cup Marcona almonds

In a large bowl, add rice, butter, and sour cream. Stir until the butter has melted and ingredients are mixed through.

Add lemon juice, mustard, Parm, and corn.

Stir again until well mixed. Service: Spread out onto a large shallow platter and garnish with chives and almonds.



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**LAFF - A - DAY**



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"I believe your case is without precedent in my experience...your shoes are too large."

# CCCC's Phi Theta Kappa holds induction ceremony

From Central Carolina Community College

SANFORD — Academic achievement and service were celebrated April 12 as Central Carolina Community College's Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society held its spring induction ceremony.

Inductees from 2020-2022 were recognized during the ceremony.

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education. In 1929, the American Association of Community Colleges recognized PTK as the official honor society for two-year colleges. The CCCC chapter, chartered in 2010, sets a higher standard for membership eligibility than the national organization: a 3.7 grade point average rather than the 3.5 GPA that national requires.

CCCC President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman provided opening remarks, praising PTK members for their accomplishments. She noted that PTK speaks to leadership and service.

"In today's world, we need more servant leaders," she said.

Honored guests Lenora Streeter, North Carolina Vice President of Phi Theta Kappa, and Philip White, Regional President of the Carolinas Region of Phi Theta Kappa, were present for the event held at the Dennis A. Wicker Civic & Conference Center.

"I want you to know that I believe in you," White told the PTK members. "I believe in your strength. I believe in your potential to do literally whatever it is that you set your mind to."

White concluded by telling the PTK members how proud he is of each of them.

"I am no different than you in that I am a student at a community college here in North Carolina," he said. "I know just how much hard work it took to get here, so I want you to take a second tonight before you lay down to go to sleep and just say to yourself, 'I am proud of you!' You have earned it."

Daniel Berndt, Chapter Advisor and Professor of Business Administration and Finance at CCCC, said: "Part of Phi Theta Kappa's mission is to recognize the academic achievements of college students. Tonight, I am blessed with the opportunity of doing just that — recognizing the hard work, resilience, and determination of students here at Central Carolina Community College.

Phi Theta Kappa also provides opportunities for personal growth and professional development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship activities. My hope is for new inductees to take advantage of these and several other benefits of membership as they continue to grow into the leaders of tomorrow. I also want to thank the administration, faculty, and staff of Central Carolina Community College and our local communities whose continued support gives our members the fullest experience Phi Theta Kappa has to offer; it wouldn't be possible without you."

Berndt and fellow Chapter Advisor James Thomas, YouthBuild Assistant Director, participated in the induction ceremony.

Phi Theta Kappa is composed of Greek words symbolizing wisdom, aspiration, and purity. A white rose symbolizes purity, beauty of life, and intellectual associations, while the oak and laurel leaves on the PTK em-



Courtesy of CCCC

Members of the CCCC's Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society.



Courtesy of CCCC

Philip White, Phi Theta Kappa Carolinas regional president, speaks at the Central Carolina Community College Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society induction ceremony.



Courtesy of CCCC

Central Carolina Community College President Dr. Lisa M. Chapman speaks at the CCCC Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society induction ceremony.

blem represent stability, character, achievement, and success.

CCCC Phi Theta Kappa officers include Thomas, Chapter President; Raven Elder, Vice President of Service & Honors Activities; Jacqueline Tamayao, Vice President of Leadership & Scholarship; Bennett Lasater, Vice President of Fellowship & Recruitment; Cassidy Henderson, Public Relations Officer; and Isaac Alvarez Alvarado, Recording Officer.

In its years of existence, the college's Beta Sigma Phi Chapter has garnered a number of prestigious recognitions from PTK. These include the Five-Star ranking — the highest ranking a chapter can receive for excellence, and awards at regional PTK conferences. It has also reached out to the community with service projects, such as assisting food banks and shelters.

The 2022 Chatham



Courtesy of CCCC

A scene from the Central Carolina Community College Beta Sigma Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society induction ceremony.

County inductees are Kaylee Atkins, Andraya Church, Harrison Fogleman, Madison Gaines, Juana Gomez Soriano, Jacob Hartman, Lindsey Johnson, Caitlyn Keith, Solveig Lee, Amanda Merriman, Lillian Millhollen, Elliana Morgart, Kristiane Perry, Dylan Philipps, Rilee Rains,

James Robertson, Emily Smith, Sherry Sparks, Paige Underwood, Ella Webster, and Olivia Wight.

The 2021 Chatham County inductees are Joseph Carreiro, Holly Clark, Brooklyn Craig, Kelsey Dillon, Ruben Esquivel, Ava Mae Gangemi, Abigail George,

Michael Hubbard, Elyse Johnson, Grace Jones, James Keith, Joshua King, Vincent Kressevich, Sarah Lawter, Patrick McCaw, Colin McDaniel, Chadwick Moore, Heidi Schouten, Katherine Skeen, Kayleigh Smith, Amelia Spell, and Leslie Wiseman.

The 2020 Chatham

County inductees are Mary Adams, Scott Bratcher, Miranda Butler, Logan Dumke, Makayla Gangemi, Melanie Mather, Isabelle Moore, Hannah Murphy, Miguel Olivares, Linda Richardson, Margaret Safrit, Jayden Sansom, Roger Seufert-Navarro, and Sarah Walters.

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**OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**, Approximately 2,000 sq. ft. reception area, conference room, six offices, kitchenette and restrooms. Siler Business Park, 919-930-1650. Jn15,tfnc

## RENTAL APARTMENTS

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

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

## FOR SALE

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

## AUCTIONEERS

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

**AUCTIONEER SCOTT L. HARRIS** at JHA. One Call...We sell it all!!! Real Estate, Personal Property, Estate Settlement, Farms & Land, Business Liquidation. JHA has been conducting auctions in the state of NC since 1989. Fully licensed Real Estate and Auction Firm. NCAL #8420 Firm #8086 www.JerryHarrisAuction.com, 919-498-4077, J6,tfnc

## SERVICES

**LAWN CARE**, Need your lawn cut and kept up? Give me a call. Steve's Lawn Care, 919-721-2877, A21,28,My5,3tp

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

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

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

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

## HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF SILER CITY- ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR**- Responsible for planning,

organizing, and managing assigned activities in the Finance, utility billing customer service and grants administration. Provides the day-to-day supervision for receiving, disbursing, and accounting of revenues and expenditures for the Town. Supervises the accounting, accounts payable, revenue collection, utility billing and collection, utility customer service, fixed assets, grants administration, and payroll functions. Performs the specialized accountant and supervisory level work for the Town and provides significant financial support in the preparation of the annual operating and capital budgets and the Town's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report preparation. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, business administration, or related field. Two years' experience with purchasing and budget management. Moderate supervisory experience in a financial/accounting environment. Strong computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Possession of a valid NC driver's license. - Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Prior local or state government finance experience. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Anticipated Hiring Salary, \$66,491 - \$86,439 depending on qualifications. - **TOWN CLERK**: Performs advanced administrative work serving the Town Board of Commissioners preparing, maintaining, and ensuring the safety of official public records. Exempt duties include project management, website management, assistance with departmental management during transitional periods at the direction of the Town Manager, all of which require high levels of independent judgment and discretion. - Required Education and Experience Qualifications: Graduation from a community college with an associate degree in business, office administration, office technology, secretarial science, or related field and considerable experience in office management; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Moderate experience in the safekeeping and care of public records. Moderate experience in executive assistant type duties. Advanced computer skills including MS Word, Excel, and Outlook. Possession of a valid North Carolina driver's license. Preferred Education and Experience Qualifications: Previous experience as a Town Clerk. Possession of Notary Public certification upon hire. Possession of CMC/MMC certification upon hire. Bilingual in both written and spoken English and Spanish. - Additional Employment Requirements: Possession of Notary Public certification within six months of hire. All required certifications and licenses must be maintained with no lapse during the course of employment. Anticipated Hiring Salary \$49,617 - \$64,502 depending on qualifications. - Please refer to our website for full job descriptions. To Apply: This posting is open until filled. A completed Town of Siler City application is required and may be found on our website at [www.silercity.org](http://www.silercity.org) or picked up at City Hall. The application may be mailed or delivered to City Hall, 311 N. Second Ave., PO Box 769, Siler City, NC 27344 or submitted via email to [dritter@silercity.org](mailto:dritter@silercity.org). Pre-employment drug testing, DMV check, and background checks are required upon job offer. EOE. -- The Town of Siler City is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Town of Siler City's applicants are considered for employment without

regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, disability, or other legally protected status. - The Town invites the submission of proposals from minority and women-owned firms and certified Section 3 business concerns if the contract is over \$100,000 for non-construction contracts. - The Town of Siler City will make appropriate arrangements to ensure that disabled persons are provided necessary accommodations. Such arrangements may include, but are not limited to, providing interpreters for the deaf, providing taped cassettes of materials for the blind, or assuring a barrier-free location for the proceedings. - This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Nancy Hannah at 919-726-8625, 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344, or [nhannah@silercity.org](mailto: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](mailto:nhannah@silercity.org) o 919-726-8625 o en 311 North Second Avenue, Siler City, North Carolina 27344 de alojamiento para esta solicitud. A28,1tc

**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

**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,A28,4tc

**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 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 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

**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 the 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](mailto:benatwater@chathamlawfirm.com) A14,A21,A28,My5,4tc

**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 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 the 14th day of April, 2022. Brianne 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 the 11th day of April, 2022. India White, Administratrix 674 Pine Forest South Siler City, NC 27344 A14,A21,A28,My5,4tp

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

## 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.

**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 the 11th day of April, 2022. Larry F. Phillips, Executor 509 Beal Road Goldston, NC 27252 A14,A21,A28,My5,4tp

**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 the 21th day of April, 2022. Holly Jackson, Executrix 2514 Carver Oaks Ct. Rockville, VA 23146 A21,A28,My5,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 the 21st day of April, 2022. Denise Joan Lynch, Executor c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 A21,A28,My5,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

**Live on-Site Auction** Saturday, April 30th - 9:00am Rain or Shine  
Preview Friday April 29th Noon Till 6pm  
6191 Cox Mill Rd, Sanford NC  
1973 Triumph TR7V Tiger Motorcycle, Gold and Silver Coins, Mercury Dimes, Over 60 Tom Clark Gnomes from the 1980's, Furniture, Lots of Local Cookbooks, Hoosier Cabinet, Shotguns and Rifles, Lots of Nice Kitchenware, Woodworking Equipment, Tools. Antiques, Collectibles, Plus Lots More!! **"Tacos El Primo" Food Truck on Site!!**  
www.JerryHarrisAuction.com Auctioneer, Scott Harris NCAL#8420 Firm #8086 919-498-4077 or 919-742-3286 13%BP

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

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

**Career Opportunities Available**  
Visit [www.chathamcountync.gov](http://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

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 as 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,My5,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,My5,My12,4tp

**CREDITORS NOTICE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF CHATHAM**

Having qualified on the 12th day of April, 2022 as Executor 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, 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 A21,A28,My5,My12,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 744**

All persons having claims against **JOHNNIE G. HARDEE**, 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. 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, Administrator 7715 Haigler Gin Rd Monroe, NC 28110 A21,A28,My5,My12,4tp

**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

**PUBLIC NOTICE RESOLUTION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONCERNING THE COUNTING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION/DELAYED MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS**

ON MARCH 15, 2022, the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections met at the Board of Elections Office and adopted the following resolution: **BE IT RESOLVED by the CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections that:**

- The CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections shall meet at 2:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, MAY 17, 2022, at the Board of Elections office to count absentee ballots.
- Any voter of the county may attend this meeting and observe the count.
- The results of the absentee ballot count will not be announced before 7:30 p.m. election night.

Laura Heise, Chairman CHATHAM COUNTY Board of Elections A28,1tc

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF PITTSBORO**

The Pittsboro Town Board of Commissioners will hold four (4) Public Hearings on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM 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:

- Legislative Public Hearing for Annexation Request A-2022-02 (Chatham Park Commerce Center): The Town has received a voluntary contiguous annexation request for a 21.10 acre portion of Parcel IDs 95045 and 61066. The current zoning is PDD and no change in zoning is proposed.
- Legislative Public Hearing for Annexation Request A-2022-03 (Oldham and Graceledge): The Town has received a voluntary contiguous annexation request for 12.964 acres off US 15-501 N (Parcel IDs 93983, 93984, 7107, 7108, 7109, and 7110). The current zoning is C-2 and C-2-CZ and no change in zoning is proposed.
- Legislative Public Hearing for Annexation Request A-2022-04 (Del Webb at Chatham Park): The Town has received a voluntary contiguous annexation request for a 373.23 acre portion of Parcel IDs 60774, 7413, and 89720 off NC 87 S and Moncure Pittsboro Road. The current zoning is R15 and no change in zoning is proposed.
- Legislative Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Manager's Proposed Annual Budget: This will be the second 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:ckennedy@pittsboronc.gov) by 4 p.m. on May 9, 2022. A28,1tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 210**

All persons having claims against **JAZZ W. SILER**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th 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 April, 2022. Norman V. Siler, Administrator 1401 42nd PL S.E. Washington, DC 20020 A28,My5,My12,My19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22 E 182**

All persons having claims against **TOMMIE L. FOX AKA TOMMIE LEROY FOX**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th 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 April, 2022. Randy L. Foxx, Administrator 875 Brower Road Siler City, NC 27344 A28,My5,My12,My19,4tp

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 21 E 537**

All persons having claims against **LINDA DHANENES**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 28th 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 April, 2022. Lisa P. Spencer, Administrator 601 Hicks Lane Siler City, NC 27344 A28,My5,My12,My19,4tp

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446) Project

is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Chatham Charter School proposes for Federal funding for the 2022-2023 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the days of May 18 through May 20, 2022, in the office of Julie Franklin, located at 2200 Hamp Stone Rd, Siler City, NC 27344. School phone number is (919) 742-4550. A28,My5,2tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (**IDEA-Part B, Public Law 108.446**) Project is presently being amended. The Project describes the special education programs that Chatham County Schools proposes for Federal funding for the 2022-2023 School Year. Interested persons are encouraged to review amendments to the Project and make comments concerning the implementation of special education under this Federal Program. All comments will be considered prior to submission of the amended Project to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in Raleigh, North Carolina. The IDEA-Part B Project is open to the public for review and comments during the week of May 16, 2022 in the office of Sara Self-Maddox located at Central Office South - George Moses Horton Middle School, 79 Horton Road, Pittsboro. A28,My5,2tc

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS NORTH CAROLINA CHATHAM COUNTY 22-E-230**

All persons having claims against **CHARLES COUNCIL CLARK, JR.**, deceased, late of Chatham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit the same to the undersigned on or before the 29th 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 April, 2022. Christopher Clark, Administrator

c/o Hemphill Gelder, PC PO Box 31205 Raleigh, NC 27622 A28,My5,My12,M19,4tc

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION**

On Call Civil Engineering Consultants Chatham County Public Utilities Department Chatham County, North Carolina requests a letter of interest and qualifications from consulting engineering firms experienced in providing civil engineering, design services, sanitary sewer and water engineering, hydrologic studies, site plan review services, and general civil engineering services on an as-needed basis. Work will be performed for projects in Chatham County limits. Qualification submittals must include five (5) paper copies and one (1) electronic media copy in a sealed envelope/package, clearly marked on the outside with the following: "RFQ On-call Civil Engineering Consultants. To be considered, Statements of Qualifications must be received by 5:00 pm EST on Thursday, May 19, 2022, to the following address: Michele Peluso, Chatham County Procurement Manager Chatham County Finance Office, 12 East Street (physical delivery), Pittsboro, NC 27312, OR P.O. Box 608 (postal delivery), Pittsboro, NC 27312. All inquiries relating to this request should be in writing and submitted to Michele Peluso, Chatham County Finance Office at [chathamcountync.gov](mailto:chathamcountync.gov) no later than Thursday, May 12, 2022, by 12:00 Noon. If an addendum is needed, the last one will be issued by 12:00 Noon on Friday, May 13, 2022. This solicitation and others can be located on the Chatham County Current Bids and Proposals webpage at: <https://www.chathamcountync.gov/government/departments-programs-a-h/finance/bid-proposal-opportunities> Chatham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, age or disability. A28,1tc

**PUBLIC NOTICE CHATHAM COUNTY IS ANTICIPATING BEING AWARDED FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)/FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) UNDER THE EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER**

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**NATIONAL BOARD PROGRAM**  
Chatham County is anticipated to receive \$11,656.00 for Phase 39 and \$41,785.00 for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal

Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America; The Salvation Army and The United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by

Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the county. A Local Board made up of local representatives of the organizations listed above will determine how funds will be awarded to Chatham County and to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local

service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program. Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of

government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Applications are available only by email

or mail. Please do not come by office for an application. For applications by mail: The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 752, Pittsboro, NC 27312 or email: jane.wrenn@uss.salvation-army.org  
The deadline for applications to be received back is Friday, May 13, 2022 by 5:00 pm.  
A28,1tc

**TREATING COVID-19 IN 2022: AN FAQ**

# Find answers to common questions about COVID-19 treatments in North Carolina

**BY LAURA LEE**  
Carolina Public Press

*None of the information provided is medical advice, and individuals should consult their providers with medical questions.*

**What types of medications combat COVID-19?**

Two major categories of drugs combat mild-to-moderate COVID-19: antiviral drugs and monoclonal antibodies.

Antiviral medications work in three ways, according to the Cleveland Clinic:

- Block receptors so viruses can't bind to and enter healthy cells.
- Boost the immune system, helping it fight off a viral infection.
- Lower the viral load (amount of active virus) in the body.

Monoclonal antibodies "make it more difficult for the virus to reproduce and cause harm," according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

For monoclonal antibody therapy, a lab creates antibodies, the body's way of fighting infections, specific to the coronavirus. The dose, given as an infusion, creates "temporary, enhanced immunity, which can help avoid progressing to more severe symptoms," according to HHS.

**What are the specific therapeutics currently available?**

**Antivirals:** Two oral antiviral medications are available in the United States: Paxlovid and Molnupiravir.

Paxlovid is available for patients to take at home and "had an 89% reduction in the risk of hospitalization and death in clinical trials," according to Yale Medicine. Patients take three pills twice daily for five days, and it requires a prescription. The drugs should be taken as soon as possible after a positive test and within five days of symptom onset, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Paxlovid contains two drugs: "Nirmatrelvir prevents key proteins that the virus needs to make more copies of itself from functioning properly. It's taken in combination with ritonavir, which helps keep nirmatrelvir from being broken down before it has completed its job," according to Houston Methodist Hospital.

Molnupiravir, made by Merck, consists of four pills every 12 hours for five days. "Molnupiravir works by introduc-



**Kches16414 via Wikimedia Paxlovid blister pack, partially opened to reveal one Ritonavir tablet and two Nirmatrelvir tablets.**

ing mistakes into the virus's genetic code, preventing the virus from replicating properly," according to Houston Methodist Hospital.

The antiviral drug is only recommended by National Institutes of Health officials if other drugs are not readily available because Molnupiravir is not as effective as some other therapeutics. Trials showed it reduced the rate of hospitalization or death by 30%.

A third antiviral drug, Remdesivir, is available as a once-a-day infusion for three to five days. The drug prevents the virus from multiplying by "interfering with one of the key enzymes the virus needs to replicate RNA," according to the National Institutes of Health. While it is used in hospitalized cases, it is also available for patients who are not hospitalized but who are at high risk for progression to severe disease.

**Monoclonal Antibodies:**

Three monoclonal antibody treatments are available in the United States: Bebtelovimab, Sotrovimab and Evusheld.

Sotrovimab is given as a one-time intravenous infusion, while Bebtelovimab is given as a one-time injection. Both should be administered within seven days of symptom onset. Patients must go to a provider or infusion clinic to receive the monoclonal antibodies.

In clinical trials, Sotrovimab showed a 79% reduction in hospitalizations and deaths, according to the NIH. Bebtelovimab is the newest monoclonal antibody treatment to receive authorization, with the FDA signing off in February.

Immunocompromised patients may consider Evusheld, a two-shot monoclonal antibody treatment given prophylactically to people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised or who may not be eligible for the vaccine (if, for example, they are allergic to a component of

the vaccine).

**How are these drugs regulated? Are they FDA approved?**

The only drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use against COVID-19 is Remdesivir, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Other drugs, such as Paxlovid, Sotrovimab, Molnupiravir, Bebtelovimab and Evusheld have received emergency use authorization so they may be used in certain circumstances for nonhospitalized patients with COVID-19. Emergency use authorization is a special process for expedited use of therapeutics in an emergency when certain conditions are met, including a lack of alternative treatments.

**How effective are these treatments against the latest variants?**

Scientists are still assessing the effectiveness of these treatments against the latest variant, omicron BA.2. In the Southern region of the United States, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, the latest CDC data showed omicron BA.2 accounting for about 21% of total cases.

The antiviral drugs appear to work against the latest variant, while monoclonal antibodies are less effective, according to The New York Times.

Sotrovimab was shown to effectively combat the original omicron variant, but early research shows a decline in its efficacy against omicron BA.2, according to the journal Nature. The company that developed Sotrovimab issued a statement saying research indicates Sotrovimab "is sufficient to retain activity against the BA.2 variant" and promising more data in support of the drug soon.

Bebtelovimab is recommended by federal officials only when other treatments are not available or clinically appropriate.

A recent study showed Evusheld was the "most effective antibody treatment against the BA.2 variant."

**Who qualifies for these treatments?**

For any of the antiviral drugs or monoclonal antibody treatments, a patient must be at high risk for progression to severe disease.

People who are elderly, smokers, pregnant, nursing home residents or people who have certain health conditions are considered high risk. A list

of risk factors from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services is here.

Paxlovid is available to patients 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. Patients must be 18 or older to take Molnupiravir. The FDA does not recommend Molnupiravir for pregnant women.

People on certain medications, specifically those that inhibit or induce CYP3A, may need to adjust the timing and dosage if they are taking Paxlovid, federal officials warn. Individuals should tell their provider about any other medications or supplements they take before starting Paxlovid.

Remdesivir is FDA-approved for patients 12 and older who weigh at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds). For pediatric patients under 12 who weigh at least 3.5 kilograms (7.7 pounds), Remdesivir may be given under an emergency use authorization if certain kidney-related tests are adequate.

Monoclonal antibody treatments Sotrovimab and Bebtelovimab are available to patients who are at least 12 years old and weigh at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds). Sotrovimab is not permitted for patients who are on oxygen because of COVID-19 or for patients who are on oxygen for a chronic condition and have had to increase oxygen due to COVID-19.

Evusheld is available to anyone 12 or older who weighs at least 40 kilograms (88 pounds) who is moderately or severely immunocompromised or who is not recommended to receive a vaccine. Patients who opt to get Evusheld following a vaccine should wait at least two weeks after their vaccination.

**How does one obtain these therapeutics?**

All of the treatments require a positive result from a direct virus test. Antiviral oral drugs Paxlovid and Molnupiravir require a prescription.

Through a new federal government initiative, the Test of Treat program, "people who test positive for COVID-19 will be able to visit hundreds of local pharmacy-based clinics and federally qualified community health centers (FQHCs), and residents of long-term care facilities will in one stop be assessed by a qualified health care provider who can prescribe antiviral pills on the spot," according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Paxlovid and Molnupiravir will be available. Patients who

test positive on a home test may also bring their test to the site to receive the drugs.

Patients who need Remdesivir or one of the monoclonal antibody treatments should go to a clinic or hospital. Find a treatment site through the searchable list provided by the NCDHHS.

Evusheld requires a prescription and is available in limited quantities at providers across the state.

**How much do they cost?**

Because the federal government purchased therapeutics from drug manufacturers and provided them to health care providers, patients may receive these medications for free.

Paxlovid, Molnupiravir, Bebtelovimab and Sotrovimab are available without cost to the patient. Patients may incur expenses related to the administration of monoclonal antibodies depending on the provider.

Remdesivir is sold at \$390 per vial or \$2,340 for a five-day regimen, while private insurance companies in the United States pay \$520 per vial and \$3,120 for a five-day regimen, according to NPR. Patient costs will vary by insurance plan, and patients may incur a copay or other fee for the infusion appointment and process, NPR notes.

Evusheld is available through Medicare for about \$150, according to HHS. For in-home administration to Medicare patients and in other specific circumstances, the injection costs about \$250. For patients with private insurance, the cost may vary.

**Are these treatments readily available in North Carolina?**

Therapeutics for COVID-19 are allocated to states on a weekly basis.

For the week of March 21, North Carolina received 3,120 units of Paxlovid, 985 units of Bebtelovimab, 1,248 units of Molnupiravir and 1,134 units of Sotrovimab.

**Are these treatments a substitute for vaccination?**

No. Vaccines remain the best protection against COVID-19, according to federal and state public health officials.

As with any medical treatment, the therapeutics come with risks and side effects. Because the drugs are most effective early in infection, people who rely solely on treatments run the risk of their illness becoming severe before they seek treatment, Reuters reported.

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